

the **BIG BANG** *theory* Episode Guide

Episodes 001–279

Last episode aired Thursday May 16, 2019



© www.cbs.com



© 2019 www.tv.com



© 2019 www.cbs.com



© 2019 www.imdb.com



© 2019
bigbangtheory.wikia.com



© 2019 www.ew.com



© 2019 www.geekgirlauthority.com

The summaries and recaps of all the The Big Bang Theory episodes were downloaded from <http://www.tv.com> and <http://www.cbs.com> and <http://www.imdb.com> and <http://bigbangtheory.wikia.com> and <http://www.ew.com> and <http://www.geekgirlauthority.com> and processed through a perl program to transform them in a \LaTeX file, for pretty printing. So, do not blame me for errors in the text 😊😊!

This booklet was \LaTeX ed on May 20, 2019 by footstep11 with create_eps_guide v0.61

Contents

Season 1	1
1 Pilot	3
2 The Big Bran Hypothesis	5
3 The Fuzzy Boots Corollary	7
4 The Luminous Fish Effect	9
5 The Hamburger Postulate	11
6 The Middle Earth Paradigm	13
7 The Dumpling Paradox	15
8 The Grasshopper Experiment	17
9 The Cooper-Hofstadter Polarization	19
10 The Loobenfeld Decay	21
11 The Pancake Batter Anomaly	23
12 The Jerusalem Duality	25
13 The Bat Jar Conjecture	27
14 The Nerdvana Annihilation	29
15 The Pork Chop Indeterminacy	31
16 The Peanut Reaction	33
17 The Tangerine Factor	35
Season 2	37
1 The Bad Fish Paradigm	39
2 The Codpiece Topology	41
3 The Barbarian Sublimation	43
4 The Griffin Equivalency	45
5 The Euclid Alternative	47
6 The Cooper-Nowitzki Theorem	49
7 The Panty Piñata Polarization	53
8 The Lizard-Spock Expansion	55
9 The White Asparagus Triangulation	59
10 The Vartabedian Conundrum	63
11 The Bath Item Gift Hypothesis	65
12 The Killer Robot Instability	69
13 The Friendship Algorithm	73
14 The Financial Permeability	77
15 The Maternal Capacitance	81
16 The Cushion Saturation	85
17 The Terminator Decoupling	89
18 The Work Song Nanocluster	93
19 The Dead Hooker Juxtaposition	97
20 The Hofstadter Isotope	101
21 The Vegas Renormalization	105
22 The Classified Materials Turbulence	109
23 The Monopolar Expedition	113

Season 3	117
1 The Electric Can Opener Fluctuation	119
2 The Jiminy Conjecture	123
3 The Gothowitz Deviation	125
4 The Pirate Solution	127
5 The Creepy Candy Coating Corollary	129
6 The Cornhusker Vortex	133
7 The Guitarist Amplification	137
8 The Adhesive Duck Deficiency	141
9 The Vengeance Formulation	143
10 The Gorilla Experiment	147
11 The Maternal Congruence	149
12 The Psychic Vortex	153
13 The Bozeman Reaction	155
14 The Einstein Approximation	157
15 The Large Hadron Collision	159
16 The Excelsior Acquisition	161
17 The Precious Fragmentation	163
18 The Pants Alternative	165
19 The Wheaton Recurrence	167
20 The Spaghetti Catalyst	169
21 The Plimpton Stimulation	171
22 The Staircase Implementation	173
23 The Lunar Excitation	177
Season 4	179
1 The Robotic Manipulation	181
2 The Cruciferous Vegetable Amplification	183
3 The Zazzy Substitution	185
4 The Hot Troll Deviation	187
5 The Desperation Emanation	189
6 The Irish Pub Formulation	191
7 The Apology Insufficiency	193
8 The 21-Second Excitation	195
9 The Boyfriend Complexity	199
10 The Alien Parasite Hypothesis	201
11 The Justice League Recombination	203
12 The Bus Pants Utilization	205
13 The Love Car Displacement	207
14 The Thespian Catalyst	209
15 The Benefactor Factor	211
16 The Cohabitation Formulation	213
17 The Toast Derivation	215
18 The Prestidigitation Approximation	217
19 The Zarnecki Incursion	219
20 The Herb Garden Germination	221
21 The Agreement Dissection	225
22 The Wildebeest Implementation	229
23 The Engagement Reaction	231
24 The Roommate Transmogrification	233

Season 5	237
1 The Skank Reflex Analysis	239
2 The Infestation Hypothesis	243
3 The Pulled Groin Extrapolation	245
4 The Wiggly Finger Catalyst	247
5 The Russian Rocket Reaction	251
6 The Rhinitis Revelation	253
7 The Good Guy Fluctuation	257
8 The Isolation Permutation	259
9 The Ornithophobia Diffusion	261
10 The Flaming Spittoon Acquisition	263
11 The Speckerman Recurrence	265
12 The Shiny Trinket Maneuver	267
13 The Recombination Hypothesis	269
14 The Beta Test Initiation	273
15 The Friendship Contraction	275
16 The Vacation Solution	277
17 The Rothman Disintegration	279
18 The Werewolf Transformation	281
19 The Weekend Vortex	283
20 The Transporter Malfunction	285
21 The Hawking Excitation	289
22 The Stag Convergence	291
23 The Launch Acceleration	293
24 The Countdown Reflection	295
Season 6	297
1 The Date Night Variable	299
2 The Decoupling Fluctuation	303
3 The Higgs Boson Observation	307
4 The Re-Entry Minimisation	309
5 The Holographic Excitation	311
6 The Extract Obliteration	315
7 The Habitation Configuration	317
8 The 43 Peculiarity	321
9 The Parking Spot Escalation	325
10 The Fish Guts Displacement	329
11 The Santa Simulation	333
12 The Egg Salad Equivalency	337
13 The Bakersfield Expedition	339
14 The Cooper-Kripke Inversion	343
15 The Spoiler Alert Segmentation	347
16 The Tangible Affection Proof	351
17 The Monster Isolation	355
18 The Contractual Obligation Implementation	357
19 The Closet Reconfiguration	361
20 The Tenure Turbulence	365
21 The Closure Alternative	369
22 The Proton Resurgence	373
23 The Love Spell Potential	375
24 The Bon Voyage Reaction	379

Season 7	383
1 The Hofstadter Insufficiency	385
2 The Deception Verification	387
3 The Scavenger Vortex	391
4 The Raiders Minimization	395
5 The Workplace Proximity	399
6 The Romance Resonance	403
7 The Proton Displacement	407
8 The Itchy Brain Simulation	411
9 The Thanksgiving Decoupling	413
10 The Discovery Dissipation	417
11 The Cooper Extraction	421
12 The Hesitation Ramification	425
13 The Occupation Recalibration	429
14 The Convention Conundrum	433
15 The Locomotion Manipulation	437
16 The Table for Polarization	441
17 The Friendship Turbulence	445
18 The Mommy Observation	449
19 The Indecision Amalgamation	453
20 The Relationship Diremption	457
21 The Anything Can Happen Recurrence	461
22 The Proton Transmogrification	465
23 The Gorilla Dissolution	469
24 The Status Quo Combustion	473
Season 8	477
1 The Locomotion Interruption	479
2 The Junior Professor Solution	483
3 The First Pitch Insufficiency	487
4 The Hook-Up Reverberation	489
5 The Focus Attenuation	493
6 The Expedition Approximation	497
7 The Misinterpretation Agitation	501
8 The Prom Equivalency	505
9 The Septum Deviation	509
10 The Champagne Reflection	513
11 The Clean Room Infiltration	515
12 The Space Probe Disintegration	519
13 The Anxiety Optimization	523
14 The Troll Manifestation	527
15 The Comic Book Store Regeneration	529
16 The Intimacy Acceleration	533
17 The Colonization Application	537
18 The Leftover Thermalization	539
19 The Skywalker Incursion	541
20 The Fortification Implementation	543
21 The Communication Deterioration	545
22 The Graduation Transmission	549
23 The Maternal Combustion	551
24 The Commitment Determination	555

Season 9	559
1 The Matrimonial Momentum	561
2 The Separation Oscillation	563
3 The Bachelor Party Corrosion	567
4 The 2003 Approximation	571
5 The Perspiration Implementation	573
6 The Helium Insufficiency	577
7 The Spock Resonance	581
8 The Mystery Date Observation	585
9 The Platonic Permutation	589
10 The Earworm Reverberation	593
11 The Opening Night Excitation	595
12 The Sales Call Sublimation	599
13 The Empathy Optimization	601
14 The Meemaw Materialization	603
15 The Valentino Submergence	607
16 The Positive Negative Reaction	611
17 The Celebration Experimentation	613
18 The Application Deterioration	617
19 The Solder Excursion Diversion	619
20 The Big Bear Precipitation	621
21 The Viewing Party Combustion	625
22 The Fermentation Bifurcation	627
23 The Line Substitution Solution	629
24 The Convergence Convergence	631
Season 10	633
1 The Conjugal Conjecture	635
2 The Military Miniaturization	639
3 The Dependence Transcendence	643
4 The Cohabitation Experimentation	647
5 The Hot Tub Contamination	651
6 The Fetal Kick Catalyst	655
7 The Veracity Elasticity	657
8 The Brain Bowl Incubation	659
9 The Geology Elevation	661
10 The Property Division Collision	663
11 The Birthday Synchronicity	667
12 The Holiday Summation	671
13 The Romance Recalibration	673
14 The Emotion Detection Automation	675
15 The Locomotion Reverberation	679
16 The Allowance Evaporation	681
17 The Comic-Con Conundrum	683
18 The Escape Hatch Identification	685
19 The Collaboration Fluctuation	687
20 The Recollection Dissipation	689
21 The Separation Agitation	691
22 The Cognition Regeneration	693
23 The Gyroscopic Collapse	695
24 The Long Distance Dissonance	697

Season 11	699
1 The Proposal Proposal	701
2 The Retraction Reaction	705
3 The Relaxation Integration	707
4 The Explosion Implosion	709
5 The Collaboration Contamination	711
6 The Proton Regeneration	713
7 The Geology Methodology	715
8 The Tesla Recoil	717
9 The Bitcoin Entanglement	719
10 The Confidence Erosion	721
11 The Celebration Reverberation	723
12 The Matrimonial Metric	727
13 The Solo Oscillation	729
14 The Separation Triangulation	731
15 The Novelization Correlation	733
16 The Neonatal Nomenclature	737
17 The Athenaeum Allocation	739
18 The Gates Excitation	743
19 The Tenant Disassociation	745
20 The Reclusive Potential	747
21 The Comet Polarization	749
22 The Monetary Insufficiency	751
23 The Sibling Realignment	753
24 The Bow Tie Asymmetry	755

Season 12	759
1 The Conjugal Configuration	761
2 The Wedding Gift Wormhole	765
3 The Procreation Calculation	769
4 The Tam Turbulence	773
5 The Planetarium Collision	775
6 The Imitation Perturbation	777
7 The Grant Allocation Derivation	779
8 The Consummation Deviation	781
9 The Citation Negation	783
10 The VCR Illumination	785
11 The Paintball Scattering	789
12 The Propagation Proposition	791
13 The Confirmation Polarization	793
14 The Meteorite Manifestation	797
15 The Donation Oscillation	799
16 The D&D Vortex	801
17 The Conference Valuation	803
18 The Laureate Accumulation	805
19 The Inspiration Deprivation	807
20 The Decision Reverberation	809
21 The Plagiarism Schism	811
22 The Maternal Conclusion	813
23 The Change Constant	815
24 The Stockholm Syndrome	819

Actor Appearances	823
--------------------------	------------

Season One

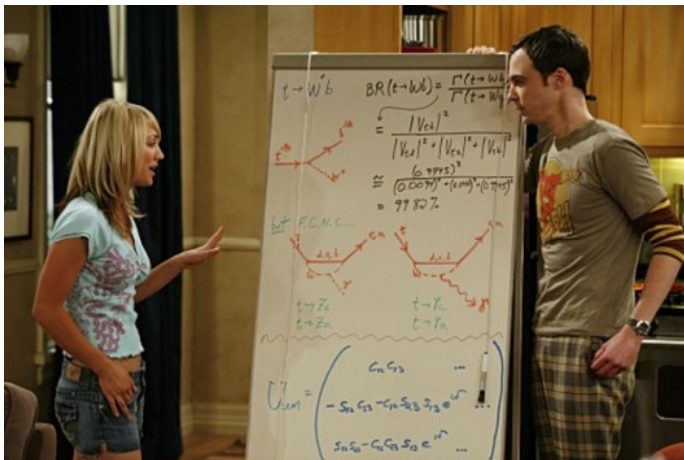
Pilot

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Monday September 24, 2007
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady
Director: James Burrows (II)
Show Stars: Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Vernee Watson-Johnson (Althea), Brian Patrick Wade (Kurt)
Production Code: 276023
Summary: Brilliant physicist roommates Leonard and Sheldon meet their new neighbor Penny, who begins showing them that as much as they know about science, they know little about actual living.



Twenty-somethings Leonard Hofstadter and Sheldon Cooper are friends, roommates and physics geniuses working at Cal Tech. As such, they are self-professed geeks. Their social companions are Howard Wolowitz and Raj Koothrappali (who does not speak to women), fellow geniuses at Cal Tech. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, beautiful Penny, a waitress at the Cheesecake Factory and an aspiring screenwriter and actress, moves in next door to them in their apartment building. On their initial social interaction - an impromptu lunch in the guys' apartment - the guys learn that

Penny has a different mentality than them. This difference however does not stop Leonard from being attracted to her. They also learn that Penny is heartbroken from the end of a four year relationship. Just because she asked, Leonard agrees to pick up her television from her ex-boyfriend, with who she is having a dispute about the ownership of said television.

The Big Bran Hypothesis

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Monday October 1, 2007
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Robert Cohen, David Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter)
Production Code: 3T6601
Summary: Leonard volunteers to sign for a package in an attempt to make a good impression on Penny, but when he enlists Sheldon for help, his attempt at chivalry goes terribly awry.



Penny asks a favor of Leonard and Sheldon: to let the furniture delivery men into her apartment when they make the delivery of her recent purchase. She gives them a key to her apartment for this task. Leonard and Sheldon regret agreeing to do so when first the delivery men will not carry the delivery up the four flights of stairs, and second when they see the pigsty that is Penny's apartment, which just does not sit right with Sheldon's orderly attitude. Penny also ends up regretting asking them when Sheldon uses the key to sneak into her apartment at night when she is sleeping to tidy up, a task in

which Leonard participates. Can Penny ever forgive them for violating her personal space, regardless of how immaculate the apartment looks?

The Fuzzy Boots Corollary

Season 1
Episode Number: 3
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday October 8, 2007
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle)
Guest Stars: Allen Nabors (Doug), Treisa Gary (Waitress), Sherry Weston (Instructor)
Production Code: 3T6602
Summary: Leonard gets upset when he discovers that Penny is seeing a new guy, so he tries to trick her into going on a date with him.



Leonard's heart break when he sees Penny kissing a guy outside her apartment leads to him asking out Leslie Winkle, but when the spark goes out after a kiss to see if there is something there. Leonard resorts to depressing music, moping around and an obsession with wanting to buy a cat. Howard suggests a place that he could get a girl, but kind of backfires when they are actually at a dance class, with only women in their 40's.

When Leonard comes home with play toys for a cat, Sheldon helps him realise that he was never really rejected by Penny considering he hadn't even asked her out ever. And just like that, without any thought Leonard goes and asks her out on a date. Although Penny thinks it is just a group hang, until they arrive back at the apartments when Penny asks Leonard if it was supposed to be a date.

The Luminous Fish Effect

Season 1
Episode Number: 4
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Monday October 15, 2007
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, David Litt, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Bob Koherr
Show Stars: Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter)
Guest Stars: Mark Harelik (Dr. Eric Gablehauser), Sierra Edwards (Summer), Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper)
Production Code: 3T6603
Summary: Sheldon's getting fired forces him to explore what life has to offer outside physics, leaving Leonard to take drastic action to snap his friend out of his funk.



Sheldon isn't looking forward to the faculty mixer where he will meet his new boss, Dr. Eric Gablehauser, who Sheldon doesn't respect. Due to an inappropriate comment to Gablehauser, Sheldon promptly gets fired. Sheldon has no interest in getting his job back. With his new found free time, Sheldon works on a series of rather meaningless experiments at home, which drive Leonard and Penny crazy. Feeling at the end of his rope in dealing with a crazed Sheldon, Leonard calls in the one person who he thinks can get Sheldon out of his funk: his mother. Mary Cooper, a religious southerner, deals with her son in her own special way, which may have a side benefit to herself.

The Hamburger Postulate

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Monday October 22, 2007
Writer: Jennifer Glickman, Steven Molaro, David Goetsch
Director: Andrew D. Weyman
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle)
Production Code: 3T6604
Summary: Fearing he's wasting his time on Penny, Leonard ends up making a connection with Leslie. Meanwhile, Sheldon frets over a change to his hamburger routine.



When Leslie Winkle asks Leonard to join the faculty string quartet, he has no idea that it is a pretense for them to get together for other more personal endeavors, especially as their first and only experience in dating each other went nowhere. Leonard's not sure how to reconcile his feelings for immediate sex with Leslie versus his want to date Penny, especially if Penny finds out that he is in a potential relationship. Sheldon's not sure what the protocol is when a roommate has a spontaneous "guest". But Sheldon is aware that by the end of Leonard and Leslie's encounter, he feels violated. And

Leonard's feelings may change when he understands Leslie's motivations.

The Middle Earth Paradigm

Season 1
Episode Number: 6
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Monday October 29, 2007
Writer: David Goetsch, Robert Cohen, David Litt
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Brian Patrick Wade (Kurt), Rachel Cannon (Patty), Cynthia Holloway (Roberta), Kimberly Kevon Williams (Vicki), Erin Allin O'Reilly (Cheryl)
Production Code: 3T6605
Summary: Penny hosts a Halloween party, putting Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, and Koothrappali through a new test of their social skills.



When Penny asks the guys to her party, which will include dancing, they seriously think about not attending as they aren't "dance" people. But when they learn it's a costume party (the fact of it being Halloween irrelevant), they change their collective minds and decide to go. Leonard wants this party to be an opportunity for Penny to see him as someone in her social circle. But Leonard's goals for the evening change when Kurt, Penny's ex-boyfriend, shows up, he who seems to be an invited guest and who Penny seems happy to see. Leonard, still smarting from his first and only other previous encounter with Kurt,

tries to be Penny's protector while protecting himself from a potentially painful beating from Kurt.

The Dumping Paradox

Season 1
Episode Number: 7
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Monday November 5, 2007
Writer: Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I), Jennifer Glickman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Kimberly D. Brooks (Automated Cell Phone Voice), Brooke D'Orsay (Christy Vanderbelt), James Hong (Chen)
Production Code: 3T6606
Summary: With Wolowitz AWOL with one of her friends, Penny's recruited to fill in for him on the guys' Halo team.



Howard, Raj, Sheldon, and Leonard are deeply engrossed in Halo, when Penny comes over to seek refuge from her friend, Christy, who has come from Omaha to stay with her for a while. Penny is put off by Christy as she thinks Christy is a whore. This intrigues Howard, who immediately goes over to make a move on Christy. When Penny goes back to her apartment, she sees Howard and Christy having sex and asks the guys if she can stay over at their apartment for the night. Leonard willingly obliges though Sheldon has his qualms. Moreover, Penny plays Halo with the guys, since they need one

more player and she turns out to be surprisingly good.

The next morning, Sheldon finds Penny sleeping on the couch and gripes to Leonard how she is disrupting his Saturday morning routine (which is to basically have cereal while watching an episode of Doctor Who). Leonard tells Sheldon to adjust, but Sheldon is not willing to do so. This commotion wakes up Penny, and when Howard comes in (after sleeping with Christy), Penny finds out that not only did he use all of her personal items, he is still with Christy, who is obviously just a gold-digger. Though she warns Howard about this, Howard ignores her and is just happy to spend so much time with Christy.

When Sheldon, Leonard, and Raj go out for lunch at a Chinese restaurant, they realize that since there are only three of them (since Howard is spending so much time with Christy), complications will arise when having proportions of the food. Sheldon becomes picky about the proportions of food each person receives, and this results in them just going home.

On Wednesday night, the three guys invite Penny over for "Halo Night" since Howard isn't available. However, Penny declines so that she can go dancing, and the three guys start to quarrel. Sheldon decides to ask Howard to come back. When they go over to Howard's house (who lives with both Christy and his mother), they hear Christy and Howard's mother arguing, and when Christy finds out that Howard doesn't have that much cash, and isn't worth it, she storms out. Howard then returns to the three guys, and they all have Halo Night.

The episode ends with Penny and her friends sardonically offering to have sex with the guys, who are too engrossed in Halo to pay attention.

The Grasshopper Experiment

Season 1
Episode Number: 8
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Monday November 12, 2007
Writer: David Goetsch, Steven Molaro, Robert Cohen, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Ted Wass
Show Stars: Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali), Sarayu Rao (Lalita)
Production Code: 3T6607
Summary: Raj's parents set him up on a blind date, and when he discovers he can talk to her, she shows interest in Sheldon.



Raj gets a webcam through which he can speak to his parents in India. They tell him that it's time for him to get married, and they have found a prospect bride for him. His parents tell him that the girl's parents have started making arrangements, and that he'll be meeting the girl soon.

Raj starts to freak out because he doesn't want to have an arranged marriage like his parents are coercing him into, and he has always disliked the prospect bride, Lalita Gupta, as he found

her fat and she kept beating him in the playground. Moreover, due to his fear of talking to girls, he doesn't want to be in a marriage where he and his wife will never talk to each other. Leonard tells him that maybe it's for the best, and that arranged marriages aren't all that bad, but Raj is still unconvinced.

Later on, Penny comes over and wants to use the guys as guinea pigs to practice her bartending skills. Sheldon asks Penny for a diet coke, but she says she wants to serve alcoholic beverages. So Sheldon asks her for a virgin Cuba Libre, and then ask if it can be diet.

Penny makes Raj a "grasshopper", and he's quickly drunk and starts to talk to Penny even though he has a fear of talking to girls. Raj, realizing this, decides to have a grasshopper before his date with Lalita, so that he can talk to her with ease.

During the date, Raj becomes too open and starts to remark about her weight loss and makes other insensitive comments. This puts off Lalita. Later on, when Sheldon arrives, he sees Lalita and tells her how much she resembles a princess from an Indian folktale. Lalita is fond of this comment and starts to take a liking to Sheldon. Raj threatens to beat Sheldon, but Lalita tells Raj that the only reason she met up with him, was so that her parents would stop nagging her. She then asks out Sheldon for dinner.

Later at home, Raj narrates the story to his parents via webcam. When Sheldon returns from his dinner with Lalita, Raj tries to pin the blame on him, but Sheldon points out that if it wasn't for Raj being drunk, Lalita may have never ditched Raj. Raj's parents hear this, and they get worried that Raj is having an alcohol problem. Raj carries his laptop to the hall to talk to his parents privately. When Leonard enquires about Sheldon and Lalita, it turns out that Sheldon didn't consider it a date, and considered it just "dinner".

The episode ends with Penny spiking Sheldon's diet virgin Cuba libre with alcohol, leading to a drunk Sheldon playing a song on the piano.

The Cooper-Hofstadter Polarization

Season 1
Episode Number: 9
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Monday March 17, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, Stephen Engel, David Goetsch, Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Joel Murray
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Talbott Chin (Chinese Leonard), Howard Chan (Chinese Sheldon)
Production Code: 3T6608
Summary: When they're invited to present at a physics conference, Sheldon's reluctance to share the credit leads to a tiff between him and Leonard, and Penny's intervention only exacerbates the situation.



Leonard finds out that he and Sheldon were invited to a physics conference, but Sheldon had thrown away the letter. When he confronts Sheldon, Sheldon states that he does not want to be in a room of people, who are less smart than he and try to pander up to them. Leonard however, feels that this is an honor and wants to present it, though Sheldon "forbids" it.

Leonard tells Penny the problem, and she tries to help him by consoling Sheldon. But when she tells Sheldon that Leonard said Sheldon played a "minor" part in the research, Sheldon tells

Leonard never to talk to him ever again.

When Leonard finishes presenting at the conference, it turns out that Sheldon was there all along. Sheldon tells Leonard that he presented wrongly, and that he's just doing this to impress people because he has an ego. Leonard yells at Sheldon, telling him that he's not the only one in the room who's smarter than everyone else. The two men fight in front of their colleagues, but they later make up.

The Loobenfeld Decay

Season 1
Episode Number: 10
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Monday March 24, 2008
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: DJ Qualls (Toby Loobenfeld)
Production Code: 3T6609
Summary: Leonard and Sheldon each lie to avoid hearing Penny sing in a production of Rent. However, Sheldon's lie becomes a bit too complicated for its own good.



As Leonard and Sheldon are walking up the stairs to their apartment, they hear Penny singing horribly. When she sees them, she tells them that she's participating in a version of Rent and that they're both invited to come and see her. However, Leonard, not willing to go and hear her sing, lies that he and Sheldon have a conference to attend. Penny believes this, and Leonard thinks the matter is settled.

However, later on, Sheldon starts to get worried that Penny may do some research on her own, and find out that he and Leonard are not attending a conference after all. Therefore, he decides to

fabricate an elaborate lie about he and Leonard going to Long Beach, to stage an intervention for Sheldon's-albeit-fake, cousin. Leonard gets upset at Sheldon for making such a lie, but Sheldon convinces him that it is more feasible. Penny believes this lie as well.

The cousin is Leopold, but answers to Leo or Lee. Sheldon believes Leonard would call him Lee. Sheldon also establishes a Facebook page which has "Lee's descent into drug addiction as well as a hopeful eHarmony listing. Thereby completing what Sheldon called an "un-unravelable" lie.

Later, once again, Sheldon feels that the lie needs "touching up" and so asks a lab assistant to pose as his drug-addicted cousin, Leo. Sheldon does this, as he believes that if he "brings the cousin home," Penny will believe it even further.

In the end, it turns out that Penny recorded her performance and makes Leonard watch it, meaning that all of Sheldon's lies were of no use.

The Pancake Batter Anomaly

Season 1
Episode Number: 11
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Monday March 31, 2008
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Stephen Engel
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Erin Allin O'Reilly (Cheryl)
Production Code: 3T6610
Summary: With his friends knowing how sour he acts when sick—and avoiding him as a result—Sheldon is nursed for by Penny, who hasn't a clue what she's in for.



Germaphobe Sheldon is more hyper-vigilant than ever after Penny comes back from Nebraska where she was visiting with family who were sick with an unknown bug. Regardless, Sheldon does come down with a bug. Leonard enacts "Code Milky Green", a protocol between himself, Howard and Raj to avoid Sheldon at all cost because of his illness. They decide to attend a "Planet of the Apes" marathon at a local cinema. So Sheldon turns to the only person left, Penny, who is unaware of Code Milky Green. But when Leonard's glasses break at the cinema with his only spare pair at the apartment, he has to decide if it is worth the risk to go back to the apartment or watch a bunch of totally fuzzy looking apes for 10 hours.

The Jerusalem Duality

Season 1

Episode Number: 12

Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Monday April 14, 2008
Writer: Stephen Engel, Jennifer Glickman, Steven Molaro, David Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Mark Harelik (Dr. Eric Gablehauser)
Guest Stars: Joel Brooks (Professor Goldfarb), Austin Lee (Dennis Kim), Emma Degerstedt (Emma)
Production Code: 3T6611
Summary: With Sheldon rattled and impossible to be around after meeting Dennis, a 15-year-old physicist who's smarter than he, the rest of the guys search for a way to eliminate the threat.



Fifteen year old genius Dennis Kim is a physics doctoral candidate who Gablechuk wants at the college at any cost. Dennis is much like Sheldon was at that age, with the ego and arrogance to match. As such, Sheldon doesn't like Dennis, especially after Dennis criticizes Sheldon's work on string theory, which is his primary research. But Sheldon realizes that one of the comments Dennis makes about his research is indeed true. For Sheldon, this realization means the end of his life as he knows it. Much to his genius friends' chagrin, Sheldon needs to find something academic to do, and who better to do it with than other geniuses

(albeit less so than him). So Leonard, Howard and Raj decide that to get Sheldon back to the top of the heap status they need to take Dennis down a few notches by refocusing his fifteen year old mind on more pubescent pursuits.

The Bat Jar Conjecture

Season 1
Episode Number: 13
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Monday April 21, 2008
Writer: Stephen Engel, Jennifer Glickman, Bill Prady, Robert Cohen
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Kaley Cuoco (Penny)
Recurring Role: Mark Harelik (Dr. Eric Gablehauser), Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle)
Guest Stars: Adam Gregor (Dmitri), Sandra Marquez (Woman), Sergio Enrique (Son)
Production Code: 3T6612
Summary: Sheldon finds himself booted from the gang's Physics Bowl team and replaced with Leslie, so he forms his own team, hoping to prove he's superior.



With the perennial winning team not participating this year, Leonard, Howard and Raj feel that their foursome are the sure winners of this year's edition of the university's physics bowl. They have to talk a reluctant Sheldon into entering with them, which they do manage to do. They regret doing so after Sheldon takes control of everything and as such has taken any fun out of the process. After the threesome kick Sheldon off their team, Sheldon vows revenge by forming his own team. Despite Leonard's discomfort with the idea, they decide to ask Leslie Winkle to be Sheldon's replacement, she who

declines until she learns that they are planning on destroying Sheldon in the process. During their match, Sheldon, who believes he is basically fielding a one man team (his teammates are a janitor, the lunch floor monitor and her son), has to decide what is the most important goal.

The Nerdvana Annihilation

Season 1

Episode Number: 14

Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Monday April 28, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, Stephen Engel, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Andrew Walker (Mike)
Production Code: 3T6613
Summary: When the delivery of a full-size prop of 1960's The Time Machine makes Penny miss work, she scolds Leonard about his sci-fi collectibles. He decides it's time to give up such childish pursuits.



Leonard buys a replica time machine online. As the boys move it into the apartment they accidentally make Penny late for work causing her to lash out at Leonard for his nerdy ways. Upset, Leonard decides to get rid of all his 'nerdmabilia' and the guys try to convince him not to.

The Pork Chop Indeterminacy

Season 1
Episode Number: 15
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Monday May 5, 2008
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper)
Guest Stars: Courtney Henggeler (Missy Cooper)
Production Code: 3T6614
Summary: The rest of the gang fall for Sheldon's twin sister, and Leonard's plan to win her heart is derailed when Sheldon declares he'll be the one to decide who can date her.



The guys are surprised to see a beautiful young woman in Sheldon's office. They are even more surprised when they learn that she is Sheldon's fraternal twin sister, Missy Cooper, who is in town only for two days to attend a friend's wedding. Against Sheldon's wishes, Leonard invites her to stay with them, which she accepts. Leonard, Howard and even Raj (who is participating in a pharmaceutical study, which includes testing a new drug to overcome extreme shyness) fawn over Missy. Using the argument of potential genius offspring, Leonard convinces Sheldon, who abhors physical and emo-

tional contact even with family, that he needs to act brotherly in looking out for Missy's best interests when it comes to finding a suitable boyfriend. Who better in that role than his roommate. Ultimately, the guys come to a solution on who should pursue Missy. But what will Missy have to say about their choice?

The Peanut Reaction

Season 1
Episode Number: 16
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Monday May 12, 2008
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Vernee Watson-Johnson (Althea), Judith Moreland (Jan), Ronald Hunter (Dan), Chuck Carter (Stan)
Production Code: 3T6615
Summary: Penny wants to throw a surprise party for Leonard, but Sheldon's indulgence at an electronics store throws her off-track.



Penny wishes Leonard a happy birthday which she knows is this upcoming Saturday, when she expects him to at least come in for his free piece of birthday cake at the restaurant. She is shocked to learn that Leonard not only does not celebrate his birthday, but that he's never had a birthday party. Regardless of Leonard's wants, Penny decides to throw him a surprise party. Although she gets help from Sheldon, Howard and Raj, the preparation for the party does not go to her plans, including needing to help Sheldon buy a gift, Howard not being able to get Leonard out of the apartment, and Raj not being

able to decorate the apartment since Leonard's there. Will Leonard enjoy his first birthday party after all this difficult effort?

The Tangerine Factor

Season 1
Episode Number: 17
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Monday May 19, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny)
Guest Stars: James Hong (Chen)
Production Code: 3T6616
Summary: Penny's break-up spurs Leonard to summon the courage to ask her out, and each goes to Sheldon for advice on their upcoming date.



Penny obtains a new boyfriend that she soon angrily dumps because he blogged details of their sex life. Leonard tries to comfort her and ends up getting her to apologize to the boyfriend. Penny then finds out that he has already found another girl. She responds with anger and sadness towards Leonard, saying that she wants a boyfriend who actually cares about her. Leonard suggests himself. A little surprised, Penny agrees.

Later on, however, they both have doubts about their date, worrying that it could ruin their friendship. Penny asks Sheldon for advice, as she could not ask

Raj, Howard, or Leonard. Sheldon suggests to her the theory of Schrödinger's cat, meaning that she'll never know unless she goes out with Leonard. However, Penny does not understand the scientific, literal Schrödinger's cat and so is only confused by Sheldon. At lunch, Leonard also expresses worries to Sheldon. He says to him "Schrödinger's cat" and Leonard instantly understands it.

When Leonard goes to Penny's apartment for their date, there is a somewhat awkward moment before Leonard asks Penny if she has ever heard of Schrödinger's cat. She says she has heard far, far too much about it, to which Leonard responds "Good" and kisses her. Penny finally understands the metaphor, saying the cat's alive and that they should go.

Meanwhile, Sheldon has been learning Mandarin Chinese with the assistance of a reluctant Howard. This is because he wants to express his anger to the owner of a Chinese restaurant which has changed their tangerine chicken to the lesser orange chicken. Leonard and Penny go to this restaurant for their date but see Sheldon yelling severely meaningless Chinese at the restaurant owner. They hurriedly leave.

Season Two

The Bad Fish Paradigm

Season 2
Episode Number: 18
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Monday September 22, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3T7351
Summary: Penny opens up to a reluctant Sheldon after a less-than-stellar first date with Leonard, placing him in the uncomfortable position of having to keep a secret.



After her first date with Leonard goes awry, Penny finds an unwilling confidant in Leonard's anti-social roommate, Sheldon.

The new season of *The Big Bang Theory* picks up from Leonard and Penny's date. Leonard explains what Penny had was not, technically, frozen yogurt. Unfortunately, Penny only asked him if he wanted some of it. They have a goodnight kiss that is being witnessed by a security camera set up by Raj and Howard. (Presumably, Howard is running the camera, as he is eager to get a shot of Penny's cleavage.) Unable to get away from the

camera, he cuts the kiss off, and they say goodnight. Heading into the apartment, he immediately confronts Raj and Howard about the camera. Their purpose for the camera is to document how Leonard will ruin the relationship. Leonard doesn't feel he ruined the date, thinking that slowing things down, as Penny suggests, is a good thing. Sadly, even Sheldon knows that's lame. To Howard, that's the equivalent of "this fish tastes bad and will slow down and spit it out." Leonard tries to remain optimistic about the date, even though he and Penny haven't set a second date. However, video analysis says otherwise, according to Howard, Raj, and even Sheldon. ("He was a lot more fun when he had no hope."—Raj)

Our first look at the apartment building's laundry room shows Sheldon doing his clothes, complete with a shirt-folding device. Penny comes in and wants to talk to Sheldon about her date with Leonard. She asks Sheldon if Leonard ever dated someone who wasn't a brainiac. (Perhaps she should also not fold Sheldon's socks from now on.) It turns out she lied about graduating community college during the date so she could not be embarrassed about Leonard's educational background compared to her own. After several poorly-thought suggestions from Sheldon, she asks him not to reveal any of this to Leonard. Sheldon is shocked: he cannot keep any sort of secret. He develops "more nervous ticks than a Lyme Disease Research Facility." But she's asked him as a friend to keep this secret. The fact that they were friends is something new to Sheldon.

Later, Leonard and Sheldon meet Penny in the hall. He tries to set up a second date, but she evades setting one. After she's gone, Leonard immediately thinks he's the "bad fish" and asks Sheldon about it. Sure enough, Sheldon's giving more tells than the first person to lose

at the World Series of Poker. Sheldon runs like hell to the Cheesecake Factory and begs Penny to release him from the secret. He's so bad at keeping secrets, he was denied a job at a "top-secret military supercollider at a fake agricultural station 12.5 miles southeast of Traverse City, Michigan." (Oops.) She insists on Sheldon keeping her secret, so he comes up with a solution: he moves out of the apartment.

When informing Leonard he is moving out, he decides not to say why. Raj and Howard arrive and want to know why. The myriad of possible reasons (including adjusting the brightness or contrast on the TV, take off a Band-Aid, or make fun of trains) don't seem to apply. Sheldon goads Raj into letting him stay at his teeny apartment. It takes Sheldon all of about 30 seconds to wear out his welcome. (Never insult Aishwarya Rai in Raj's presence.) Therefore, he has to infiltrate Howard's house with a stripper-gram. Howard is getting the same results as Raj when it comes to Sheldon annoying him. (But at least we know that Halle Berry is Sheldon's 5th-favorite Catwoman.)

Howard dumps Sheldon back at Leonard's. However, whacked out of his mind on Howard's mother's valium, he confesses Penny's secret to Leonard. Leonard is shocked, and even slightly upset that Penny thinks he's too smart for her. Leonard goes to Penny to talk to her about it. He decides to come up with a solution: giving Penny a community college brochure. Penny, to say the least, is not amused. She thinks she has to be smart to date him. She slams the door on him, but at least Leonard knows where he went wrong this time.

The Codpiece Topology

Season 2
Episode Number: 19
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Monday September 29, 2008
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle)
Guest Stars: Travis Schuldt (Eric)
Production Code: 3T7352
Summary: After seeing Penny with her new boyfriend, Leonard turns to Leslie for comfort. The move angers Sheldon, who considers Leslie his comic book-style "arch enemy."



The boys have just returned from a Renaissance Faire in full regalia. Unfortunately, it was not authentic enough for Sheldon's taste. He apparently wanted authentic mead not served in polypropylene flacons. Of course, Howard does not care about this because he appreciates the Faire is "an opportunity to take chubby girls working at Kinko's and lacing them up in corsets so tight, their bosom jumps out and says "Howdy." Heading up the stairs, they run into Penny with a new hairstyle and a new guy, Eric. After several awkward seconds, everybody goes their separate ways. Leonard

doesn't think it was awkward...or fun. Fortunately, his chain-mail wedgie takes his mind off of it, to say nothing about where Sheldon got the material to make his historically-accurate underwear. (Leonard may want to consider changing his pillowcase.)

In the guys' apartment, Leonard is confronted about his dating history...or lack thereof. His history consists of Leslie Winkle and Joyce Kim. He also had a date at last year's ComicCon, but that doesn't count within the realm of ComicCon, according to Raj. He implemented the rule after making out with an Orion slave girl...named Richard. The guys convince Leonard to make a date. Since Joyce Kim defected back to North Korea, Leonard's options seem to be limited. Sheldon, constantly ridiculed by Leslie, does not seem to agree with this.

At the university's cafeteria, Sheldon and Leonard are eating lunch when Leslie walks in. Sheldon quickly walks out after exchanging a few unpleasanties with her. Leslie tells Leonard that she heard about his breakup with Penny, and she wants to try a relationship. Apparently, she's reached "a time in every woman's life where she's tired of waking up on a strange futon with a bunch of people she doesn't know. Leslie wants to slow things down, and who better to slow down with than Leonard. She tells him to order Chinese, get an art film that's still accessible, and there would be light petting but no coitus. But she'll let Leonard make the plans, since he's the man.

Back home, Leonard is setting up for the date, but Sheldon has other plans. He wants to rock Mario old-school with his Nintendo 64. Leonard patiently asks Sheldon to give him the apartment. After much debate (and Leonard promising to give up the apartment if Sheldon ever meets someone from his species), Sheldon abandons the apartment...for the stairs.

Penny meets Sheldon on the stairs as she heads out on her date. She wonders why he's on the stairs and not at a movie or a coffee shop. Sheldon is afraid of choking on his popcorn and hates bearclaws. Leslie's arrival doesn't seem to help either of them. Sheldon's convinced "the only way Leslie could contribute to science is if they resume sending chimps into space."

Leonard and Leslie's date seems to be going OK. Leslie does seem to plan ahead, though. She wants to know how many kids Leonard wants and what genetic weaknesses are in his family. Sheldon interrupts to get an extension cord for the laptop. Fortunately Leonard can continue with the date, after Sheldon interrupts again to make pee-pee. As Leslie leaves, they are prepared to have another date, assuming Leonard waits the minimum 18 hours to call so that she is not repulsed by his cloying eagerness. They get interrupted again, but by Penny and Eric this time. They're returning from their date, and Penny is trying to explain Schroedinger's Cat to him. After an awkward hello, Leonard kisses Leslie goodnight in Penny's presence. Seeing this, Penny kisses Eric goodnight. Leslie, catching on, decides to help Leonard and returns his kiss...hard. Now it's Penny's turn to up the ante. Finally, cooler heads prevail, and both couples break their respective kisses.

At the university the next day, Raj has a way of getting Sheldon to go back to the Renaissance Faire: he can dress up as a Starfleet science officer and study an ancient civilization. Leslie joins the group, but they need to switch tables. Sheldon refuses to move and forces Leonard to choose between sitting with him and sitting with Leslie and the guys. The choice isn't that hard.

Leonard and Leslie have another date, as evidenced by Sheldon's latest foray on the stairwell with Mario. Penny talks with him. Sheldon asks her for help. He now WANTS Penny to date Leonard. He wants Penny to "give it the ol' college try. Or in your case, the ol' community college try." Truth be told, the issue has to do with Sheldon and Leslie's attitudes toward each other. Penny only wants to be friends with Leonard for now. She asks Sheldon to give Leonard his support as a friend.

"But why am I doing all the giving here? If Leonard is truly my friend, why can't he support me and my hatred of Leslie Winkle?"

Apparently, "love trumps hate" is not a sufficient answer for Sheldon.

Sheldon decides its time to accept the relationship, despite the fact that Leslie "actually believes loop quantum gravity better unites quantum mechanics with general relativity than string theory." That's over the line, as far as Leslie is concerned. And don't get her started on Sheldon's theory that matter is made of tiny strings. Now she turns on Leonard, demanding that he defend her. He wants to just play referee in this and make peace. She wants him to agree with her on loop quantum gravity, but Leonard seems to agree with Sheldon on this matter. Sadly, this is a deal-breaker for Leslie, and she leaves. But Sheldon does have some heart, reminding Leonard that it's only 9 more months to ComicCon.

The Barbarian Sublimation

Season 2

Episode Number: 20

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday October 6, 2008
Writer: Nicole Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle)
Recurring Role: Mark Harelik (Dr. Eric Gablehauser)
Guest Stars: Mark Hames (Tom), Tyler Olson (Blaine)
Production Code: 3T7353
Summary: Penny becomes addicted to an online game based on the world of Conan the Barbarian and persistantly pesters Sheldon for advice.



All hail Sheldor the Conqueror! He is leading his trusty warriors into battle; at least once Barry is back from the restroom. However, a disturbance outside interrupts him. It is Penny, who has accidentally put her car key into the lock of her apartment. Now she can't get it out or get in her apartment. Sheldon is his usual, helpful self. Clearly, pointing out that her apartment key uses edge-mounted cylinders vs. the center cylinders on the key to her Volkswagen gets the door WIDE open. Penny finally goes

off the edge, given that she just returned from an audition that she drove two hours to get to, then waited another hour just to have the director say she looked too Midwestern. Of course, Sheldon has to point out her German/Scandinavian features, which really didn't help. The fly that she also swallowed, the breaking of her grocery bags, that she hasn't had sex in six months, and the fact that the locksmith "will get there when he gets there" causes her to break down and cry. Sheldon offers to let her stay in his apartment. She says shed rather sit on the cold ground and cry. Sheldon still needs to get the hang of sarcasm.

In the guys' apartment, Penny settles in, following Sheldon's unwritten rules about where to sit and no feet on the table. She inquires about what Sheldon is doing on the computer. Sheldon, in typical annoyance, tries to explain he is in an online simulation of "Age of Conan," which is set in the universe of Robert E. Howard's "Conan the Barbarian." She's none too impressed at first but does wonder why Sheldon keeps saying AFK. He explains it means away from keyboard. Oh, I see." Now its Sheldon's turn to wonder what that means.

Later on, Leonard returns to the apartment. The groceries outside the apartment, not to mention the cat eating the melted ice cream, are the least of his confusion. Penny is now playing the game and just picked up a pair of enchanted boots. Leonard wants a catch-me-up from Sheldon...

"She attempted to open her apartment with her car key because her face is overly-Midwestern, she hasn't had sex in six months, and she ate a fly." "Seriously? Six months?"

Later on, the boys are having fun playing with corn starch and water, which make up a non-Newtonian fluid that is really solid under the Matrix-like bass beats of a speaker. ("That's what makes it funky," says Howard) Penny comes in and demands Sheldon help her with the game and

get the Enchanted Sword to kill the guard captain. Everybody else is quite confused. According to Raj and Howard...

"It's like some weird comic book crossover." "As if the Hulk started dating Peppermint Patty."

Clearly, Penny is addicted, as she interrupts Sheldon in the middle of the night to help her decide whether to join a horde of Level-35 Hungarian warriors. Sleep-deprived (and lacking pajama bottoms) Sheldon begs her to leave him alone.

The next day at work, Sheldon must meet with Dr. Gablehauser, his boss, to settle an internal conflict with Leslie. He complains that she walked into room 204 of Buckman Hall to use the mainframe when he had signed up for it. Except that Sheldon made up the sign-in sheet and blocked every single hour for the next six months. His lack of currying favor with his boss is not helped by the fact that Penny calls him on his cell phone...then his boss' phone after he ignores the cell.

Arriving home, Sheldon demands Leonard intervene with Penny since his efforts are not working. In fact, if he doesn't, Sheldon "will become very difficult to live with," as opposed to the "happy fun time Sheldon" Leonard's been living with so far. Leonard goes to visit Penny—AKA, Queen Penelope. It would be fair to say that Penny looks like she was run over by a truck several times, but that would actually IMPROVE how she currently looks. Leonard tries logic, pointing out that its easy to get caught up in an online addiction when one's self-esteem is low and life's goals arent being accomplished. She's not listening and returns to the game, taking the time to get a Cheeto out of her hair...and eating it. Leonard tries another tact: entering the "Age of Conan" game in character to talk with her. That gets him a hastier rebuke, not to mention a decapitation.

The next day at the university, the guys are gathered. Sheldon, however, is there only in body and not spirit. Penny's been keeping him up all night, and not in the same way she keeps Howard up all night. (well, in his mind, anyway) Leslie joins them, and Sheldon is too tired to even react to Leslie's barbs that he's up all night with Middle-Earth Barbie. Leslie postulates that Penny is using online gaming as an escape from her sexual frustration. Surprisingly, Sheldon agrees. He has to concede Leslie's "undeniable expertise in the interrelated fields of promiscuity and general slutiness." Sheldon decides to take action and ask the guy at the next table if he wants to be involved in a sexual relationship. The guy agrees and gives Sheldon his phone number. Of course, it would be easy to tell Sheldon where he is messing up, but not nearly as fun.

Sheldon continues his plan. While helping Penny with the game, he uses subterfuge to fill out an online dating service application for Penny under the guise of an online gaming registration form, complete with a bonus 75 quest expansion pack. And now we know Penny likes to initiate sexual contact and go on wild adventures.

Later, Leonard enters the apartment and meets Tom, who was brought in by Sheldon to go on a date with Penny. Finding him on an online dating site, Sheldon is impressed with Tom's job as a firefighter and med school studies. Leonard knows this will end badly, and the proof walks into the apartment. Penny has a lovely shade of lipstick, except its unknown whether if it's crunchy or puffed Cheetos. On the bright side, if the grunge movement ever comes back, she's all set. Tom is disappointed that she doesn't look anything her photo, but doesn't that always happen with online dating services?

Is there a way to quit cold turkey? Well, if Howard comes online, asking Penny for a spirited afternoon of questing and a flagon of ale at a virtual tavern, and she ACCEPTS, that might be one way to do it.

The Griffin Equivalency

Season 2

Episode Number: 21

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Monday October 13, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre, Stephen Engel, Tim Doyle
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Mark Harelik (Dr. Eric Gablehauser), Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali), Charlie Sheen (Himself)
Production Code: 3T7354
Summary: Full of confidence following being named one of People's "30 to Watch Under 30", Raj hits on Penny and becomes impossibly arrogant.



Leonard, Penny, and Howard are gathered for dinner. A little Chinese food, a lot of sexually-inappropriate comments from Howard, the usual. After Penny moves him away, Sheldon comes in and moves her away from his traditional spot. She inquires about Sheldon's baby wipes, much to the dismay of Howard and Leonard. Apparently, they've put hand dryers instead of paper towels in the washrooms at the university, and to Sheldon's germaphobic mind, "they'd be better off having a plague-infested gibbons

sneeze my hands dry." Raj enters announcing great news...until he sees Penny and clams up. Penny decides between Raj's silence, Sheldon's incessant talking and, well, Howard, she goes to eat alone. However, this gives Raj the opportunity to give his news: his discovery of a new object in the Kuiper Belt, 2008-NQ Sub 17 (aka Planet Bollywood), has gotten him People Magazine's "30 Under 30 to Watch." He's in good company, as the list includes a person working on hunger in Indonesia, someone using dolphins to help rehab prisoners, and Juno's Ellen Page. Raj's humble narrative about overcoming extreme poverty to come to America and look towards the stars. (Apparently, gynecologists who drive Bentley's don't make much in India.) Sheldon is confused, though: he does not see how the people at People are qualified to judge Raj's accomplishment over any other. Howard is none too happy about not being credited for making the telescope's mounting bracket.

"I bet Ellen Page's friends don't give her this much crap!"—Raj

At work the next day, Leonard convinces the guys that they should have been more supportive of Raj's accomplishment. Sheldon can't understand the need for apologizing to Raj and inviting him out to dinner. Besides the fact he was being a "total asshat," Sheldon does not realize that this might be the greatest thing Raj receives in his life. "I sometimes forget other people have limitations." This is apparently Sheldon feeling guilty. They talk to Raj, but Sheldon needs to practice being happy for Raj. His facial expressions don't work very well for him, but they might get Heath Ledger an Oscar for playing the Joker. Raj appreciates their gesture, but someone else appreciates it more: Dr. Gablehauser. Raj is his newest star because Raj's discovery gets the university what it needs most: money. (Not science, Leonard.) As a result, Raj gets a new office and gets to have lunch in the President's dining room, where the food is the same as in the cafeteria, only fresher.

At dinner, Raj is gloating over his photo shoot with People magazine. (Or glowing, depending on what number Grasshopper he's on.) After a call from his new assistant, Raj tells the guys about a reception for the magazine, and they are all invited, though not to the VIP section since they're only "P's." Unable to take his gloating, they meander ways of not accepting the invitation. Sheldon is a bit direct in his opinion of the "new" Raj...

"In Papa New Guinea, there's a tribe when a hunter flaunts his success to the rest of the village, they kill him and drive away evil spirits with a drum made of his skin. Superstitious nonsense, of course, but I can see their point."

Penny is far more impressed that Raj got into People magazine without knocking up one of the Spears' sisters. She gladly accepts the invitation. Now Raj has a date a year faster than Leonard did. That's the final straw, and the guys bail. Raj doesn't care; he tells a guy at the restaurant he's going to be in People. The man is not impressed, given that he's been on the cover himself. (and has a CBS show that he shares with Jon Cryer)

Raj goes to Penny's apartment with two glasses of champagne in tow from the limousine. She compliments him on his attire, but it's a shame that he can't return the compliment. He was hoping for something a bit more "redonkulous." However, her attire is as redonkulous as she'll get for him. As they leave, Raj brags to Leonard about the limo and breaks into song. P!nk's "Get This Party Started" will no longer sound the same.

Howard does have a solution for Leonard's loneliness: Anything-for-a-Greencard.com has HUNDREDS of Croatian women just waiting for him! Leonard takes a pass, a very fast one. Of course, Howard can't let it go and brings up the possibility that Raj and Penny might end up having sexual intercourse tonight. While Leonard unbags dinner (and prays his sleep apnea kills him tonight), Sheldon grills him on his specific choice of dinner. When the broccoli comes in shredded, he concludes Leonard must be thinking that Raj and Penny might end up having sexual intercourse tonight. The situation brings to mind for Sheldon his desire as a child to have a griffin: half-lion/half-eagle. It was designed to replace his dead cat, Lucky, and be more suited to his pet needs. Sadly, he couldn't convince his parents to get him eagle eggs and lion semen. Of course, the point is completely missed. But Sheldon is more than willing to give them the point: if Raj moves on to a life of shallow, undeserved fame, it might be time to create a new companion. In spite of Sheldon's insanity ("I'm not insane! My mother had me tested."), Leonard does see the point. The new friend should be someone they can trust, have lots of money, share their love of technology, and maybe even have a house down by the beach. It's settled: their new friend is Iron Man.

Penny and Raj walk up to his apartment. Well, more like Penny holding him up as he stumbles in. Clearly not happy with the night's proceedings, she wants to leave. However, he wants to "put on some R. Kelly and suck face." Obviously, this she finds charming and wants to leave even faster. However, there is a ring on Raj's computer. Raj's parents are contacting him, and he decides he wants Penny to meet them. After all, she's his "main squeeze." However, Penny tells his parents there is "no sowing, no squeezing, and definitely no sucking face." Making matters worse, Raj's father understands why he wants to try the "local cuisine," but he doesn't want Raj to have it for a steady diet. Raj chews his dad out and goes to throw up. Penny decides to leave, but not before telling off his parents: "FYI, you'd be lucky to have a daughter-in-law like me!"

The next day, Raj realizes how stupid he was and goes to give Penny an apology note. She won't accept it; she wants to hear it from him. He tries, tries, and tries.....AND SAYS SOMETHING!!! Granted, it's only the word "sorry," but that's enough to earn a hug from her...right in front of Leonard, who clearly takes it the wrong way. It's enough, however, to make Sheldon smile.

The Euclid Alternative

Season 2

Episode Number: 22

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Monday October 20, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Lee Aronsohn (I), David Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Elena Campbell-Martinez (Maria), Octavia Spencer (Octavia), Livia Trevino (Lourdes)
Production Code: 3T7355
Summary: An intervention is used to try to force Sheldon to overcome his fear of driving.



Leonard comes home...and promptly passes out on the couch. The reason wasn't a good night on the town, however. It was the fact that he's working nights using the free-electron laser to conduct his X-ray diffraction experiment. This goes right by Sheldon, who insists that Leonard drive him not only to work, but also to Pottery Barn to return some Star Wars bed sheets. (Apparently, Darth Vader stares at him) Leonard suggests the bus, but Sheldon is not allowed on the bus due to the fact that he tried to

use bungee cords as a seatbelt. Sheldon then decides to knock on Penny's door. Of course, she's sleeping in on her day off, but that doesn't stop Sheldon from asking her for a ride. She tries the same suggestion as Leonard, the bus, but Sheldon still won't do it. Sheldon notes that Penny has stated they are friends; therefore, he invokes a tradition that follows with friendship: the favor.

While Penny tries to remain awake while driving Sheldon, he is not making himself to be the perfect passenger. Firstly, he bothers her about the "check engine" light on her car. Even though it's been on for a month, he is afraid that something might be wrong with the engine. Fortunately, he is distracted by the fact that Penny is drinking coffee while driving, which he of course must tell Penny about.

"Studies have shown that performing tasks, such as eating, talking on a cell phone, or drinking coffee while driving reduce reaction times by the same factor as one ounce of alcohol."

"Do you have any alcohol?"

Next, Sheldon questions Penny's choice of Euclid Avenue since the speed bumps on it make it a slower route. That is, assuming you slow down for the speed bumps, which Penny actually doesn't. Given Penny's desire to get him to work quickly, Sheldon's facts about the most popular street name in America and the "Chemical Element" game don't go over well. After one more speed bump, Sheldon is getting troubled by Penny's nonchalance towards the check engine light. After one more utterance by Sheldon, Penny decides she's had enough and throws him out.

At work, Sheldon finds Leonard and asks for a ride. However, Leonard is just getting to work and can't take him home. Howard is enjoying the conversation until Sheldon decides that Howard will take him home. Howard takes him home on his scooter. It would appear that riding a scooter is a first for Sheldon, judging by the girl-like screaming emanating from him. Sheldon's last

chance is with Raj. Raj seems OK with driving Sheldon home...until Sheldon insists they go to the Pottery Barn, Radio Shack, Soup Plantation, and the comic book store. The results are the same, and Sheldon has another long walk home.

After a last-ditch effort to beg Penny to take him to Pottery Barn, it's time for an intervention.

"Sheldon, you know that we care about you."—Penny

"And it's because we care about you that we have to speak up."—Howard (with an encouraging nod from Raj)

"You're hurting the people around you, sweetie."—Penny

"We made you an appointment, and we want you to keep it."—Leonard

It's time Sheldon went to...the DMV. ("This madness has to stop!") Sheldon denies having a problem, but Penny decides to take him...because Leonard is going to bed and rock breaks scissors.

One would assume that Sheldon would create much havoc attempting to take an exam. One would be correct in that assumption. Penny erroneously asks why Sheldon just didn't get a license at 16 like everybody else. It turns out, Sheldon was "examining perturbative amplitudes in $N=4$ supersymmetric theories leading to a re-examination of the ultraviolet properties of the multi-loop $N=8$ supergravity using modern twistor theory." (watched it 6 times to get that with the closed captioning, for those of you wondering) Sheldon turns in the application, receives the written test, but he immediately has some concerns about the test. In spite of the proctor not caring, Sheldon insists that a "car length" is not a standard unit of measure. By the time he explains that none of the answers to question 2 accurately fit, the proctor just hands him his learner's permit so he can get out of there.

Back at home, Howard has designed a state-of-the-art simulator a friend made for the army. (Which explains why the roads look like downtown Fallujah?) Howard reconfigures it to be a red Taurus in the middle of downtown Pasadena. However, Sheldon insists on a new color, as red cars are statistically pulled over more than other cars. He wants Howard to change the car's color to be the same as Luke Skywalker's light saber "before the remastered it." "Black it is." He starts driving (after buckling in his imaginary seatbelt) To say Sheldon needs to work on his driving would be like saying Milli Vanilli need to work on their singing. After crashing into several simulated cars and having his simulated airbags deploy (in this case, Penny smashing him with a pillow), he clearly needs work. He continues far into the night, and does succeed to get his car to the Galleria Mall. In fact, he's IN the mall. On the second floor. Crashing into a pet store. Leonard, waking up, encourages him to get some sleep and try again tomorrow. Sheldon has a better idea: quit altogether. Although he does have another term for it: evolving beyond driving. To Leonard's consternation, Sheldon theorizes that he is something beyond humans, a "homo novus," as it were. Although it's for anthropologists to decide, he feels he is predestined to unlock the mysteries of the universe and is not designed for the plebian task of driving. Leonard asks the obvious question of how homo novus will get to work tomorrow. Sheldon does not know at first, but he eventually comes up with the solution: he lives at the office. Sheldon is sleeping in his office and uses the radiation shower to clean up. This is what will have to do until Leonard tells him that he's done with his nighttime work...which was a week ago.

The Cooper-Nowitzki Theorem

Season 2
Episode Number: 23
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Monday November 3, 2008
Writer: Stephen Engel, Daley Hagggar, Tim Doyle, Richard Rosenstock
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle)
Guest Stars: Riki Lindhome (Ramona Nowitzki), Emily Happe (Kathy O'Brien)
Production Code: 3T7356
Summary: Sheldon becomes cozy with a female graduate student who is infatuated with him, but nobody can figure out whether they're in a relationship – including Sheldon.



Leonard is very happy to welcome a new crop of graduate students to experimental physics with a lecture about what they should expect. Not to mention a lesson in what happens when you spill a peach Snapple on a helium-neon laser. (not recommended) Now it's time for Sheldon to introduce the theoretical physics department. Except that he refuses, saying it would be just as productive to "explain the laws of particle physics to a bunch of labradoodles." Thankfully, Leonard is prepared with some standard operational blackmail: do the lecture or he won't drive Sheldon to the comic book store. Sheldon

reluctantly comes out and proceeds to tell the students what to expect, at least according to him. In the process, he gushes about how had already accomplished more by the age of 14 than any of them could ever dream. Even WITH a 9PM bedtime. Just to turn the screws in a little bit more, he condemns most of them to spending the rest of their lives teaching 5th graders how to make a volcano with baking soda. Somewhere down the line, someone has played a cruel joke on these students telling them they could make a meaningful contribution to science. Comic book store time!

The boys are gathered at the cafeteria having lunch and enjoying the fall, especially Howard. "There's a whole new crop of female grad students who are about to put on just enough winter weight to make them feel needy and vulnerable." Raj wonders if there's a policy against dating university students. However, he is free to talk to them. ("There's always a catch.") Leslie arrives and engages in her usual browbeating of Sheldon, who apparently made one of those grad students at orientation throw up. Sheldon refuses to cater to the "lesser minds," until Ramona Nowitzki shows up. At Sheldon's lecture last night, she thought he was brilliant, which he completely agrees with. Howard has slowed, though. It took him a full 10 seconds before hitting on Ramona, trying the "designed the waste disposal system on the International Space Station" hook. However, it merely gets him an "Eww" from her. She is far more interested in Sheldon's paper on Grand Unification Using String-Network Condensates. He is impressed with her knowledge ("An intelligent labradoodle!"), and she wants to talk with him over coffee. He doesn't drink coffee, but he is also in fear of eating in strange restaurants because they may only have three-tined forks, which may as well be tridents to him. Ramona has another option: bringing food

to his house. Sheldon has Thai food on Mondays, so he gives her what he likes. She says she'll bring it over, and she knows where he lives. Everybody is shocked.

At the apartment, Ramona doesn't see the elevator's "out of order" sign, but Penny soon arrives and points it out to her. As they walk up, Penny finds out Ramona's going to apartment 4A. However, it is not for a date with Leonard. Ramona is here to see Dr. Cooper. Penny is shocked to say the least. "You're going to see Dr. Cooper? Dr. Sheldon Cooper? Tall, thin? Looks a little like a giant praying mantis?" Ramona has a date with him? This she has to see. She walks in with Ramona and takes a seat in the bleachers with Leonard, Raj, and Howard. As Sheldon and Ramona exchange small talk, the gang can only stare in disbelief. Clearly on some distant planet, this would be their Cinemax after midnight. Finally, on Ramona's "hint" about not bringing enough food, Leonard gets everybody out, ignoring Penny's pleas to stay, and wishes the two of them a fun...whatever this is. The gang consults out in the hall.

Penny: "I know this is none of my business, but what is Sheldon's "deal"? Is it girls? Guys? Sock puppets?"

Leonard: "Actually, we've been operating under the assumption that he had no deal."

Howard: "Over the years, we have formed many theories about how he would reproduce. I'm an advocate of mitosis. I think one day Sheldon will consume too much Thai food and split into 2 Sheldons."

Leonard: "On the other hand, I think Sheldon will evolve into the larval form of his species. He'll wrap himself up in a cocoon and, two months later, will emerge with moth wings and an exoskeleton."

Penny thanks them for the time (and nightmares) and departs. Clearly, Howard's mom's brisket is not enough of an enticement.

The next day, Leonard meets Sheldon for breakfast. Hoping that Sheldon is not experimenting with nutritional suppositories again, he quizzes Sheldon on his date last night with Ramona. Sheldon is smitten with how Ramona reveres him. To prove it, she delivers his spinach-mushroom omelette, completely untouched by human hands. She is trying to save him the 20 minutes a day he waits in line at the cafeteria so he can use it for his studies. She apparently has also taken up the task of being his bodyguard, as she cuts off Leslie from her daily insult with a stern, almost psychotic rebuke. She insists that Leslie cease and desist any and all insults and be respectful and quiet if she wishes to stay. She promptly leaves...quickly followed by Leonard.

Penny walks into the apartment to deliver something for the boys and gets a gross-out worthy of the Farrelly brothers: Ramona clipping Sheldon's toenails while he works. Ramona suggest she leaves, as Sheldon is busy. She's only too glad to leave and warns Leonard not to go in there. "I can only describe it in a therapist's office...with dolls." He ignores it...and immediately regrets it as well. He does tell Sheldon that it's Halo night at Koothrappali's. Ramona is shocked; Sheldon is not going to Halo night. "Didn't a great scientist once say 'science demands nothing less than the fervent and unconditional dedication of our entire lives'?" Well, Sheldon can't go; after all, she quoted him, and how can he argue with...himself? To make matters worse, Ramona tells Sheldon he must shed all of his distractions and wastes of time if he wants that Nobel prize. This includes Halo night, paintball on weekends, even Battlestar Galactica on DVD. What follows is a sequence of Ramona enforcing these rules, to the tune of the appropriately-titled "You Can Be My Yoko Ono."

Sheldon has become desperate. He goes to Penny for help because he needs to get rid of this "relationship" with Ramona, and he feels she is an expert at ending relationships. However, Ramona has woken to find him with Penny. Shooing him back in to return for work (of course, Sheldon tries to pass it off as Penny's fault), Ramona starts to resemble Laura Prepon channeling Kathy Bates from "Misery," making the assumption that Penny is in love with Sheldon. She insists that Penny let Sheldon continue to be a "gift to the world." "Yeah, he's a gift alright," she replies.

Sheldon's next tactic is to contact Leonard. While he's sleeping. With morse code against his bedroom wall. Leonard rebukes him, but this only results in Sheldon entering his room. Sheldon needs Leonard to help him. He invokes the Skynet Clause, but Ramona is not a cyborg that Sheldon created and has gone crazy. The Body Snatchers Clause doesn't work either. By the time Leonard tells Sheldon invoking the Godzilla Clause only works if Ramona is destroying Tokyo, she has ferried Sheldon back to his bed.

The next day, some great news: Sheldon has finished proving his theory of string-network

condensates. He and Ramona are very excited, and he says he couldn't have done it without her. As a thank you, she makes one tiny request: he names the theory the "Cooper-Nowitzki Theorem." He asks if she wants him to share credit for the theorem, and she says yes. That was the string that broke the physicist's back: he throws her out.

Back at the university, another woman walks up to Sheldon to say what a big fan she is of him. His completed paper completely took his breath away. She's going to come to his house with his traditional Thursday night pizza from Giacomo's. It's deja vu all over again, but of course Sheldon doesn't realize it.

Leonard has had enough. Unfortunately, Sheldon has had too much. Thai food, that is. The fifth helping of pad thai has a horrifying effect on Sheldon, and he splits into two! TWO SHEL-DONS!!! Thankfully, it was only a Thai food-induced nightmare for Leonard.

The Panty Piñata Polarization

Season 2
Episode Number: 24
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Monday November 10, 2008
Writer: Tim Doyle, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Jennifer Glickman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Analeigh Tipton (Analeigh), Samantha Potter (Model)
Production Code: 3T7357
Summary: When Sheldon bans Penny from the apartment for numerous minor infractions, she decides to retaliate. Howard and Raj search for the America's Next Top Model house.



If it's Wednesday, it must be Klingon Boggle night at the guys' apartment. And if you go by Howard's word, there is a Klingon word for "meat-filled dumpling." However, Raj calls B.S. on him, and he is out of luck. Penny comes in to watch TV. Her TV is getting nothing but static, most likely because she hasn't paid her cable bill. She turns on "America's Next Top Model," which turns the guys on. (By guys, that means everybody but Sheldon, who continues Klingon Boggle completely unaffected and oblivious to the others.) Howard spots many a woman who could be the future Mrs. Wolowitz, replacing the current Mrs. Wolowitz, AKA his mother. When Howard inquires about a crying

woman on the show, Penny tells him that nobody else in the house likes her. Howard is shocked. "Wait a minute. You're telling me I'm in driving distance of a house filled with aspiring super-models? And they live together and shower together and have...naked pillow fights?"

Apparently, the bad economy is less of a deterrent to force Penny to pay her cable bill than Howard is.

Howard and Raj are glued to the TV, watching the models. Nobody's been kicked off yet, but Giselle's underwater photo shoot did not go well. When they spot the house, Raj makes sure they have the star positions and physical landmarks so they can triangulate the house's position. Of course, Leonard makes the mistake of asking why. "Every week, they kick out a beautiful girl, making her feel unwanted and without self-esteem. AKA the future Mrs. Wolowitz!" As Sheldon argues about his burger (medium-well, dill pickle slices, individual relish packets, onion rings, but NO extra breading!) Penny joins the cadre of reality-TV converts (again, everybody but Sheldon, who argues that the show was not on the standard list of shows they watch) As Sheldon goes to the kitchen, Penny enjoys the banter while she takes an onion ring from Sheldon's food.

GASP!!! Everybody panics!

Everybody yells at Penny to put it back the way she found it. They quickly clam up as Sheldon returns, but as soon as Sheldon notices the food placement discrepancy, they fold like a house of cards and narc on Penny. She apologizes but is a little too dismissive for Sheldon's liking.

This is her second strike, according to him. 3 strikes and she's out. ("It's a sports metaphor.") It would seem that strike one was 8 months ago when Penny forwarded Sheldon some "banalities" through email. (What most people would call funny pictures of LOL Cats.) Leonard tries to calm the situation, explaining everybody goes through this, and the strikes come off after a year. (Sooner if you take Sheldon's class.) Penny is now held to the same standard because she's part of the group now. ("One of us! One of us!") She sits down, exasperated...in Sheldon's spot. Leonard tries to explain about Sheldon's spot, but Penny decides to go Rosa Parks on him. She's not moving, earning her third strike and banishment from the apartment.

At The Cheesecake Factory, Howard and Raj have triangulated the "Model" house to a three square mile radius in the Hollywood Hills. Or Durham, North Carolina. (I drove there after the show; it's not in Durham, trust me.) Leonard is realistic in thinking there's no way they'll get near that house, but Howard knows "if they can put Neil Armstrong on the moon, before this year is out, they'll put a Wolowitz on one of America's Next Top Models." Penny arrives to take their usual orders but seems to forget Sheldon. It wasn't an accident: Sheldon is banished from the Cheesecake Factory. He has three strikes: coming in, sitting down, and that Penny doesn't like his attitude. Sheldon protests strenuously, however the policy at the restaurant is now "no shoes, no shirt, no Sheldon." ("I bet we could sell that sign all over Pasadena.") Leonard takes Penny aside and tries to smooth things over. He had a long talk with Sheldon and thinks he can get Penny's ban lifted if she just apologizes. She refuses to apologize to Sheldon and cannot see how the guys keep allowing Sheldon's insane behavior to go unchecked.

"We're not encouraging him. It's more like...knuckling under." (it doesn't work)

Later, she brings out the food, including Sheldon's at the behest of her manager. She encourages him to have his bacon barbecue cheeseburger. She dares him.

Now it's time for Sheldon's reply to Penny's defiance. As the guys locate the "Model" house (courtesy of Howard's friend at NORAD), Penny brings them her laptop, which has lost its wi-fi access. Sheldon has blocked her from piggybacking on the guys' wi-fi access, complete with a nasty video message. Leonard warns her not to reply back, as "he's one lab accident away from being a supervillain." Penny is unfazed, she was in Junior Rodeo and can hogtie and castrate Sheldon within 60 seconds. Howard offers to fix the wi-fi, but Sheldon has already anticipated this and given everybody an additional strike for circumventing his rules.

The ball is now in Penny's court. She is waiting for Sheldon as he heads down for laundry night on Saturdays at 8:15. Following him down to the laundry room, warning him that he may find something "unpleasant." Sure enough, every washer is taken. Of course, Sheldon could find another night to do his laundry, but being a creature of habit, this is a scary proposition for him. Soon, however, he's figured out a way to solve this. When Penny doesn't get her laundry out right away, he decides to take it upstairs and prove how well he knows the laws of physics...

"HOW DID YOU GET THEM ON THE TELEPHONE WIRES!?!?!?"

He demands an apology, she refuses, and now she has to get a long stick and play "panty pinata." Leonard walks right in and can't believe this is happening. Penny is ready to take it to "junior rodeo" level, but Leonard has one more card to play. His last resort is to hand Penny a note. It's "Sheldon's Kryptonite." Even Penny is shocked by how horrible the suggestion is. However, "it'll shorten the war by 5 years and save millions of lives!"

Sheldon receives a call from his mother. Sheldon is horribly shocked by what his mom wants.

"But she sat in my spot and touched my food! OK, I took her clothes, but she started it! I don't think Jesus would be concerned with this! OK, I don't know what Jesus would consider important, but..."

Sheldon is upset that Leonard told on him, but the damage is done. A broken Sheldon returns all of Penny's clothes, completely folded, and apologizes for everything he did. She is no longer banned. She is glad that this is over, but Sheldon admits what she did was well-played. And to quote Cliff Robertson in "Spider-Man," "with great power comes great responsibility." Hopefully, Howard and Raj know this as they successfully infiltrate the "Model" house posing as cable (actually satellite) repairmen.

The Lizard-Spock Expansion

Season 2
Episode Number: 25
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Monday November 17, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Jennifer Glickman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Sara Rue (Dr. Stephanie Barnett), Jennifer Hale (News Announcer), Robert Clotworthy (Announcer)
Production Code: 3T7358
Summary: Sheldon wants to use an alternate version of rock-paper-scissors to help resolve conflicts. A girl Wolowitz has a major crush on falls for Leonard.



Saturn 3 or Star Trek: Deep Space 9? That is the question that Sheldon and Raj must answer. Both want to watch the respective shows, and using Leonard's suggestion of Babylon 5 as a compromise just won't work. Raj suggests the old standby of rock-paper-scissors, but Sheldon declines. Explaining that people who know each other will tie 75-80% of the time, he suggests Rock-Paper-Scissors-Lizard-Spock. (Which we'll call RPSLS so I don't make my carpal tunnel worse.) The rules:

1. Scissors cuts Paper
2. Paper covers Rock
3. Rock crushes Lizard
4. Lizard poisons Spock
5. Spock smashes Scissors
6. Scissors decapitates Lizard
7. Lizard eats Paper
8. Paper disproves Spock
9. Spock vaporizes Rock
10. Rock crushes Scissors

Of course, Sheldon and Raj both pick Spock. Fortunately, there's a knock at the door. Unfortunately, it's Howard, regaled in an interesting satin shirt with a Mardi Gras-like pattern and an eye patch. (this time, it's not pinkeye) As Howard is going to a club tonight, he needs a "hook," something that the ladies will take note of. Then it's time for the "n'eggs": negative statements that sound like compliments to throw women off their game. He tries one on Penny. "You know, not a lot of women can look as hot as you with greasy hair." That gets him a pull and snap-back on his eye patch.

Sheldon has another problem with the TV: he refuses to watch "The Clone Wars" TV series until he first sees the "Clone Wars" movie, as he "wants to be disappointed in the order George Lucas intended." Since Leonard does want to see it, it's time for another round of RPSLS. Only

this time, Leonard is smart enough to give up. Leonard gets a call from Howard, who seems to be in trouble at the Mars Rover Control Room. It's a Defcon 5 situation, which Leonard doesn't realize means "no danger." But Sheldon, clearly familiar with the movie "Wargames," is more than happy to tell him. However, Raj thinks 5 IS worse than 1, as the Star Trek films demonstrate. Before Sheldon and Raj get into a big shouting match, Leonard goes.

As they get to the university (and thankfully, the end of the Star Trek movie argument), Howard explains the big problem: he ran the Mars Rover into a ditch and can't get it out. Clearly he does not appear to be having a case of RWI (Rovering While Impaired), so there's only one other explanation: he convinced a woman she could drive the Mars Rover. We are introduced to his date: Dr. Stephanie Barnett. As the eye patch and shirt motif was copied by 3 other guys at the club, he resorted to allowing her to drive the Mars Rover. Howard needs Leonard to get Stephanie home and for Sheldon and Raj to help him with the Rover. Howard is convinced she likes him. However, going by the fact that Stephanie is all over Leonard in the car, one might say she likes Leonard more. Truth be told, Howard never had a shot with Stephanie. He did have an eye patch, after all. Clearly, Leonard likes this turn of events and asks if he can see her again. Her reply: "You're not done seeing me now." All this while Howard is in a river of excrement in a Native American vessel without means of propulsion. They get out of the control room after getting the hard drives, surveillance tapes, and wipe off all the counters of their fingerprints. (fortunately, it works)

Back at home, Leonard secretly signals to Sheldon he wishes to talk. Sheldon goes...after informing everybody that Leonard is secretly signaling to him that he wishes to talk. Leonard wants Sheldon to cover for him as he goes out. However, he doesn't tell Sheldon where he's going, so this exercise really isn't necessary. However, Sheldon is trapped and needs something. Leonard just says to tell them he went to the office. But who would ask? Leonard just leaves and doesn't worry about it, until nobody asks where he's going. Thankfully, he doesn't have to hear Penny's retelling of Howard asking her to drive the Mars Rover once, asking her "are you from Mars, because your ass is out of this world."

On their date, Stephanie relates her day, taking out an appendix, a gall bladder, and a foot-and-a-half of bowel...all from one guy. (and all for nothing since the guy croaked, anyway) It was certainly busier than Leonard's day of thinking of stuff. (and writing some of it down) Stephanie finishes dinner...and starts on Leonard. All of this would be great, only Howard calls. Her answering machine picks it up, on which Howard says that he wants to invite her to dinner. The brisket at his mother's house practically melts in your mouth, according to Leonard. Later, another message: Howard's aunt and uncle are coming in from Palm Springs, and that Stephanie is half-Jewish on his mother's side. They make it to the bedroom, and ANOTHER message: his cousins are coming in from Florida to meet her, and they're going to the Olive Garden. (well, his mother thinks so, she has a coupon)

In the laundry room, Penny notices Leonard's new shirts and asks who the new girl is. Apparently, the last time Leonard bought a new shirt is when he and Penny had their date. ("Next time you see Koothrappali, could you tell him that?" Leonard pleads) Leonard asks her if he is a bad person because he is dating someone that his friend thinks he is dating, even though he's not. As this friend is Wolowitz, her reply is to the point: "Screw him. You're fine." She's even more impressed with Leonard when she correctly guesses they've slept together. However, Leonard knows he has to tell Howard the truth. He goes to Howard's house—or as Howard puts it, his little slice of hell—and asks to talk to him. He wants to confess, but it turns out not to be necessary...Stephanie dumps him right then and there over the phone. Leonard may as well be Fredo, because he is dead to Howard. (at least Howard doesn't have to worry about Leonard trying to visit his mother)

Back at the apartment (and another failed round of RPSLS for the last dumpling), Leonard tries to talk to Howard, but he's having none of it. According to Howard's translator, Sheldon, "he is employing a schoolyard paradigm in which you are, for all intents and purposes, deceased. He intends to act on this by not speaking to you, feigning an inability to hear you when you speak, and otherwise refusing to acknowledge your existence." Leonard is upset because he didn't intend this. These sorts of things can happen—never to Leonard, but they do happen. Stephanie, AKA Mrs. Dead to Me, enters, disappointed that Leonard can't make headway. Dinner will just be for 3, then. Stephanie's friend, Lisa, just went through a bad breakup, and Stephanie thought she could use a date with someone fun like Howard.

"Leonard!! Stephanie!! You're alive!!!"

However, judging by the message Howard later leaves for Lisa, which sound strangely like the ones he left for Stephanie, it may not be good for Howard to be too optimistic. Even worse, Howard won't get the credit that the Mars Rover he crashed inadvertently found proof of previous life on Mars.

The White Asparagus Triangulation

Season 2
Episode Number: 26
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Monday November 24, 2008
Writer: Steven Molaro, David Goetsch, Richard Rosenstock, Stephen Engel
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Sara Rue (Dr. Stephanie Barnett)
Production Code: 3T7359
Summary: Sheldon tries to help move Leonard's new relationship along, because his track record with women has been less than successful. But will he cause more trouble than good?



It's comforting to see Sheldon and Penny having a pleasant conversation. It's a shame that Sheldon is trying to talk like a 14-year old from the suburbs trying to talk street. He's attempting to strike up a casual conversation in order to bring up an awkward question or statement. Penny is freaked, but she'll bite. Sheldon brings up Leonard's girlfriend, Stephanie. Penny already knew that she was a surgical resident and that Stephanie had slept with Leonard. However, Sheldon tells her that, of the handful of women Leonard

has been out with, Stephanie is the only one he has ever found tolerable.

"Well, what about me?"

"The statement stands for itself."

Sheldon requests that Stephanie not see Penny as a sexual rival, even if Penny's "hypothalamus is swimming in a soup of estrogen and progesterone that even Leonard seems like a viable sexual candidate." Sheldon tells Penny she must find a way to suppress her libido in those situations.

"I'll just think about you, Sheldon."

"Whatever works for you. Peace out!"

Leonard having a lovely dinner with Stephanie. Unfortunately, Sheldon is having a lovelier dinner with Stephanie. Leonard can only look on with the anger of a Greg Brady after losing a bet as "Bobby" interferes on his date by discussing pasta with Stephanie. Unable to engage Leonard, Sheldon takes the initiative by finding out Stephanie likes strawberries, has never witnessed a violent crime, and interned for medical school in Galveston. It was an incredible coincidence, because Sheldon spent a lot of time there, having picked up radiation from a homemade CAT scanner. Needless to say, Leonard is not happy with Sheldon being on the date. Leonard wants to know why Sheldon is interfering. Naturally, Sheldon has an answer...

"Look, if you fail at this relationship, and history suggests that you will, we risk losing the Medical Officer our landing party has always needed...See, you're Kirk, I'm Spock, Wolowitz is Scotty, Koothrappali is the guy who always gets killed, and now we have our McCoy!" (Sheldon even greets Stephanie with the Vulcan "live long and prosper" hand gesture.)

Date #2 seems innocent enough for Stephanie and Leonard. At the movie theatre, Stephanie is relating a funny story to Leonard about the E.R. Speaking of E.R.'s (and the people who might need one) Sheldon appears after extensively searching Leonard's computer for clues as to where they had gone. Sheldon goes and looks for seats, even though Leonard and Stephanie already have them. Sheldon is looking for the acoustic sweet spot in the theatre, so he bellows out several sounds to find it. (He forgot his toy xylophone.) Turns out Leonard and Stephanie had the acoustic seats all along. However, Sheldon prefers Leonard's seat, even moving in front of Leonard to get the full THX feel of the sound in the theatre.

Of course, Sheldon is just getting warmed up. Interrupting Leonard while he is asleep, Sheldon points out that Stephanie's Facebook page lists her as "single" rather than "in a relationship." Worse, she threw a digital sheep at a guy named Mike. (That slut!) Leonard tries to spell it out...

"OK, I'm going to make this very simple for you. YOU are not in this relationship. I am. Ergo, you have ***NO*** say in anything that happens between me and Stephanie!"

"I'm afraid I can't allow that. Pursuant to Starfleet General Order 104, Section A, you are deemed unfit and I am relieving you of command."

"Starfleet General Order 104, Section A does not apply in this situation."

"Give me one good reason why not."

"BECAUSE THIS IS NOT STAR TREK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

As Sheldon is having no luck getting through to Leonard (and reality is having no luck getting through to him), he invokes Penny's help. To his credit, he is improving in his social skills by bringing Penny a loaf of banana bread. Of course, he brings the bread as an opportunity for impromptu conversation. After a quick critique of the state of Penny's apartment, he gets to his point: obtaining data on how Leonard's other relationships have failed. Naturally, he thought of Penny first. He wants to know what Leonard did that made Penny "pop a cap in his emotional buttocks." (More urban slang.) Penny breaks down: "we were young and very much in love, but we could only communicate through a time-traveling mailbox at my lake house." Apparently, Penny is Sandra and Leonard is Keanu, and there isn't a speeding bus anywhere near them.

Sheldon is getting more and more desperate: he asks the advice of Howard and Raj. Even they are shocked. They do agree with Sheldon about Leonard's dating record, though. Joyce Kim defected to North Korea after 27 days, 2 booty calls with Leslie Winkle merely earned him the nickname "Speed of Light Leonard," and a dinner with Penny that made Britney Spears' first marriage look like "From Here to Eternity." But what do they do about Leonard? Raj's suggestion: to make Leonard more appealing to Stephanie, kill all the other men on the planet. Howard's advice: don't spritz with that body spray from the commercial that makes the women take their clothes off, since it doesn't work, no matter how much of it you use. With Sheldon's two best suggestions thus far being apocalyptic genocide and "easy on the cologne," Sheldon returns to Penny with another new tactic: zucchini bread and pinpointing Penny's menstrual cycle. Apparently during the ovulation period, female primates (apes, chimpanzees, Penny) secrete pheromones when their mate is being courted by a rival. The rest of the question is obscured by Penny slamming the door in Sheldon's face. Clearly, he is 14 days too early.

Leonard is having another dinner with Stephanie, although he thinks he ruined it before Sheldon got there. ("Leonard, you had some cheese dip, you farted, I thought it was cute.") Sheldon is grunting away in the kitchen. The reason: he's trying to get Leonard to open a jar of white asparagus, making Leonard the alpha male in the house. (Sheldon thinks that Stephanie will release the oxytocin needed to help things.) Since Leonard can't punch Sheldon in the face to prove it, he tries to open the jar. It still won't open, so he bangs the lid to loosen it. Unfortunately, Leonard breaks the jar and cuts his hand open in the process. Not a problem, Dr. Stephanie can stitch that up. Leonard will come right along, just after getting queasy and throwing up in the sink, right on Sheldon's defrosting steak. Leonard gets stitched up right away, and Stephanie thought he did well for such a crybaby. Leonard can deny all he wants, but of course Sheldon doesn't take his side on the whole crying issue.

Back home, Raj wants to see Leonard's stitches. So does Wolowitz, which also answers the question of why Howard never went to medical school. (At least he didn't hit the steak) Penny enters to inform everybody that Leonard updated his Facebook status to say he's in a relationship. Everybody thinks he's too needy, except that it was Sheldon that hacked in and updated his Facebook page. In spite of the fact that Leonard's password is easy to hack (Kal-El), Leonard completely loses it...

"Are you insane? Now she's going to think I'm desperate! You've destroyed this relationship! And you know what the worst part is!?!? You don't even UNDERSTAND what you did wrong because you can't even conceive of something that you're not an expert in!!!!"

"**In** which I'm not..."

"DON'T EVEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

However, things turn completely around. On Stephanie's Facebook page, it now says that Dr. Stephanie Barnett is in a relationship with Dr. Leonard Hofstadter." Leonard can't believe it: he has a girlfriend. And it's Dr. Sheldon Cooper for the win.

The Vartabedian Conundrum

Season 2

Episode Number: 27

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Monday December 8, 2008
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Richard Rosenstock
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Sara Rue (Dr. Stephanie Barnett)
Production Code: 3T7360
Summary: Leonard seeks Penny's counsel when his relationship with Stephanie takes off faster than he'd like. Sheldon's hypochondriac tendencies get the better of him.



Stephanie must be a really good girlfriend to examine Sheldon at their apartment. Mercifully, none of the examination involves the phrase "turn your head and cough." Although Stephanie can't find it, Sheldon insists that he constantly hears an annoying sound. Coincidentally, so does Leonard, although we can safely assume it's a different sound. Hypochondriac Sheldon is convinced it is a tumor, although Leonard theorizes that it could be a bacterial infection caused by all those "toilet swirlies" Sheldon got as a

child. (Even in church.) Stephanie remains professional and gives Sheldon a cootie shot before she and Leonard go to bed. However, Sheldon calls an emergency house meeting to discuss the fact that Leonard's girlfriend is now living with him. Although, we are uncertain if it falls under the jurisdiction of a) 10 consecutive nights in a row, b) nine days within a three-week period, or c) all weekends and three weeknights within the same calendar month. Granted, Leonard only initialed the clause because he didn't realize it would ever happen. However, new provisions that are now in effect include: individual shelves in the refrigerator, one extra vacuuming of the apartment per week to account for the extra dead skin cells, that Stephanie does not intend to play a brass or percussive instrument. The provision about bathroom schedule can be discussed at a later time, as women have "different needs."

The morning is going about as painfully for Leonard, who has to deny Sheldon's request for Stephanie to give him a prostate exam, in spite of the fact Sheldon will gladly supply the latex gloves. This somehow segues into Sheldon asking Stephanie if Leonard satisfied her sexually last night. He figures that he has the right to ask since Leonard did last night, many times...and only got the answer just now. Excedrin headache #3 for Leonard proceeds to walk in wearing only her underwear, demanding coffee. Stephanie is taken aback, since she has never seen, nor heard about, Penny before today. Leonard tries lamely to cover for it by saying Penny is one of many neighbors that they visit...very casual, no dress code. Leonard even goes down to the third floor to have cereal with Mrs. Vartabedian downstairs. Thankfully, Stephanie has to head off to work, allowing Penny to inquire about Stephanie. Clearly things are going well, as Sheldon confirms they are living together..."like hippies." Leonard, in typical male fashion, denies that they are living together. Penny decides to head to his bedroom to find out for certain.

"Don't you think if a woman was living with me that I'd be the first one to know about it?"

"Oh, sweetie, you'd be the last one to know about it."

There is plenty of evidence for the prosecution. Either Stephanie has several dresses in Leonard's closet, or Leonard is president of the Eddie Izzard Fan Club. Fuzzy slippers, scented candles, floral-print bed sheets, body lotion, and a picture at Disneyland are among many of the "manly" things that have taken over Leonard's bedroom. However, his missing Bat Signal is the smoking gun: they're living together! A fact later confirmed by the wool/fire ant blend pants that Stephanie bought for Leonard, which are having the effect the typical wool/fire ant blend fabric would have.

In the building's laundry, Leonard is washing the wool/fire ant blend pants when Penny comes down. She points out that Leonard can't wash the wool/fire ant blend pants in a washing machine. Leonard is relieved...and starts the washer with the pants in it. Clearly something is bothering Leonard, and Penny asks about it. Leonard seems to be having trouble with the pace at which his relationship with Stephanie is doing. Penny tells him to voice his feelings about Leonard's relationship with Stephanie to her. Leonard doesn't think that's a good idea, but Penny convinces him that he needs to tell Stephanie that he needs the relationship to move at a pace with which they're both comfortable. Leonard decides that's what he'll do, although he asks Penny to say it...or at least go with him.

Somehow, Sheldon has convinced Stephanie to give him another examination. Shockingly, Stephanie DOES find something wrong with Sheldon's larynx. She recommends he not talk...IMMEDIATELY! True to the doctor's word, Sheldon complies with the "Sheldonectomy." Leonard is certainly pleased with this prospect, but "he needs to talk" to Stephanie. In "that" way. Stephanie is supportive and wants Leonard to share his feelings. However, Leonard's unfamiliarity with this situation is not helping. He tries to tell Stephanie that they need to move at their pace...except he forgot what Penny told him. Stephanie decides that it would be better if she shares her feelings with him. However, her feelings would require Leonard wait an hour because he just ate. Except that's for swimming. They quickly head for the bedroom.

Leonard heads back down to the laundry, where Penny has put his stuff in the dryer. Penny wonders how it went, but Leonard's open shirt and disheveled hair told the entire story. He tried to explain his feelings, but somehow the topic changed. Penny is surprised; mostly by the amount of time it took. Penny pushes him to give it another try.

"Leonard, you are entitled to try and make things go the way you want them to! You don't always have to go along with what the woman wants....What?"

"Nothing, just re-evaluating my whole life."

Leonard goes back upstairs and tries again, but it seems that whole sex thing keeps getting in the way. He starts with "Stephanie, I really like you..." but Stephanie sees it a mile away.

"Here comes the speech. The whole 'I really like you but maybe we should spend less time together because I need my space. But I'll call you on Tuesday,' and you don't, so I try and call you but you don't call me back, and then I run into you at the coffee shop and you try and pretend like you've been having problems with your voicemail, even though I know you're lying, but I pretend like I don't care even though I'm dying inside..." She starts to cry, and Leonard has to backpedal and say he ONLY was saying that he really likes her.

At the university, Leonard is sporting the latest look from Stephanie. Even though he hates the sweater, it's good to know one of those birds on the opening theme to "The Partridge Family" can still find work. Leonard has to consult Howard and Raj because he and Stephanie are getting new curtains, a dust ruffle, and a duvet for the bed, which Leonard would not want even if he knew what it was. The problem is, every time he tries to break up with Stephanie, she cries, and they end up having sex. That's better than Raj, as it is usually the other way around. Howard recommends dumping Stephanie with a text message. Leonard considers that cowardly, but then he is wearing a bird sweater. He texts Stephanie that it would be better for the relationship if she moves back to her place. Leonard is now convinced he'll never have sex again. Her text reply seems to contradict that, and he's off.

Sheldon is still without voice, so he uses his computer to ask Penny for some herbal tea. If possible, he'd also like a bit of hiney with it...actually, that's "honey." Damn typo.

The Bath Item Gift Hypothesis

Season 2
Episode Number: 28
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Monday December 15, 2008
Writer: Bill Prady, Richard Rosenstock, Stephen Engel, Eric Kaplan (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Michael Hyatt (Charlotte), Michael Trucco (David Underhill)
Production Code: 3T7361
Summary: Much to Leonard's disappointment, Penny suddenly develops an interest in science when a sexy new physicist joins the lab. Meanwhile, Sheldon struggles to find an appropriate Christmas gift for Penny.



Another day, another theoretical question at the university. Just how DOES Superman keep his uniform clean? Sheldon thinks he gets it dry-cleaned by soaring straight through our sun. However, Howard challenges him about items that could NOT be cleaned by our yellow sun, such as Kryptonian mustard. Of course, Kryptonian mustard would have been destroyed when Krypton was, which would be a real shame if a rogue Kryptonian hot dog was hurtling towards the earth. However, Leonard has a question more based in reality: what if Superman sweats? What about those Kryptonian pit

stains, Sheldon? And what if he goes to the miniature Kryptonian city of Kandor, temporarily loses his powers, gets into a hard-fought game of Kryptonian tetherball, returns to our world, and now is covered in indestructible beads of sweat?!?!?!? Unfortunately, we will never learn about Kandorian dry cleaners from Sheldon because the guys notice one of their colleagues, who recently won the Macarthur Genius Grant: David Underhill. Leonard is not impressed, most likely because the work David did in observing high-energy electrons first proved the existence of galactic dark matter invalidated most of his work. "He was in the right place at the right time with the right paradigm-shifting reinterpretation of the universe. He got lucky," opines Leonard. Of course, the fact that he's a total hunk (and I'm secure enough in my manhood to say that) doesn't hurt his general outlook on life, either. Raj has a man-crush, although Howard thinks he'd be more into Zac Efron if he went that way. David, however, needs to ask a favor of Leonard. He wants to work with Leonard on a project in the photomultiplier lab. Leonard agrees, giving David his phone number, his cell, his work number, and his parents' number in New Jersey, as they always know how to reach him. Given Leonard's prior opinion, the boys are stunned.

"What? You've never seen a hypocrite before?"

Leonard arrives at the apartment, missing Wii Bowling Night (and Howard sucking at it), because he was working with Dave in the lab. Seems Leonard has a new BFF, something that's more important than Wii Bowling Night. It turns out that Dave is very cool, as he is a Black Diamond skier, collects vintage motorcycles, and does a spot-on impression of Steven Hawking having phone sex. Dave and Leonard are going to the gym in the morning, so Leonard needs to

practice his sit-ups. Yes, it's quite the bro-mance. Of course, being the holiday season, Penny is getting in the mood of it by asking if the guys are putting up a Christmas tree. This is a rookie mistake. And now it's time for the Sheldon Christmas Special...

"We do not celebrate the ancient pagan ritual of Saturnalia. (Explaining) In the pre-Christian era, as the winter solstice approached and the plants died, pagans brought evergreen boughs into their homes as an act of sympathetic magic to guard the plants and preserve their essences until spring. This custom was later appropriated by northern Europeans and eventually becomes the so-called Christmas tree."

HOWARD: "And that, Charlie Brown, is what boredom is all about."

Penny decides not to worry about it and puts their presents under her tree. Sheldon is freaking out. He can't understand why Penny would do such a thing. Even though she says he doesn't have to get her anything, he feels obligated now to return the gesture by trying to figure out what Penny would want and spend the equivalent amount of money and time that she did for his gift. WHY, PENNY, WHY??? She's ready to throw in the towel, but Howard and Raj are happy because they're not involved. At least until Sheldon demands a ride to the mall. After all, it's Sheldon's own fault that he made himself an important and integral part of Penny's life.

Leonard and David are heading up the stairs. Well, David is helping Leonard up the stairs, as Leonard's ankle was injured riding David's motorcycle. (Imagine the damage if the bike was actually moving.) Penny meets them in the hall, and it doesn't take long for Penny and David to be smitten with each other. Penny is happy that the bike was OK. Leonard tells Penny that David is a physicist, and Penny doesn't believe it at first, as she's used to physicists being "indoorsy and pale." Penny confesses to always being a science geek and always wanting to see a lab. David invites her to go to the lab on his bike, take a ride up the coast, and have dinner. She's only too happy to do so, leaving Leonard on his own to figure out what just happened.

Sheldon's gift-giving search is not going well. He can't seem to find anything a woman would want...in a bath & body shop. Even though they have lotions, bath oils, and soaps (AKA the Estrogen Hat Trick), Sheldon sees it as a "cacophonous assault of eucalyptus, bayberry, cinnamon, and vanilla." To be fair, though, it IS less scary than the Build-A-Bear shop next door. Howard picks a gift basket to purchase, but Sheldon stops him. He has no knowledge of what size gift basket to get. He experiments by "giving" the gift basket to the sales clerk.

"If I were to give you this gift basket, based on that action alone and no other data, infer and describe the hypothetical relationship that exists between us."

"Excuse me?"

"Here. (hands her the basket) Now are we friends? Colleagues? Lovers? Are you my grandmother?"

"I don't understand what you're talking about, and you're making me a little uncomfortable."

HOWARD: "See? It's just like Penny. We'll take it."

Leonard gets a little shock in the university's cafeteria. Penny took David's offer of looking around the labs. Although it does leave open the question of why she always had yoga class the many times Leonard offered the same thing over the last year and a half. David is totally into Penny, saying she has an agile mind (among other things). Leonard wants to know if David wants to work in the lab today. However, David is more interesting in doing some research with Penny about the effects of tequila shots on a gorgeous 22-year-old woman. Apparently, last night's experiments didn't produce enough results to formulate a solid hypothesis. They go off, but Leonard appreciates that they asked how his leg was doing. Oh, wait...

Back at the apartment, Leonard is sleeping on the couch when Raj enters with 3 huge gift baskets, Howard with 2, and Sheldon with a tiny basket and an ice cream cone. Sheldon must share his brilliant idea with Leonard, even though Leonard didn't ask. Sheldon's plan is to open Penny's gift to him first, then excuse himself with some "gastric trouble," and get the appropriately-priced basket, returning the others later. Sheldon orders Howard and Raj to schlep the baskets back to the bedroom...Leonard's bedroom. Howard has to wonder...

"Sheesh, why could have just done what Leonard did and get Penny a new boyfriend?"

"By the way, my leg hurts, thanks for asking."

Meanwhile, Penny is having some rum and eggnog. Minus the eggnog. It's uncertain what's wrong, but Leonard doesn't let this get in his way as he storms into her apartment and demands an answer to why Penny is suddenly dating someone as smart as Leonard, the very thing that broke them up at the beginning of the season.

"While I am perfectly happy with the way things are between us, you said you didn't want to go out with me because I was too smart for you. Well, news flash for you, LADY: David Underhill is TEN TIMES smarter than me! You'd have to drive a railroad spike into his brain so I could beat him at checkers! Next to him, I'm like one of those sign-language gorillas who know how to ask for grapes! So my question for you is...What's up with that???"

Penny breaks down in tears: "Why are you yelling at me?"

Leonard immediately retreats and tries to find out what's wrong. Apparently, David is NOT smarter than Leonard; otherwise David would have taken the nude photos of his wife off his cell phone before taking nude photos of his girlfriend.

"He tried to take nude photos of you?"

"THAT'S what you got from that?!?!?!?!? The guy is married!!!"

Leonard apologizes, although he's not completely unhappy with this turn of events. But now it's Penny's turn to attack. "And if you're 'perfectly happy' with the way things are, then why are you jealous?"

"Because, I...The important thing is; he's married and that's terrible!"

"Nice save, genius."

She's none too thrilled with him, but he begs to be let go on this one because it's Christmas. She relents and wishes him a Merry Christmas. And his leg is better, thank you very much.

It's now time for the moment of truth: the exchange of gifts. Sheldon fears what basket he has to give her, but he calms down when he sees Penny only got him a napkin. It seems to be a very mundane gift, until he turns it over...

"To Sheldon, Live Long and Prosper. Leonard Nimoy."

Sheldon is completely, totally, and UTTERLY speechless. Penny got Leonard Nimoy to sign a napkin for him! She apologizes that the napkin is a little dirty because Leonard wiped his mouth on it, but Sheldon is practically crying for joy...

"DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS!!! ALL I NEED IS A HEALTHY OVUM, AND I CAN GROW MY OWN LEONARD NIMOY!!!!!!!"

"OK, all I'm giving you is the napkin."

As Sheldon runs off to get his gift for Penny, she gives Leonard his gift: motorcycle lessons. Thankfully, not letting the bike fall on you is in the first class. Penny will appreciate Leonard's gift just as much: 101 Cool Science Experiments for Kids. (You know, she's SO into science.) Sheldon comes back with the bath basket. ALL OF THEM. She's overwhelmed, but he STILL thinks it isn't enough. He goes for broke....AND GIVES PENNY A HUG!!!!!!!!!! It's a Saturnalia miracle!!

The Killer Robot Instability

Season 2

Episode Number: 29

Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Monday January 12, 2009
Writer: Bill Prady, Richard Rosenstock, Steven Molaro, Daley Haggar
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3T7362
Summary: Penny's criticism of Wolowitz's romantic life pushes him into depression and AWOL for a fighting robot battle the rest of guys are depending on him for.



It is a great day in the land of geek. The day when those with an advanced intellect get in touch with their prehistoric Neanderthal side and ready themselves to fight in an arena of hatred and violence. Also known as... KILLER ROBOT WARS! The boys, led by Howard's engineering prowess, have designed a quality steed in the Mobile Omnidirectional Neutralization & Termination Eradicator...aka M.O.N.T.E. With it's razor-sharp circular saw, one polycarbonate grinding and flipping wheel, steel armor-plated exoskeleton top and bottom and 110 horsepower that can go from zero to HOLY CRAP in

4.8 seconds. They are ready to test it out. Raj wants to destroy a Magic 8 Ball to see what's inside, but Sheldon quickly ruins that for him. Leonard decides on the toaster oven, because it happened to walk into the wrong boys' bathroom at the wrong time. The machine is set (and Raj's "Die toaster die" remark is so inspiring), and the toaster oven is toast. This doesn't interest Penny, who walks up the stairs, unaware that the machine crashes through the door and is almost given the Full M.O.N.T.E. (oh, like you didn't see that one coming)

Penny's interest is (semi) piqued by what the guys are doing. Shocked that she didn't know about the Southern California Robot Fighting League Round-Robin Invitational, Howard explains that there's a banquet and dance afterward. Naturally, Howard wants Penny to go, since she'd be the only girl there. Correction...according to Howard, she'd be the only "do-able" girl there. Penny does her normal repulsive look and calls Howard a pig. This time, however, Howard decides not to follow Leonard's advice to shut up and presses the issue with Penny. "How is 'do-able' anything but a compliment?" Of course, he's just started digging his own grave.

"Once again, Penny and I have begun our little tango. The carnal repartee, the erotic to and fro. But as delicious as the appetizer might be, at some point we will HAVE to succumb and eat the entree while it's still (demonstrates a sizzle) hot!"

Today, it would appear that, after 18 months, Penny has reached her limit.

"Normally, I can just ignore you. I get it, you're a little peculiar. Like Sheldon..."

"EXCUSE ME, Penny. But in this room, you're the one who's a little peculiar."

"You may be right. But back to you. I know you think you're just some smooth-talking ladies man, but the truth is you are just pathetic and creepy."

"So...what are you saying?"

"I am saying it is not a compliment to call me do-able. It is not sexy to stare at my ass and say 'Oooh, it must be jelly 'cause jam don't shake like that.' And most of all, we are NOT dancing a tango, we're NOT to-ing and fro-ing, nothing's going to happen between us! EVER!"

A few words got through to Howard's thick skull: "Wait a minute. We're not flirting, you're serious." And here come the rest...

"Flirting? You think I'm flirting with you?!? No woman is ever going to flirt with you! You're just going to grow old and die alone!"

The guys are shocked; even Sheldon knows she went over the line. But the damage is done; Howard goes home to "live his creepy and pathetic life." Although Raj thinks maybe Penny could be entered in the Killer Robot Competition.

Sadly, Penny's words were like daggers; Howard is in bed and hasn't gone to work. Even his mother is concerned that he hasn't gone to school and asks if Leonard should bring him his homework. Overhearing Howard's argument with his mother over the phone-over a popsicle, Leonard gives up. However, Howard's placement on the D.R. (depression reserve) list is badly-timed. A co-worker, Kripke, comes by to challenge the guys about their killer robot. Apparently, Kripke has about the same sex life as the guys, especially given that he sounds like the love child of Elmer Fudd and the Impressive Clergyman from "The Princess Bride."

"Well, if you have any delusions about entering him against my wobot, the Kwipke Kwippler, in the Southern Cawifornia Wobot Fighting Weague Wound-Wobin Invitational, aka the S.C.R.F.L.R.R.I., his name is going to be Scwap Metal."

Well, Sheldon knows trash talk when he hears it...

"Your robot is inferior. And it will be defeated by ours because ours EXCEEDS yours in both design and execution. Also, I'm given to understand your mother is overweight....but if you're mother is overweight because of a glandular condition and not sloth and gluttony, then I retract that comment." (there are boundaries, after all)

Kripke offers a compromise: a war in the lab tomorrow. Leonard declines because Howard is on D.R. because he is pathetic and creepy and can't get girls. Kripke refuses that excuse, as EVERYBODY is pathetic and creepy and can't get girls.

Leonard goes to Penny's apartment and asks her to apologize to Howard. She staunchly refuses at first, but Leonard tries sympathy, saying Howard's been in bed for two days. ("Probably with a blow-up doll.") But Leonard presses on, saying that Penny has two sides: she has that overexposed-to-gamma-rays thing going on. She's usually a sweet Bruce Banner, but sometimes she can turn into a grrrrrrr. ("A bear?") Leonard drops the Hulk reference to offer Penny advice on how to say what she said in a nicer way. After she Bronx cheers that idea away, he goes for the jugular, reminding Penny, on the day they met, how he went to her ex-boyfriend's apartment to get back her TV, only to return in his underwear.

"And you said you owed me one!"

"That's no fair."

"I had no pants!!"

Penny heads to Howard's house. In spite of Howard's objection to see her, Penny slips past his mom and goes upstairs. Penny chooses her words carefully, apologizing for some things that she said. About Howard. Apparently, he has feelings, and apparently she hurt them. So she's sorry. Howard tells her to leaving, saying he's over it, refusing to be "traumatized by some random comment made by some random woman." Penny should have ran out, because Howard sobs like a little girl. Meanwhile, the Kwipke Kwippler is warming up for its match with M.O.N.T.E.—by destroying a Chevy Cavalier. Leonard and Raj want to give in, but Sheldon refuses to run away from a fight. ("Oh, please. We've been running away from fights our whole life. I can squeeze through a fence half my size.") Sheldon, however, has every confidence in their robot, because the robot has no fear and Sheldon can prepare him. ("Why not prepare him with a bladder and shorts so he can wet himself?") Sheldon tells him to have faith in him, as engineering is the slow younger brother of physics. He can modify M.O.N.T.E.—as soon as he figures out how to open the toolbox.

Penny is consoling a crying Howard, who is relating stories of his youth. In particular, he laments about a girl who had the hottest overbite, once the braces came off (like a sexy chipmunk). He even wrote a song about her. (I'm not listing the whole thing; just substitute the words "Marcy Grossman" for the words "My Girl" in the famous Temptations song.) Marcy smiled

at him...and spit in his hair. Before Howard gets to what happened in the 10th grade, Penny stops him and wonders if he might try too hard. She tells him that his smart, funny, and has a cool job.

"I've know you for like a year and a half and this is the first time I feel like I'm talking to a real person. And you know what? I like him. He's a nice guy."

"You really think so?"

"I do."

Then that sweet, kind guy that Penny hasn't seen in a year and a half...must have gone out for a sandwich, because Howard goes in for a kiss. He ends up with Penny's fist instead.

In the lab, Leonard is impressed with Kripke's robot. The blade than can spin at 3400 rpm and cut through steel like it was "wubber" is enough for Leonard to want to leave. However, Sheldon is trying to make up for all the painful noogies and wedgies guys like Kripke gave him through the years, not to mention the insensitively-named Indian burns. Sheldon is convinced he has sufficiently upgraded the robot, even though he only added fresh batteries. The battle is on. M.O.N.T.E. is holding its own—until the Kripke Kwippler breaks out the flame thrower. M.O.N.T.E. can't escape faster. ("Don't hurt us! Don't hurt us!")

Sadly, the robot cannot be repaired. Sheldon blames his hubris and his pride for it coming to this. He takes full responsibility. (and nobody argues) Howard and Penny arrive, Howard all bandaged up. Penny explains he slipped and fell, and Howard agrees. But now Howard knows "what bathtubs are capable of doing when you don't treat them with respect." ("Yeah. They sucker punch you when your eyes are closed.") Sheldon apologizes to Howard about the robot and will help bury it in the morning. Penny wonders, "Sheldon, honey, aren't you getting a little carried away. It was just a toy robot."

"Just a t-toy robot?" That makes two men Penny made cry. She knows...she has to fix it. But Howard is not depressed; he figures he's halfway to pity sex.

The Friendship Algorithm

Season 2

Episode Number: 30

Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Monday January 19, 2009
Writer: Richard Rosenstock, Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke)
Guest Stars: Will Deutsch (Jeremy), Jane Galloway Heitz (Mildred), Jane Zdanow (Rebecca)
Production Code: 3T7363
Summary: Looking to get friendly with Barry Kripke to gain access to a piece of high-tech lab equipment, Sheldon develops a flowchart process to make friends.



It is uncertain what gives this episode a nicer start; the smile on Raj's face as he eats his tapioca pudding, or the TV-14 (D, L) rating in the corner of the TV. However, Raj is convinced the worst concoction of tapioca pudding is still better than the greatest of any other flavor. Naturally, Sheldon disagrees and is more than happy to say why.

"Firstly, the greatest flavor of pudding is chocolate. Secondly, the organic structure of tapioca makes it a jiggling bowl of potential death. It is extracted from the plant..."

"I'm thinking of growing a mustache."

THANK YOU, HOWARD! Everybody is impressed, not only with Howard's decision, but successfully cutting off Sheldon. They discuss the styles...Fu Manchu, handlebar, pencil.

"IT'S MADE FROM THE PLANT..."

"You know, George Clooney has one." Again, thank you Howard! Raj wants to talk about seeing George at Ralph's Grocery Store buying Tequila, but now Sheldon looks like an extra from the movie "Scanners." The guys relent and let him finish before his head explodes.

"IT'S EXTRACTED FROM THE ROOT OF THE PLANT MANIHOT ESCULANTA DUE TO A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF CYANIDE, IT IS POISONOUS IN ITS RAW FORM AND LETHAL IF PREPARED IMPROPERLY! IT IS ALSO NATIVE TO BRAZIL, WHERE WE ALSO GET THE COCOA BEAN WHICH IS MADE INTO CHOCOLATE WHICH MAKES THE BEST PUDDING! YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT TO ME ANYMORE!"

While Sheldon recovers, Kripke comes by to congratulate Leonard on anti-proton decay experiment, which had 20,000 data runs without any statistically significant results. But Raj comforts Leonard, saying even negative results are good results. (even 20,000 of them) Trouble is, Sheldon needs the Open Science Grid Computer that Kripke runs. Leonard informs Sheldon that Kripke only lets his friends use it. Therefore, Sheldon's solution is clear; he must make friends with Kripke. He asks Kripke if he wants to be friends; Kripke declines. Sheldon is puzzled,

given that Kripke is generally considered unlikeable. Telling Kripke that probably didn't help, nor insisting that Kripke re-think his position and become friends.

Back at home, Leonard is being a good friend to Penny...by reprogramming her email so that Wolowitz's emails go right into the spam folder. He's sympathetic, since he got the same photo of Wolowitz in a bathing suit...well, that was actually a tan line. Meanwhile, Sheldon is calling Kripke to again try and be friends. He certainly gets off to a good start by questioning Kripke's choice of the Chef Salad at lunch, which is kitchen trickery to utilize scrap meat. Penny is impressed that Sheldon is attempting to make new friends, but Leonard is pessimistic about its success. We do, however, learn that Sheldon and Leonard became friends because there was a flyer on the bulletin board at the university: "roommate wanted: whistlers need not apply." Leonard accepted, thinking that Sheldon was being "whimsical" about the whistling. He apparently wasn't however, given the first warning Sheldon issues when Leonard attempts it.

Sheldon is undaunted by his quest for figuring out how to make friends, even passing out a questionnaire for analysis to all his friends. Penny is shocked by the 211 questions that need to be answered (including an essay question) But Sheldon was kind enough to phrase the questions at a high-school graduate level for Penny. She wonders why he can't just be, um...pleasant. Well, at least she has her essay question now. Leonard, Howard, and Raj, however, have not taken the survey as seriously. Leonard answered the multiple-choice in a repeating pattern and said the Sheldon can only make friends if the Cylons take over. But that's still better than Howard, who filled out his essay with a picture of a raccoon with an enlarged scrotum. ("But it is a cute raccoon...til you get to the scrotum.") Leonard is trying to get Sheldon to see that you can't approach making new friends the same way Sheldon learned to swim...over the Internet. Leonard tries again.

"My point is, if you want to learn how to make friends, just go out to a coffee shop or a museum, meet people, talk to them, and take an interest in THEIR lives."

"That's insane on the face of it."

However, Sheldon decides to head to a bookstore to find literature on the subject. After making a grieving woman grieve even harder, Sheldon looks for books on making friends. It appears the children's section seems to have them. However, since Sheldon is convinced the skills can be extrapolated and transferred, he goes in head first. Finding the book "Stu the Cockatoo is New at the Zoo," he finds what he is looking for. ("Gerry the Gerbil and the Bullies on the Bus" was NO help whatsoever to him.) He asks a little girl in the section if she likes birds, but she says they scare her. She does like Curious George, though. Sheldon is impressed and asks if she wants to be his friend. Thankfully, Leonard is back to pull him out of there before it goes all Michael Jackson on him. ("Don't look up! There's cameras.")

Leonard, Raj, and Howard are returning to the apartment with dinner. Raj is very upset he put down Sheldon's favorite amino acid as lysine...then changed it. Sheldon is waiting for them, hoping that his "Friendship Algorithm" works. Leonard doesn't want to hear anymore, but Howard thinks there could be some money made at Comic Con with this if it works. Based on the Stu the Cockatoo book, Sheldon has set up a diagram that he will use to talk with Kripke, including decision tracks for whatever responses Kripke gives. It goes...

Share a meal —¿ get a hot beverage —¿ share time with an interest of Kripke's —¿ share a different interest of Kripke's —¿ share a different interest of Kripke's —¿ share a different interest of Kripke's (uh-oh)

Fortunately, Howard redesigns the diagram to get Sheldon out of his infinite loop. By adding a loop counter and a direct line to the "Least Objectionable Activity," Sheldon now has an activity in which to join Kripke. (he has to pay, of course) The interest: rock climbing.

Of course, Sheldon learns about rock climbing over the Internet. Everything goes well, until Sheldon sees the height of the rock-climbing wall. Sheldon offers the beverage option again, with Kripke's ventriloquism dummy, but Kripke "wants to cwimb some wocks." Sheldon has no fear of heights, although falling does seem to be a logical fear to have. However, he heads up, and does very well, a small amount of incontinence aside. He makes it about halfway up before committing the standard "Dizzying Heights 101" blunder: he looks down. Apparently it IS a fear of heights. He feels like an inverse tangent function approaching an asymptote. (The FIRST scientific/mathematical thing I ever understood from him!) Sheldon can't seem to continue climbing, nor does he seem to be able to climb back down. He takes the third option...and passes out.

Back at the apartment (and after a stirring, whistled rendition of "Sweet Georgia Brown" from the guys), Sheldon and Kripke return from their rock-climbing adventure. They offer Kripke some Chinese food, but he needs some dental floss first...to get the Indian food out of his teeth. While he's gone, Sheldon realizes that he needs to stop being friends with one of his current friends, since maintaining 5 friendships is a Herculean task. Leonard is his roommate and ride, so he's safe. (But he still can't whistle) Howard, despite his raccoon drawing, horrible cologne, and inability to play games on the Jewish high holidays, is also safe. (Dammit) Sheldon turns to Penny, who gets that she is not a scientist and is not "one of the guys." But Sheldon cuts her off...Raj is out. Apparently, putting glutamine as Sheldon's favorite amino acid is just not good enough. However, Raj shouldn't go just yet, as Kripke returns from the bathroom, sharing with the world that he likes to floss before dinner "so his gum pockets are open for new food." (Oh, THAT'S why it was TV-14). Then he turns his attention to Penny, but decides that name isn't hot enough. Then he turns his attention to...Roxanne.

"Suddenly I'm looking pretty good, huh?" Howard says to Penny. (BTW: Kaley, don't break character)

Sheldon pushes past to discuss getting time in the Open Science Grid Computer, since he and Kripke are friends. However, there's nothing Kripke can do, as the official schedule is out of his control. Raj is in, Kripke is out. After all, Raj likes monkeys. And give Sheldon credit: he goes back to the rock-climbing wall and gets much further this time...before passing out again.

The Financial Permeability

Season 2
Episode Number: 31
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Monday February 2, 2009
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Richard Rosenstock, Eric Kaplan (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: Brian Patrick Wade (Kurt)
Production Code: 3T7364
Summary: When Sheldon loans money to Penny so she can pay her rent, it leads to Leonard coming face-to-face with her ex, Kurt.



The boys are stumped. Even Sheldon cannot break through the logistical conundrum that befalls the lot: finding the right movie theatre and restaurant combination to attend this evening. There are many theatres and many restaurants. However, two of them, despite having stadium seating and state-of-the-art digital projections, don't have Icee machines. Another one has Twizzlers instead of Red Vines. Of course, it's Sheldon who needs his crazy delicious. Even Raj's suggestion of sneaking in a Slurpee from 7-Eleven is

not sufficient for Sheldon. Not even an "emergency ad-hoc Slurpee/Icee equivalency" will suffice. There is only one option: Leonard, Howard, and Raj go to the movie without Sheldon. Even Sheldon agrees there was no other option.

Sheldon returns from downstairs and is opening his door. Penny races in ahead of him, telling Sheldon to shut the door. He dutifully follows her directions. However, she opens the door and tells him to come inside. As it turns out, Penny is hiding from the landlord; she has missed her rent payment, among others. Unfortunately, Penny's hours have been cut at the restaurant, and her car broke down. This wouldn't be the most appropriate time to remind her of the "check engine" light going off in her car, but obviously that would not stop Sheldon from mentioning it.

"You know, it occurs to me you could solve all your problems by obtaining more money."

Fortunately, there's not enough time to strangle Sheldon as he does something completely unprecedented. He opens a trick peanut brittle can (complete with snakes) and pulls out a significant wad of cash.

"Here. Take some. Pay me back when you can."

"That's a lot of money."

"That's why it's guarded by snakes."

Penny really appreciates the gesture, but she can't take the cash. She's worried Sheldon will need it. However, as Sheldon's expenses require only 46.9% of his post-tax income, he saves the rest. Most was in the jar, a savings account, and "the hollowed-out buttocks of a superhero action figure who shall remain nameless for his own protection...or HER own protection." Unless they develop an affordable technology to fuse his skeleton with adamantium like Wolverine, he can spare the cash. Penny finally relents and takes some cash. Then some more. Then puts some back. Then takes the rest. Penny doesn't want things to be weird between them, but Sheldon

would find it weirder to say hello to Penny every day on the way to work while she's living in a refrigerator box and washing her hair with rainwater.

The next day, while Sheldon tells Leonard why he wouldn't mind being a pet to a race of super-intelligent beings (it's the belly scratching), Penny comes in, full of life and vigor. (I'm practicing my sarcasm. What do you think?) Grabbing her mail, Sheldon hands her a box the mailman delivered. It's her new beret, which she quickly explains she paid for more than a month ago and was just on backorder. Funny, but neither Sheldon nor Leonard asked about it. "I ordered it a month ago and it just arrived, now get off my case!" Leonard confirms Sheldon is not crazy, as he is also stumped by Penny's defensive reaction.

While settling down for dinner later on, Howard laments that the rising cost of mushu pork makes it tougher for him to be a bad Jew, and Leonard is happy to float Penny her cost of the meal for tonight. She still seems to be a little defensive, though, practically demanding to pay him back. She also snipes at Raj, who wondered (via interpretation from Howard) if he'd be getting his meals for free if he wore skin-tight jeans and a tank top. Everybody is a little stunned, and Raj needs to excuse himself to the bathroom, as getting yelled at apparently is not good for his bladder. Sheldon comes in, and now it's his turn to get jumped on by Penny, and not in a good way.

"Yes, dinner's here, and I'm having some. I've been having leftovers at the restaurant for four days, and I just wanted something different. So sue me!"

"Forgive me, Penny, but that would be the very definition of a frivolous lawsuit."

"Sheldon, I will pay you back. You just have to give me more time."

"You seem under pressure. Did I not lend you a sufficient amount? Because I can give you more."

"Oh, you would just love that, wouldn't you? Yeah, you would just love to open up your little snake can and throw some money at the girl who couldn't pay her bills."

Everybody is shocked as she runs off to her apartment (after coming back and retrieving her fortune cookie). Of course, Sheldon tells the guys that he no longer keeps his money in the snake can. Thankfully, there's a few 50s in Green Lantern's ass.

Leonard comes over to find out what's wrong. Penny is enjoying her dinner by candlelit ambience, courtesy of the electric company. He tries to explain that Sheldon really doesn't care when he gets paid back. It's one of the few idiosyncrasies that doesn't make you want to kill him. However, Penny is really deep in debt. Her plans of waitressing for 6 months then becoming a movie star have gone awry. (So did the backup plan of being a TV star.) Looking at her bills, Leonard suggests getting rid of cable (doesn't do much good without electricity), cutting back on the acting classes (nope, she needs those), but there is one bill that troubles him. Penny gave \$1,800 to the L.A. County Superior Court. Since she clearly didn't get a ticket for going 4,000 miles over the speed limit, he inquires. It turns out Kurt, Penny's ex-boyfriend, got arrested for taking a whiz on a cop car. (Fortunately, he was drunk.) She paid all of his tickets and a bench warrant. She's reluctant to go to him and get the money back. She thinks she has to find a cheaper place to live. Leonard suggests getting a roommate.

"Well, do you know anybody?"

"Well, I'm sure the guy living with Sheldon wouldn't mind moving in with you."

"Oh, Leonard, honey. If we started living together, I wouldn't be able to keep my hands off of you."

"R-R-Really?"

".....And you thought my acting classes were a waste of money!" (Yeah, like you fell for that)

Back in the guys' apartment, the guys are on a quest through the Valley of Fire. So is Howard's mushu pork, but you don't want to know. Leonard comes in and asks the guys to accompany him to Kurt's to get Penny's money back. The guys are SO enthusiastic to help him with it.

"You play a game to simulate adventure, but when there's real adventure out there in the real world, you guys just wimp out!"

"Leonard, do you not recall the last time we visited this man, we returned home without pants?"

The guys outvote Leonard and decide to continue. Leonard gets mad and invokes JRR Tolkien

"When Frodo left the shire to take the One Ring to Mordor, didn't Samwise, Pippin, and Merry go with him?"

"They had a terrible time, Leonard."

"Plus, nobody stole their pants."

Somehow, Leonard convinces them to go. Howard's got the entire plan ready: "Koothrappali's gonna wet himself, I'm going to throw up, Sheldon's going to run away, and you're going to die. Shall we synchronize our watches?"

Leonard confronts Kurt. Kurt remembers "Lenny," though not Sheldon for some reason, which irks Sheldon. Leonard presses on, saying that Penny's in a bad financial strait, and the money Kurt owes her would go a long way to helping her. Kurt is amused, thinking Penny sent Leonard over, but Leonard mans up and says he's doing this on his own. Kurt slams the door in his face. The guys are satisfied, but Leonard refuses to go, pounding on the door and demanding that Kurt pay up. After all, Leonard has "right" on his side. Kurt does admit he owes Penny. It's as obvious as the writing on Leonard's face. Literally. Leonard has "I owe Penny \$1,800—Kurt" written on his forehead in indelible ink. However, the guys are really impressed. Howard even suggests having Leonard's head notarized.

Penny comes to see the guys. Fortunately, Leonard has figured out to hide the ink on his forehead...and be a member of Akon's posse. Penny returns the money to Sheldon. She was able to cut back her expenses, pick up a few more hours at the restaurant, and Kurt returned her money. Apparently, he felt guilty and paid her back. Leonard wants to know what led to this "moral epiphany." She doesn't know, but she is convinced Kurt has changed and will meet him for dinner tomorrow night. But Sheldon is further impressed, saying that Leonard should wear that ink as a badge of honor, his "warrior's wound." Minstrels will write songs about Leonard...

"There once was a brave lad named Leonard. With a fi-fi fiddle dee-dee. He faced a fearsome giant. While Raj just wanted to pee."

The Maternal Capacitance

Season 2
Episode Number: 32
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Monday February 9, 2009
Writer: Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Richard Rosenstock
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Beverly Hofstadter)
Production Code: 3T7365
Summary: Sheldon hits it off with Leonard's psychoanalyst mother, but she drives Leonard and Penny to the bottle.



"And I don't ever want to feel...like I did that day. Take me to the place I love...take me all the way."

Wow. Raj is good, and he probably took fewer drugs in his life than Anthony Kiedis. But that's the beauty of "Rock Band," where Howard is the drummer and Sheldon is on guitar. However, after a few verses, if cats could sing, they'd hate it, too. This is the reason for Penny coming over to tell the guys to keep it down. Meanwhile, Leonard is busy on the phone. Whatever it is, he doesn't want to do it and is desperate to reschedule it. Sheldon theorizes that, since he's hold-

ing the phone to his left ear, Leonard is accessing the analytical parts of his brain and has no relationship with the caller. Since it's clearly something Leonard's done before and is avoiding doing now, Sheldon guesses a colonoscopy appointment. Leonard hangs up and tells us what's going on: his mother is coming. ("How about that? You were right.")

Penny is heading up from the laundry when she spots a woman waiting by the broken elevator. Even though Penny tells her it's out of order, the woman wants to ponder the implications. Clearly, since there is lots of dust on the sign and warning tape, there is either an incredible amount of passivity among the 24-36 residents (based on 12 mailboxes and average population in an urban center) or some sort of "shared delusion of functionality."

"You must be Leonard's mother."

"Well I don't know if I must be, but yes."

The woman introduces herself as Dr. Beverly Hofstadter and is surprised that Penny is a hand-shaker. As Penny offers to walk up with her, Dr. Hofstadter is willing to exchange pleasantries. Penny is curious as to what Leonard was like when he was little.

"I assume you mean young; he's always been little."

"OK, what was he like when he was young?"

"You'll have to be more specific."

"Like 5 or 6?" (One evil stare later...)"5"

"Well, at that age, Leonard was in what Freud would call the phallic stage of psycho-sexual development. An outmoded theory, of course, but the boy did spend a lot of waking hours with a firm grasp on his penis."

Clearly, Dr. Hofstadter is a psychiatrist, which prompts Penny to make a huge mistake: she mentions to Dr. Hofstadter that she's an actress.

"There are many studies that suggest that people who go into the performing arts suffer from an external locus of identity." Translation: they seek approval from others about themselves, typically due to unmet childhood emotional needs.

Dr. Hofstadter wants to hear more. Of course, like any good psychiatrist, she has Penny crying by the time they're on the 4th floor. On the plus side, we now know her dad's pet name for her was Slugger, although that's not a plus for her. Leonard takes her in and gives her some tea. (Oolong, separate not bagged, steeped 3 minutes, 2% milk, 1 teaspoon of raw sugar—still no good) It's understandable; Sheldon has the same problem with Leonard. Although Sheldon theorizes the issue with Leonard is an overdeveloped sex drive, Dr. Hofstadter isn't sure where that came from, as she and her husband only had sex for reproduction and a pro forma consummation of the marriage. (They wrote papers on it.) Sheldon wants to hear more about her sex life. The good news is he can order it from the Princeton University Press. The bad news is the PowerPoint slides are on her other laptop. Sheldon and Leonard debate about their mothers. Sheldon wonders how Leonard can act the way he does, as Leonard's mother is smart, intuitive, and never hit him with a Bible for not eating his brussel sprouts. But at least Sheldon's mother didn't attach electrodes to his head while he potty trained. Sheldon thinks Leonard is so lucky that his parents did that; he always had to attach his own electrodes.

"Bring Your Mother to Work Day" must be something of a rarity at the university where the guys work, as Howard points out that Leonard's two siblings are far more successful than he is. Dr. Hofstadter confirms that his younger brother, Michael, is a law professor at Harvard and his sister successfully grew a pancreas in an adolescent gibbon.

"You must be very proud."—Howard

"Why? They're not my accomplishments? —I must urinate."—Dr. Hofstadter

Apparently, Howard's addition of salt to lesions on Leonard can be attributed to the fact that the guys aren't supposed to bring their parents to the workplace. While Dr. Hofstadter is gone, Sheldon indicates surprise that Leonard's siblings are so much more successful than Leonard.

"Yeah, you're like the Jar-Jar Binks of the Hofstadter family."—Raj

"Oh, meesa thinking you look so-so sad! Next time, don't bring yousa mama to work."—Howard

Leonard has had enough, and upon his mother's return, decides to go on offense. "Howard lives with his mother and Raj can't talk to women unless he's drunk. Go." Sure enough, his mother is up front and blunt.

"That's fascinating. Selective mutism is quite rare. On the other hand, a Jewish male living with his mother is so common, it borders on sociological cliché. You know, both selective mutism and an inability to separate from one's mother could be due to a pathological fear of women. That's would explain why the two of you have created an ersatz homosexual marriage to satisfy your need for intimacy."

As much as Leonard would like to hear more about their marriage, since Howard brought his husband to work, Dr. Hofstadter and Leonard must head to his lab, where Leonard is replicating the dark matter signal found in sodium iodide crystals by the Italians. ("No original work of your own? Then why do I need to see it? I could just read the paper the Italians wrote.")

Clearly, Leonard could use a drink. He heads over to Penny's, but he'll have to catch up, as she has been drinking since talking to Dr. Hofstadter the previous day. They won't be interrupted, as Dr. Hofstadter took Sheldon to the hospital to get a brain scan. It would appear that Dr. Hofstadter likes looking at brain scans, and Sheldon likes to get them. Leonard and Penny are very upset by the events that have transpired with his mother's appearance. Penny has hit the booze because she auditioned with 50 other blondes for an anti-depressant commercial so she could win her daddy's approval. She's completely depressed because she was rejected for being too perky. (Irony 101 for you) Hard as it is to believe, Leonard can top that. (or bottom that, in this case) He was desperate for human contact, but not so desperate he kept grabbing his penis, like Penny said.

"When I was 10 years old, I made myself a hugging machine. I got a dressmaker's mannequin, I stuffed it with an electric blanket so it would be warm, and built radio-controlled arms that would hug me and pat me on the back. The saddest part is, my father used to borrow it."

Sheldon and Dr. Hofstadter return from the hospital, and she thanks Sheldon for getting the brain scan, as it will help her research. Sheldon isn't happy with the size of his right frontal lobe, but Dr. Hofstadter dismisses that as men thinking nothing's big enough. (unless it's a tumor) Sheldon seems to have developed quite the rapport with Dr. Hofstadter, even to the point of flattering her. (He's picked up some bad habits from Leonard.) He notes that he is quite comfortable around her, as he is never comfortable around...anyone. Dr. Hofstadter is in the same boat. Although she does wonder if he's making a theoretical point, or is he hoping to do the math. It turns out to be the latter, and she is very pleased by this.

The average person would need some booze right now. Fortunately, there's plenty at Penny's, where she and Leonard are feeling no pain downing tequila shots. This time, however, Leonard must lick the salt, take the shot, and bite the lime. Leonard didn't hear anything after "lick," since the salt will be on Penny's neck. However, he obliges and licks the salt off of Penny's neck. Grain by grain, apparently. He recovers slightly to down the tequila and looks for the lime. He'll have to suck on it...from Penny's mouth. He does so, and then decides the lime is just slowing him down. They start making out passionately.

From boozing to tee totaling, Dr. Hofstadter is contemplating Sheldon's "suggestion." After all, they are so compatible and at ease with each other, but she is not sure if it's appropriate with her son's roommate. But they both agree they'd be very good together. Sheldon assures her the first time he tried it, he experienced and unexpected but welcome release of endorphins.

Speaking of endorphins, Penny and Leonard are about to, as Bruce Willis once put it, "get horizontal." Leonard's only too happy that this is about to happen, but Penny only wants him to shush and get naked. However, a drunk and horny Leonard is a talkative Leonard.

"You know what my mother would say about this. She'd say because since you were not loved by your father and I was not loved by my mother that having sex is our way of making up for the intimacy we didn't get as children."

His suggestion that she go to community college went over better than this.

"So you're saying you're not having sex with me. You're having sex with your mother?"

"I'm gonna go with 'no' on that one?"

"That's the sickest thing I've ever heard!"

"Well, you're having sex with your father and I'm OK with that."

Of course, there can be only one thing worse than being thrown out of Penny's bedroom and not realizing you should have kept your big mouth shut: watching Sheldon and your mother get it on. The microphone. Rock Band, you perverts!! What did you think I meant? Thanks to Sheldon and Dr. Hofstadter, both Journey's "Any Way You Want It" and the "so what-so let's dance!" scene from *Caddyshack* are completely ruined for me.

However in the morning, all improves as Leonard's mother leaves, and Leonard begs Penny never to talk of the night before ever again. Unfortunately for Penny, Dr. Hofstadter wants to hear about her mother, with the predictable results. But Dr. Hofstadter is supportive; she wants Penny to have more sessions with her, provided Penny is willing to go to New Jersey and go through a brain scan while doing so.

The Cushion Saturation

Season 2

Episode Number: 33

Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Monday March 2, 2009
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3T7366
Summary: Paintball leads to a squabble between Sheldon and Penny, as well as romance between Howard and Leslie.



This week's special guest star is Robert Duvall as Raj Koothrappali. That, or Raj is channeling Lt. Col. Kilgore from "Apocalypse Now," as he loves the smell of paintballs in the morning. Coincidentally, the boys' ability at paintball is as positive as how that movie portrayed Vietnam. Sheldon is ticked off because Howard didn't attend the Physics department strategy meeting. Unfortunately, the spider veins on Howard's mother just could not wait. After discussing several possible ways to get out of the situation, they decide to run while Howard shoots it out with the enemy. Needless to say, Howard

was outvoted 3-1 on this scenario. Left alone, Howard stays hidden in the shed until Leslie Winkle comes along. She's had enough of her teammates, as evidenced by the "friendly fire" incident her team suffered. With the opposing paintball teams moving in, Howard and Leslie agree that waiting for "death," knowing there's a paintball out there with your name on it, is the worst thing that can happen, they decide to make the best of the situation...by having sex.

The bad economy has hit the university, as all of the guys have to deal with cutbacks in their departments...except Howard. On the contrary, he seems to have gotten a significant amount of new equipment for his lab. As it turns out, it is courtesy of Leslie Winkle, who had oversight on distributing the money from several grants. Leslie stops by, and Howard thanks her for the rapid prototyper he needed.

"You scratch my back, I scratch yours. Rowr!" (The closed captioning, BTW, interpreted Sara Gilbert's claws and meow as "growls sexily." You be the judge.) Howard is trying to play it coy, but Raj and Leonard want to know about the claws and the "growls sexily." Of course, Sheldon's all over it.

"I believe the back scratching metaphor generally describes a "quid pro quo" situation where one party provides goods or services to the second party in compensation for a similar action."

"Thank you."—Leonard

"The meow, that sounded to me like an African civet cat."

"Are you done!?!?"

"No. Despite what the name suggests, the civet cat...is not a cat.———Now I'm done."

Thankfully, Raj gets us back on point and asks Howard about the back-scratching. To this point, Howard had been reluctant to say anything because of Leonard's history with Leslie.

But since Leonard doesn't care, now Howard can't shut up about his hookup with Leslie. Not surprisingly, Sheldon is oblivious to the guy rules about hooking up and wants to court-martial Howard for leaving the team defenseless."

"Court-martial, Schmort-martial! Leslie is the 5th girl I've ever had sex with! I mean, for free."

Suddenly the guys realize that Howard not only had sex but got expensive equipment while their budgets were slashed. Howard doesn't want them to look at it like he got new equipment and they didn't, which is unfair. Rather, that he's getting sex, and they're not, which is delightful.

Back at the apartment, Leonard is going Nerd Herd on Penny's broken computer. (sorry, "Chuck" is my other favorite show, and I'm still bitter the two shows are on at the same time) She can't calm down because she spent three hours trying to order shoes. Apparently, Penny is being played tonight by Sarah Jessica Parker. Of course, Sheldon has to lambaste her for sitting in his spot, even though he isn't, nor intends to, use it anytime soon. You would think Penny's smart enough not to ask about such things by now, but some lessons you have to learn the hard way.

"That is my spot. In an ever-changing world, it is a single point of consistency. If my life was expressed as a function on a 4-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system, that spot would be (0, 0, 0, 0)." (They must be dumbing down the science: I understood that completely) So does Penny.

"I love him, but he is one serious whack-a-doodle."

Penny notices the paintball gun. Leonard invites her to play next time, but Penny explains people in Nebraska only shoot things to eat them or to keep them away from their boyfriends. And apparently, Sheldon's spot is delicious or coming on to her boyfriend, as she accidentally shoots it with the gun.

Speaking of boytoys, Leslie seems to be doing well with her new boytoy, as evidenced by she and Howard in bed. Clearly, they have just done the deed, based on Howard's rapid heartbeat...or is that his transient idiopathic arrhythmia. His mother shouting upstairs, however, definitely starts his arrhythmia. He doesn't want to go downstairs because...

"I'm busy, Ma!"

"TOO BUSY TO HELP ME WITH MY ZIPPER?!?!?!?"

"Don't come in, Ma!"

"WHY NOT?!?!?!?"

"HE'S GOT COMPANY!!!!!!"—Leslie, in an imitation of Howard's mother so accurate, you realize what a sick S.O.B. Oedipus was.

"IS SHE JEWISH?!?!?!?!?"

"(No) YES!!!!!!"

"OK, THEN YOU KIDS HAVE FUN!!!!!! USE PROTECTION!!!!!!"

Thankfully, we return to the paintball stain on Sheldon's spot. It's not coming off, and Penny is panicking.

"What are we going to do?"

"We?!? No, no, no. You had your chance to be 'we' for like a year and a half now. Right now, you are you, and you are SCREWED!"

Penny's idea of saying someone broke in doesn't go over well, and turning the cushion over leaves one significant problem...no butt print. (What's really scary, this is not the first time I've had to write the phrase "butt print.") Sheldon comes home, and despite Leonard and Penny acting like nothing's wrong, Sheldon goes to sit in his spot and instantly discovers something amiss with his spot. After several uncomfortable turns on the cushion, he picks it up and discovers the paint stain.

With the cushion at the dry cleaners, things are not going well for Sheldon out of his spot. The arm of the chair, the arm of the couch, even straddling the chair arm like it's a horse will not do. Howard's very logical idea of putting another cushion in Sheldon's spot doesn't work, either. (and puts Raj out of his spot, but Raj isn't crazy, is he)

"Sheldon, I'm really sorry, but it's only going to be for a week. Can't you be a LITTLE bit flexible? [pause] I really didn't think that through, did I."

Of course, Sheldon doesn't trust her dry cleaner...since he also makes keys. Meanwhile, Howard receives a call and announces he's going to have sex tonight. Surprisingly, it's Leslie Winkle and not Howard's right hand calling. Howard really seems to be getting the best of both worlds. In exchange for sex, he gets to go on a trip to Geneva to visit the CERN lab. However, when Leslie makes the post-coital suggestion of accompanying her to her sister's wedding, Howard is

resistant. Apparently, Howard scams on "chunky bridesmaids" at weddings, so he is uncomfortable going with an actual date. By some coincidence, the group going to Geneva just got reduced by one. Howard is unhappy about this turn of events.

"Are you saying if I don't go to the wedding, I can't go to Geneva?"

"Well, I'm trying not to say it..."

"Wait a minute; I'm not comfortable with this. It's like you're trying to control me with new equipment and research trips."

"Well, if I didn't control you with new equipment and research trips, then I'D be uncomfortable."

Finally, it comes out: Leslie wants to have a sexual relationship without any feelings or any of that crap. Howard is shocked.

"So I'm just a bought-and-paid-for sex toy?"

"No, no, not at all. You're also arm candy."

One would assume that Howard is OK with this when he shouts, "MOM, YOU GOTTA RENT ME A TUX!!!!"

"RIGHT NOW? WHAT KIND OF SEX ARE YOU HAVING UP THERE?!?!?!"

Back at the apartment, Sheldon is crouching on his spot. Before Leonard goes crazy, Penny returns the cushion. However, it's still not good enough for Sheldon. Although how a few sniffs of it can tell this, I don't even want to know. Now it's time for Penny to go ballistic, but Leonard has a solution.

"Sheldon, you know the cashew chicken I get you on Monday nights? From Szechwan Palace? The Szechwan Palace closed down two years ago."

(shocked) "What? Where did my cashew chicken come from?"

"The Golden Dragon. Before they (the Szechwan Palace) went out of business, I bought 4,000 containers. I keep them in the trunk of my car."

Sheldon is practically white. "This changes everything. What's real? What isn't? How can I know?" But at least Sheldon is on the cushion now. Penny thanks Leonard for making that up. (If only he did.)

It's paintball time again, and Penny has joined the gang. Leonard has a brilliant strategy because Penny is a killer shot, but Sheldon has to take care of something first...he shoots Penny, eliminating her. Now he has his payback for the cushion. "Revenge is a dish that is best served cold."

"Screw that!"—Penny, who proceeds to shoot Sheldon.

Sheldon is shocked because Penny is "dead." Surprisingly, Leonard agrees. Penny can't shoot Sheldon...so he does it. Since Sheldon decides they're descending into anarchy, down goes Leonard. This leaves Howard, Raj, and Leslie with only one option...surrender, then Denny's.

The Terminator Decoupling

Season 2
Episode Number: 34
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Monday March 9, 2009
Writer: Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Tim Doyle, Stephen Engel
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Summer Glau (Herself), George Smoot (Himself), Robert Clotworthy (Conductor)
Production Code: 3T7367
Summary: The gang is thrilled when they see Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles' Summer Glau is also aboard their train to San Francisco for a scientific symposium. Meanwhile, Sheldon frets over having forgotten a paper he wants to present to George Smoot.



Surgery is beginning, and Dr. Wolowitz is ready to make the first incision. Aided by his trusty assistant, Dr. Koothrappali, he readies a #6 torque screwdriver.

"Stop! It's not right!"

Once again, Sheldon has moral issues...regarding swapping out the TiVo's hard drive for a larger one. Once the orange plastic seals are opened, the warranty is invalidated. Sheldon cannot break that trust between them and the manufacturer. However, given that the only other alternative is to erase the entire first season of "Battlestar Galactica" to make more room on the drive, Sheldon

opts to violate the trust. The reason for this need is discussed as Penny comes in and hands Leonard a rolling suitcase perfectly suited for "taking daffodils to your unicorn." The boys are heading to San Francisco for a symposium where there will be "discussions on bio-organic cellular computer devices, advancements in multi-threaded task completion, plus a roundtable on the non-equilibrium Green's function approach to the photo ionization process in atoms."

"Usually when I go to San Francisco, I just get hammered and ride the cable cars."—Penny

But even Leonard is psyched to go, as they will meet Dr. George Smoot, a Nobel-prize winning physicist, whose work in black body form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation completely altered our understanding of the universe. (You stopped reading after "physicist," didn't you.) Of course, one may wonder why they would take the train, which takes 7 hours and is twice as expensive as flying to San Francisco. Those of you who said Sheldon won the vote, 1-3, you'd be correct.

There appears to still be some time before the boys have to leave, as Sheldon is spending it attaching RFID tags to every article of clothing he is taking and indexing them on his laptop. That way, he can cross-reference the clothes to account for events, destination, duration of trip, weather, etc. He should be done in about 3 hours, 11 minutes. Of course, this won't leave him time to join the guys in making fun of the workers in the Apple Store Genius Bar, but now the whole thing seems kind of redundant to Leonard.

Finally boarding the train (about the time the plane would have landed at SFO), Sheldon is insisting they sit where you get the most panoramic ocean vistas (without any Costco's or Jiffy Lube's) and without feeling the train axles on this Pullman-built Superliner Deluxe Passenger coach.

"Sheldon, we've been on this train 90 seconds, and you've already said a thousand words. Just tell us where to sit and shut up!" (Clearly, Leonard has gotten around to reading the Sheldon manual.)

Raj isn't too depressed. At least it's not third-class coach on a train in India, whose bathroom consists of dropping trou and sticking your buttocks over a hole in the train. Before Sheldon can wax philosophical about the 1,200 km Ranakpur Express (and boring everybody on an international scale), Raj discovers something incredible...Summer Glau. (Yes, from *Firefly* and *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*.) Time for the boys to debate on how to meet her...once they've silenced Sheldon about how Summer could be a Terminator in disguise that has infiltrated shows and movies about Terminators to wreak havoc on the human race. (Although it does kind of explain that whole Christian Bale thing, doesn't it?) Howard, shockingly, is the first to think he can score with Ms. Glau. Of course, Raj thinks he has a better shot of scoring with Arnold Schwarzenegger. However, with an 11-hour window, Howard is convinced that she will either do a tuck and roll off a moving train or succumb to the acquired taste that is Howard Wolowitz. (Vegas is giving \$1.20 on the tuck and roll.) Raj counters with the fact that, while he's typically mute in front of women when sober, he offers foreign and exotic vs. Howard's pasty and frail. ("You know the old saying...pasty and frail...never fail.") Leonard wants a shot, too, but he figures one gorgeous woman he doesn't have a shot with is enough in his lifetime.

Raj prepares to get ready, demanding to know where the lounge is. Before Sheldon can launch into the history of the Pacific Parlour Car recently added to this train line, he is heading for the booze. Meanwhile, Howard practices his opening line, since merely saying "hello" creeps girls out. However, there is a problem: Sheldon has forgotten his flash drive and must go back right now. On it was a paper concerning astrophysical probes of M-theory effects on the early universe he planned to give to George Smoot...because it's brilliant! Of course, emailing it to him at a later point will not suffice because he won't get to see Dr. Smoot's face light up. Leonard tries to tell him that there's nothing he can do about it, so he should just relax.

"You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive...You forgot your flash drive..." Only 10 hours, 55 minutes to go.

Leonard has come up with another solution, presumably for his sanity: have Penny get the flash drive and email the paper. However, the drive is in a locked drawer, with the key hidden somewhere in Sheldon's room. "People don't go in my room!"

"Well, once again, it looks like you're caught between a rock and a crazy place."

Howard has his opening line: "It's hot in here; must be Summer." He heads for Ms. Glau, but can't deliver the line. He approaches again and chickens out. He decides to retrench and practice, but Raj has worked up the courage (i.e., inebriation), to approach Summer. "It's hot in here; it must be Summer." She thinks it's cute, and we have the first ****block on *The Big Bang Theory*. Raj is going all-out, and it's actually working. Not sure if Summer believes "Slumdog Millionaire" is loosely based on Raj, but no matter. Howard can't believe what is happening.

Back at Penny's apartment, she is trying to get some people to come to a play in which she's the lead...above a bowling alley...as Anne Frank (Yikes!) when Sheldon beeps in. Sheldon is apparently channeling the watchers from "Eagle Eye" by giving Penny step-by-step instructions without using the words "Penny," "Sheldon," "favor," or "please," which Leonard quickly clears up before the conversation turns awkward.

Raj is doing quite well with Summer, saying how the Big Dipper is referred to as the Big Curry Pot. He also does well complimenting her on the fact that she was actually IN space on *Firefly*.

"You're not one of those guys who really believed that, were you?"

"You mean one of those 'hopeless geeks'? Of course not. They're crazy people. Howard, get me another one of these, will ya? (to Summer) He's one of those." Because Howard and Raj were sitting back-to-back on the train and Raj couldn't kick him in the groin directly.

As Sheldon continues to give directions to Penny (and Leonard translates to human for him), Howard can't understand why putting alcohol into Raj makes him M. Night Charmalon. But an

interesting discovery is made: Raj is drinking non-alcoholic beer, apparently thinking it's the real thing. Of course, Howard is MORE than delighted to point this out to Raj, and the placebo effect of the near beer wears off in an instant. Raj clams up and leaves. Howard is ready to go in for the kill. Summer may want to have her noose ready: she's about to encounter a "talking with Ted Striker" moment in her life.

"Hi, I'm the small package good things come in." (See? Told you.)

In Sheldon's bedroom, Penny has found a box with a lot of letters in it. She can't find the key, but she now knows Sheldon's grandmother calls him "Moon Pie." Before Sheldon starts biting himself all over and has to be put down by Travis next to Old Yeller, Leonard convinces her to make amends. She does. ("What up, Moon Pie!") Penny finally finds the correct box, but it's a Japanese puzzle box that has 10 precise moves to make in order to open it. Turns out, Penny only needed one: she smashes the box with her foot.

I have not actually seen Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles. However, if Summer's character ever had to kill someone in it, I'm guessing she had the same look on her face that she does now while Howard describes his dream about her. It would seem Howard was ice skating with her, twirled her around by her ankles until her legs tore off and she turned into a giant loaf of pumpnickel bread. By the way, did you know the words "pumper" and "nickel," in German, loosely translate to "fart goblin?" Yes, Summer would have been happy the rest of her life not knowing that, either. Although Howard can't be all bad; he did mention legendary guitarist Johnny Winter. OK, it would make Summer's name "Summer Winter" if she married him, but still... Finally, Howard decides to play it honest, and she shoots him down. He is ready to leave her alone, but asks for a picture together for his Facebook page. She agrees (very nice person, Summer is), and they take the picture. But when Howard also wants one that looks like they're making out, she draws the line...and he needs a new cell phone.

Finally, Penny and Moon Pie are making progress. Penny is inserting the flash drive in the USB port...once Sheldon explains the Moon Pie thing. ("I'm nummy-nummy, and she can just eat me up...now PLEASE!") When Howard comes back and explains being terminated by Summer (oh, like you didn't see that pun coming), Leonard suddenly becomes emblazoned to try asking her out.

"OK, I'll be honest with you. I've just spent the last two hours imagining various scenarios in my head, trying to come up with some clever line to say to you. But I finally realize that you're a human being, and I'm a human being, and if I could just say to you..."

"THIS STOP IS SANTA BARBARA!"

"I'm sorry. This is me." And Leonard is left to wonder what could have been.

On the good side, Sheldon knows exactly where he stands with Dr. Smoot at the conference. And Sheldon should really cut back on the crack if he thinks Dr. Smoot will let him take top billing on combined research.

The Work Song Nanocluster

Season 2
Episode Number: 35
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Monday March 16, 2009
Writer: Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I), David Goetsch, Richard Rosenstock
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3T7368
Summary: Penny's business selling hair accessories out of her apartment gets out of hand when an over-caffeinated Sheldon takes charge.



We start the evening with a wonderful game of chess. Sounds normal for this group. Intellectually challenging, the mental mano-a-mano battle. Of course, that's too easy. After Raj's strategical move, Leonard must make his...across the floor, through a 2-foot gap, and a BZZZZT!!! Oops, he hit a laser beam; one of the many perils of "Secret Agent Laser Obstacle Chess." Sheldon's turn is up, but he has something more important to do. Since it is 11:00, it is past the "don't knock before 11AM or I punch you in the

throat" rule implemented by Penny. Thankfully, we don't have to ponder the possibilities of Howard's "Secret Agent NAKED Laser Chess," as Sheldon knocks on Penny's door (with the standard 3 knock-Penny-repeat cadence), and he covers his throat just in case. He's within the guidelines, so it is safe for him to deliver the package that came for Penny. He does have more difficulty getting Penny to sign his form to acknowledge receipt of the box and release him from indemnification for it. Penny would rather show Sheldon that she is making flower barrettes for the hair, which she calls "Penny Blossoms." It appears to be a bit of a good seller, as several co-workers have asked for them, and a store that sells cards and homemade jewelry is interested. After making \$156 for her efforts, she believes she can grow this as a business and stop waitressing. Sheldon is no longer impressed...actually, he's shocked.

"Who's going to bring me my cheeseburger on Tuesday nights?!?"

"Ummm...another waitress?"

"What's her name?!?!?"

"I don't know."

"AND YOU'RE GOING TO LET HER HANDLE MY FOOD?!?!?!?!?!?"

Clearly, Penny's level of concern about Sheldon's hamburger (Cheeseburger!) is waning quickly, so she switches to business-related questions. Thanks to Sheldon's quick math, Penny's ability to make 20 blossoms a day at a 50 cent profit each would pay her \$2,600 per year (before taxes). Sheldon, however, is surprisingly optimistic. By retooling her marketing techniques and optimize her manufacturing process, she can make it a viable business. It would seem Sheldon knows about these things.

"Penny, I'm a physicist. I have a working knowledge of the universe and everything it contains."

"Who's Radiohead?"

(long, evil pause) "Penny, I have a working knowledge of the IMPORTANT things in the universe. Good luck."

Normally, Penny would give up at this point, but she needs help and asks Sheldon for it. Sheldon makes it clear that SHE is asking HIM for assistance. Which would involve HIM telling HER what to do. And she can't be sarcastic or snide during it. She begrudgingly agrees. Sheldon proceeds to rip up her entire process. ("Well, imagine that.") They're off to a good start, aren't they?

Sheldon begins testing Penny on her blossom-making skills. She has the process down to 12:17. At that pace, she'll earn \$5.19 per day. In order to get her pay above child laborers at a shoe factory in Indonesia, Penny will have to familiarize herself with Honore Blanc's use of interchangeable parts in 1778. The assembly line, Penny. (Sorry, Penny, Sheldon never agreed not to be condescending.) Across the hall, the guys are leaving for a movie; right after Howard finds out what would have happened to James Bond had Goldfinger NOT turned off the laser beam. However, they hear very strange sounds coming from Penny's apartment...

Come all ye young fellows that follows the sea—To me, way hey, blow the man down— Now please pay attention and listen to me—Give me some time to blow the man down— I'm a deep water sailor just come from Hong Kong—You give me some whiskey, I'll sing you a song—When a trim Black Ball liner's preparing for sea—On a trim Black Ball liner I wasted me prime—When a trim Black Ball liner preparing for sea—You'll split your sides laughing such sights you would see

The guys are intrigued. Sheldon is helping Penny make blossoms, and the sea shanty they're singing has the process down to only 3 minutes. However, this is now the time for them to come up with some engineering-inspired ideas, whether Penny wants them or not. Hot glue must be used instead of any cyanoacrylates because the surface is too porous. However, Howard's suggestion of a silicone-based RTV would provide a better mounting surface. After hearing of Penny's marketing and distribution channels, all of them have ideas for setting up an e-commerce business structure for her (complete with server farm and industrial cooling system for it). Sheldon gets them to focus on a major issue: moisture-induced glitter clump. Howard has the solution of using some type of desilicate, since he's seen this happen on strippers. (You knew Howard was going to mention "stripper" the minute they said "glitter," didn't you.) But it's time to get cracking. Howard and Raj will get some micro porous charcoal from the lab to help them, Leonard will start designing the Website, and Sheldon will set up his apartment for the manufacturing process. Since it's Penny's business, she'll take a nap.

Leonard has the Website up. The judgments:

"It looks like the MySpace page of a 13-year old girl."—Penny

"Dateline could use this to catch predators."—Howard (there was another one, but the cable cut out—sorry)

Before Sheldon can "convince" Penny to fire Leonard (it's her business, after all), a couple of orders come up. A woman in Alabama could use them to cover her bald spots. Sheldon has an inspiration: market the blossoms to men who are balding. The hook? The blossoms have Bluetooth. After all, EVERYTHING is better with Bluetooth. Suddenly, the mother of all orders!

"Who needs 1,000 sparkly flower barrettes with rhinestones?"

"The 5th Annual East Rutherford, New Jersey, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Alliance Luau."

One problem: they want it in one day. They have to compete with Amazon, even though Amazon doesn't actually have to glue books together in one day. Penny is ready to give up, but Sheldon won't do it. He reminds Penny that this was her idea for financial independence, her entrepreneurial inspiration. She must get rid of any sort of equivocation or self-doubt. "Did Davy Crockett quit at the Alamo? Jim Bowie?"

"They didn't quit; they got massacred by, like, a gazillion angry Mexicans."—Howard

Sheldon comes up with the clincher: the gross receipts from the order would be over \$3,000. "You guys get started! I'm going online to buy shoes!"

After 128 blossoms are made, the guys are starting to grumble, especially Raj. Of course, comparing this to living in India is not a good idea, as his father was a gynecologist and his house was full of servants. ("Only 4 servants! And two of them were children!") Sheldon, however, has the plan to culture the "living organism" that is the labor force and head off any sort of negativity...

"HEY!! LESS TALK, MORE WORK!!!" (Well, Penny was impressed, anyway.)

With 380 to go, the gang is getting tired. Even Sheldon is one work song behind. (But good baritone on "Sixteen Tons!") Penny offers Sheldon coffee, but he staunchly refuses, saying he promised his mother he wouldn't do drugs. Sheldon is off to bed, and Penny pleads with Leonard to fix the situation. Easy...

"But Sheldon, without your insight and leadership, this enterprise will surely fail!" Works like a charm. (And don't call me Shirley.)

Well, it would appear that caffeine doesn't make Sheldon work faster with the blossoms. Actually, it turns him into a cross between Stephen Hawking and Emeril Lagasse. (Yes, with with requisite "BAM!" after each scientific inspiration.)

The good news is, they were successful in getting 1,000 blossoms made in one day. However, the East Rutherford, New Jersey, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Alliance wants another 1,000, rush order. Penny tries to rally the troops, but they're too dead on their feet to do it. Well, Leonard, Howard, and Raj are too tired. Sheldon is ready to go. Or should I say...THE FLASH!!! ZOOM-ZOOM-ZOOM!!!

"Where's the coffee?? I'll have some more before this banana hits the ground! ZOOM-ZOOM-ZOOM!!!"

Although the business failed, at least "Secret Agent Laser Obstacle Chess" is still going. Oh, wait; Raj was only trying to get a slice of pizza. Leonard's right: "Secret Agent Laser Obstacle Lunch" is stupid.

The Dead Hooker Juxtaposition

Season 2

Episode Number: 36

Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Monday March 30, 2009
Writer: Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Valerie Azlynn (Alicia)
Production Code: 3T7369
Summary: Penny feels threatened when another sexy woman moves into the apartment building and angered when she senses the guys are being taken advantage of.



Sometimes, the guys have to man up and deal with issues that they don't want to. Thankfully, they finally did and killed a spider in the apartment...by asking Penny to do it. As they continue with dinner, Penny tells them the news: the neighbors upstairs in 5A are moving out...

"The horror! No no no no no!"

It's pretty ironic that a person like Sheldon, who has intimate working knowledge of our ever-changing universe, is so apprehensive about any part of his world changing. Of course, it didn't matter that Sheldon never met the people in 5A.

"That's what made them perfect! There were no awkward hellos in the halls, no clickety-clack of high-heel shoes on hardwood floors. They might have well been a family of cats just jumping around from drape to drape...without that annoying ammonia-urine smell." (I have two cats: that IS annoying.)

While Sheldon contemplates the horror...prodded by an annoyed Penny, Howard has an inspiration: he can move into the apartment upstairs. He could get away from his mother, and everybody could spend more time together.

"The horror! The horror!" Yup, that was Penny this time.

It will be interesting to see the guys help Howard move, provided Sheldon is justly compensated for his troubles. He has a hard time believing that a pizza is S.O.P. for a move. However, thanks to Raj and Sheldon's inability to understand everyday minutiae, it's been negotiated up to a Sony PlayStation 3. He rejected the mountain bike. However, this will be a moot point, as Howard's mother decides to threaten Howard with cutting the cord...completely.

"Ma, I'll come over for dinner every night!"

"THE HELL YOU WILL. WHAT AM I RUNNING HERE, A FANCY RESTAURAAAHTTT??? DOES THIS LOOK LIKE AAAAHHHLIVE GAAHHHDEN!!!!!!?"

Leonard has to act quickly; Penny no longer needs to put her head in the oven.

Back at the apartment lobby, Sheldon is not happy about the incoming boxes. ("They're heeerrree!") Fortunately, it doesn't take long to meet their tall, blonde, REALLY hot new neighbor...wait, what's her name? (rolling back the DVR) Alicia! That's it, Alicia. Leonard is immediately smitten, of course, but Sheldon is not yet impressed. He has a few questions for Alicia.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how light of foot are you, 1 being not catlike at all, and 10 being freakishly feline? (freakishly feline?) 2. Are you, or have ever been, a salsa, Irish folk, or break-dancer? (no) 3. Are you fertile? I'm just trying to determine if crying infants are a possibility. (I have no immediate plans) 4. Area rugs: pro or con? (Pro?)

"Alicia...welcome to the building."

Meanwhile, Alicia is making Leonard feel at home...by letting him carry a heavy box up to the 5th floor. On the way, they run into Penny who introduces herself and says she's going jogging. At least, that's the cover for wearing a "Hillary 2008" t-shirt until Sheldon narcs on her that she doesn't have any clean clothes. Alicia tries to be demure about it by saying she's dressed like a slob as well. Well, if a slob just came from a magazine photo shoot, that is. Penny's jealousy is not helped by Leonard practically drooling all over Alicia's box, and only because it blocks him from Alicia herself. After Alicia and Leonard leave, she starts to mimic Alicia, which Sheldon amazingly picks up on. Well, partially anyway, as he tries to impress Penny with his General Ackbar impression from Return of the Jedi. (You're not missing anything, trust me.)

As Sheldon perfects his skills at "air computing," Penny comes in looking for Leonard so he can hook up her printer as promised. As it happens, Leonard is still up at Alicia's, hooking up her stereo with Howard and Raj, which Sheldon takes as a tactical maneuver to destroy him. Penny seems to have issues with that as well. "Typical," she says. She's none too relieved by Sheldon's explanation that Penny's statement is actually quite atypical, since the guys never met Alicia before nor entered that apartment.

As we discover Howard's moves don't work on Alicia any better than any other woman (although his cover is improving), Penny walks in, under the guise of presenting a welcoming bottle of wine to Alicia, with high heels and a dress that leaves as little to the imagination as you can get away with on a TV-14 episode. While most of the male population have paused their DVRs, the guys are totally nonplussed by it. Of course, Penny just thinks she's dressed like a "slob" in it. (You could fertilize every farm in Nebraska with that line.) And for those who thought the knife wasn't far enough in Penny's back, Leonard happily tells her that Alicia is also an actress with several national commercials and a recurring role on a soap.

"That's why I work at the Cheesecake Factory; I'm just waiting for the right part." (Speaking of Nebraska...)

Alicia has the guys firmly wrapped around her finger, getting them to set up the stereo and her printer with only a wink and a few "sweeties" and "honeys" thrown in. Of course, if Penny asks Leonard to set up her printer (like he promised a week ago), she's rebuked with a "don't nag me!" But before she can be sickened by a liquored-up Raj hit on Alicia, she tries for a physics joke...

"A physicist walks into an ice cream parlor and orders an ice cream for himself and one for the empty seat next to him. He does this for weeks until the owner asks him what he's doing. The physicist says, "well, I'm a physicist, and quantum mechanics tells us that the matter above this stool to spontaneously change into a beautiful woman, who might accept my offer and fall in love with me. The owner says that lots of beautiful women come in here. Why not buy an ice cream for them? The physicist says, "yeah, but what are the odds of that happening?" Apparently, the guys find that more insulting than funny.

An angry and dejected Penny returns to Sheldon, who is still unaffected by Alicia. Well, other than the stomping the guys are doing, but obviously that's an entirely different effect. She doesn't want to care what the guys do, but she clearly does. After all, she did memorize that stupid joke. Sheldon has one of his "seemingly not relevant but is actually dead-on" hypothetical.

"Sometimes a new queen will come in a hive while the old queen is still in power. When this happens, either the old queen must locate to a new hive or engage in a battle to the death until only one queen remains."

"What are you saying? That I'm threatened by Alicia? That I'm, like, the old queen of the hive, and it's time for me to go."

"I'm just talking about bees. They're on the Discovery Channel. What are YOU talking about?"

Penny now tries to win back favor with the guys by buying them Chinese food. She even remembers Sheldon's chicken to be diced instead of shredded, brown rice, mustard and low-sodium soy sauce from the market. ("See how it's done, Leonard?") She is really trying, offering to play Halo, watch Battlestar Galactica, even drop Mentos in Diet Coke. ("No, PMS is something else, Raj.") Right on cue, Alicia knocks and asks Leonard for a ride to an audition for CSI where

she would play a hooker who gets killed (for those of you wondering about the episode's title). Sure enough, Leonard is only too happy to help, and Howard will practice lines with her. Raj just wants to go with. Alicia will take them out for Chinese food...even though there's Chinese food right in front of them. Penny is mad as hell now, watching the guys pant after her like trained dogs. Alicia even got Howard to drive to Orange County to get her television.

"When we first met, you got Leonard and me to get your TV from your ex-boyfriend."

"Apples and oranges, Sheldon!"

Penny is very upset that Alicia is trying to skate by on her looks and taking advantage of weak-willed men, getting auditions for network shows. Needless to say, her corn is creamed. She decides to confront Alicia about it the next day in the laundry. The fact that Alicia was disappointed that physicists don't make a lot might have been the proverbial breaking point. Penny can't let her let the guys paint her bedroom and install a satellite dish.

"Leonard and Howard and Raj aren't like other guys. They're special. How can I explain this? They don't know how to use their shields."

"Their shields?"

"Like in Star Trek, when you go into battle, you raise the shields. (yikes!) Where the hell did that come from? Anyway, you know how guys like this are, so please don't take advantage of them."

Suddenly Alicia's is ticked off. "I'm not taking advantage of them. And how is that different that what you're doing? I've seen you around them."

"OK, lady. You're WAY out of line."

"Well, what are you gonna do about it, bitch?"

It doesn't take long for the guys to figure out what Penny will do about it...

"MY GOD!!!! GIRL FIGHT!!!!!!!" Of course, Howard stops Leonard from breaking it up.

On the plus side, Penny defended her honor well...that is, other than the black eye, busted lip, and chipped tooth. The only one more upset than Penny (who wasn't helped by Howard STILL hitting on her) was Sheldon, who knows Leonard set Alicia's stereo to DTS by the sound coming through the ceiling. ("She called me cutie.") Alicia was on a date with one of the producers on CSI ("dead whore on TV, live one in real life"), and Sheldon is very upset that they seem to enjoy jumping up and down on the bed in Alicia's room. Well, that's what he hears from the bedsprings. Of course, nobody has the heart to correct him.

The Hofstadter Isotope

Season 2
Episode Number: 37
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Monday April 13, 2009
Writer: David Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrapali), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny)
Guest Stars: Kevin Sussman (Stuart)
Production Code: 3T7370
Summary: Leonard is so upset when a friend from the comic book store begins dating Penny that he convinces Howard and Raj to take him to a bar so that he can pick up a woman of his own.



As we all know, Sheldon is a creature of habit. Well, if you define creature like the one that Steve McQueen tried to kill in *The Blob*. Even when the rules say so, he is very upset when a routine changes. The boys are having Thai food on a Thursday night, which is ordinarily reserved for pizza. However, the third Thursday of every month is "Anything Can Happen Thursday." However, Sheldon's digestive system might pull an Anything Can Happen Thursday. What the guys call a rut, Sheldon calls consistency. However, since Sheldon was outvoted, he decides they should go to the comic book store, even

though they were just there the previous night. After all, it's Anything Can Happen Thursday.

"Way to think outside but pressed up against the box, Sheldon." You can guess Leonard's opinion of the comic book store. However, Howard proffers a suggestion: Thursday nights are Ladies' Night at bars across America. You have to love his mathematics on the subject: as the night progresses, he feels that the guys will get better looking thanks to 99-cent margaritas and two-for-one Jello shots. There is, of course, one tiny detail: there's no way in hell that will work. However, Howard is undaunted, reminding the group of the Drake Equation.

SHELDON: "You mean the one that estimates the probability of making contact with extraterrestrials by calculating the product of increasing restrictive series of fractional values, such those stars with planets, and those planets likely to develop life, $N = R \times FP \times NE \times FL \times FI \times FC \times L?$ " (Attention, Chuck Lorre Productions: you now have the tape you should submit to get Jim Parsons nominated for an Emmy.)

HOWARD: "Yeah! That one. You can modify it to calculate the chance of us having sex by using the number of single women in Los Angeles by the number of those who might find us attractive, and what I call the Wolowitz Coefficient: neediness times dress size squared."

Leonard and Raj are suddenly inspired. "Let's go, bitches! Lock up your daughters! We're going to hit it and quit it!"

And as they head to the comic book store (really, you can't go to a bar after Raj's line), they meet Penny in the hall, who has an unusual request. She needs a comic book for her 13-year-old nephew. She should have been more specific, as Sheldon deconstructs every little "error" in her

request, such as only saying "comic" and not specifying a particular Spider-Man. Since Sheldon starts badgering her over whether it should be the Amazing Spider-Man, the Ultimate Spider-Man, Spectacular Spider-Man, the Marvelous Adventures of Spider-Man, Spider-Man 2099, etc, she relents and joins them on the quest.

At the comic book store, it doesn't take long for everybody in it to stare at Penny. Leonard reassuring her that they're more scared of her than she is of them is no help at all. While Raj and Howard wax philosophical about how pathetic the guys in the comic book store are (and Howard spots a new Batman belt buckle), Penny has found something she likes: Stuart, the owner. Having spotted Leonard, he comes over and offers his assistance. For a comic-book store owner, he's pretty smooth. ("Blink twice, Penny, if you're here against your will.") Leonard doesn't want Penny to worry about Stuart, as he is actually a really great artist and not everybody in a comic book store is a weirdo.

PENNY: "OK, but what about the guy over there with the superhero t-shirt tucked into his sweatpants?"

LEONARD: "Ah, yeah. That's Captain Sweatpants. He doesn't really help the point I'm trying to make."

As Sheldon and Howard fight over a Batman comic they both need (after going through 50 they already have—EACH!), Penny decides to enlist Stuart's help.

PENNY: "What would you recommend for a 13-year-old boy?"

STUART: "A 13-year-old girl?"

He does give her a comic book to take to him, along with a pretty sketch of her. Well, it's only Penny if she likes it. She wants the picture and is willing to trade for it...with her phone number. She does drive a hard bargain. ("So Leonard, how are you enjoying Anything Can Happen Thursday?")

Back at the apartment, Sheldon is enjoying the comic he grabbed from Howard, but clearly Leonard is upset. He even turned off the Deep Space Nine-Star Trek Original Series "Trouble With Tribbles" crossover. (Hell, you turn that off, you're practically suicidal!) Sheldon thinks Leonard needs to talk...so Leonard should start an online blog and invite responses from total strangers. Leonard can't figure out why Penny would be interested in Stuart instead of him, as they're practically the same.

SHELDON: "Oh, no. I disagree. Stuart is taller, artistic, self-employed, and most importantly gets 45% off of comic books." (Leonard gets the blog started.)

The next night is a relief for Sheldon: Chinese food and vintage video games like normal. Before they delve into the classic text game of Zork (I wonder if they made their own version like Chuck Bartowski and Bryce Larkin did), Penny heads out on a date...with Stuart. Stuart has a work of art on display at a gallery, and the two of them are going to see it. This clinches it for Leonard: "Howard, take me to a bar with women!" Howard is only too happy to do so, after he takes off his underwear. ("If I'm going to get lucky, I don't want it to be in my Aquaman briefs!") Sounds like good advice to Leonard and Raj; they take theirs off, too.

At the bar, it's time to talk strategy. Rule #1, no Grasshoppers for Raj. Rule #2, no Chocolate Martinis for Raj. He could order those drinks at many L.A. bars, but he wouldn't need them to talk to the women that wouldn't be there in those bars. ("I'll have a Brandy Alexander.") Leonard wants to get an early start, but Howard advises patience. Let the lawyers and the jocks thin out the herd, then he and Leonard go after the old, weak, and lame. (All chicks with seeing-eye dogs, Howard calls dibs.)

Penny and Stuart are home from the gallery, mainly because Captain Sweatpants showed up and touched all the cheese. Penny invites him in for coffee, but Stuart thinks it's a little late for coffee. ("Oh, you think "coffee" means coffee. That's so sweet.") She covers by saying she has decaf. (She is SO "5" tonight.) Sheldon emerges in the hall and agrees that it might be a little late for coffee. ("It's OK, she has decaf.") But Sheldon has a problem: he's been in an online chatroom all night arguing that the original Robin, Dick Grayson, is the natural successor to the Batman cowl if Bruce Wayne is indeed dead. Stuart completely disagrees. Sheldon is shocked.

PENNY: "I found the decaf!"

STUART: "Great!"

SHELDON: "Herbal tea for me, please." Yes, it had to happen eventually: Penny just got ****-blocked by one of the guys.

Speaking of not getting any (no, this isn't a story about me), Raj is feeling no pain with his Brandy Alexanders and Howard keeps shooting down possible candidates for Leonard. They settle on a pair of women. One of them is wearing a whiplash collar and one keeps blinking. Since Leonard thinks Blinky is cute, Howard launches into strategy. Leonard will pretend to trip while Howard claims he's had too much...FUN! However, Leonard doesn't feel that doing the multiple-handkerchiefs-in-his-mouth trick will get these women. Howard's other strategy wouldn't work, since Leonard doesn't know Howard's ventriloquist routine.

Back at the apartment, Sheldon and Stuart continue to argue about Batman. Sheldon can't believe Stuart when he thinks that Joe Chill, murderer of Bruce Wayne's parents, has been restored to the Batman mythology. They could ask Penny...if they dared wake her up on the couch. Sheldon advises against it, as Penny will maul him like a rabid wolverine.

There is a synergy, though, between Leonard and Penny. Penny is sleeping alone, and Leonard wishes he was right now. Leonard has to watch Howard make a fool of himself trying to hit on women and take the blame for him striking out. They finally give up and go to collect Raj...if they can untie him from the slightly large woman making out with him.

In the morning, Raj is becoming familiar with the term "coyote ugly." However, rather than chew his arm off to escape, he takes comfort in the fact that he's the only one of the 5 who got any last night.

The Vegas Renormalization

Season 2
Episode Number: 38
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Monday April 27, 2009
Writer: Jessica Ambrosetti, Nicole Lorre, Andrew Roth, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper)
Guest Stars: Jodi Lyn O'Keefe (Mikayla)
Production Code: 3T7371
Summary: Leonard and Raj take Wolowitz to Las Vegas to help him get over his break-up with Leslie. Sheldon, home alone and looking forward to it, locks himself out and has only one other place to stay—Penny's.



"Are you from the Star Wars universe?"
Yes.

"Were you in the original trilogy?" Yes.
"Is there a picture of you in my wallet wearing a metal bikini?" I HOPE NOT!

Clearly, you don't need lots of money and knowledge of the different X-Men universes to have fun with the guys. Howard seems to be doing well against Leonard's 20 questions, although clearly Leonard is NOT Princess Leia. Raj's turn:

"Were you in all six Star Wars movies?"
Yes.

"Are you a droid?" Yes.

"Do you kind of look like a shiny Shel-

don?" YES! C-3PO it is.

Sheldon is in full denial about it (his reaction, well, you'll have to see it for yourself). Meanwhile, Howard's phone is blinding him with science. Leslie Winkle is on the line, and she has reached the "friends with benefits" line. While Howard takes the call, Sheldon questions that phrase. He didn't realize people could offer their friends health insurance. Leonard explains to Sheldon it means you maintain a friendship with someone you had sex with but are still free to date anyone else. ("Sorry, I can't imagine any of that.") Howard doesn't have to imagine any of that, either. Leslie just dumped him. ("Howard, mama is a rolling stone.") Nobody realized he had such an emotional attachment to her.

"Of course I had feelings for her. I saw her naked, for God's sake!"

Everybody wants to comfort him, but surprisingly, it's Sheldon that has the following idea.

"You know, I'm given to understand that there is an entire city in Nevada designed specifically to help people like Howard forget their problems....and replace them with new problems, such as alcoholism, gambling addiction, and sexually-transmitted diseases." (First Sheldon rant I ever got written on the first try!)

RAJ: "Is it me, or is that Sheldon's way of saying VEGAS BABY!" (Really, it's like trying to play golf without referencing "Caddyshack." You just can't do it.)

Leonard is inspired; he wants to be a "RIGHT NOW!" person. He wants to be up five hunny by midnight. Daddy's gonna give him the Rain Man suite! (Damn Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau anyhow!) He just has to go refill a prescription first. Howard is convinced: Vegas, baby! As far as

his mother knows: SeaWorld, baby! As for Sheldon, he'd rather have a blowfly lay eggs and hatch larvae in his auditory canal.

As it turns out, the idea of VEGAS BABY! (errgh!) is even great for Sheldon. His good mood creeps Penny out as they go up the stairs, but tonight he is free to eat Kandai Paneer. It is Indian food (which Raj loathes), containing copious amounts of peanuts (which would reduce Wolowitz to a 97-pound wheezing blister) and includes paneer, a farmer's cheese (which would cause Leonard to make any room uninhabitable within 5 minutes). He is going to relish in the repast in his Fortress of Solitude. ("That's Superman's ice-thingy, right?") But Sheldon is in such a good mood, he even finds Penny's tenuous grasp of the English language folksy and charming. Well, that is until he can't find his keys. ("What's wrong, Superman? Locked out of your big ice-thingy?")

About 350 miles to the northeast, Leonard and Raj are preparing for their night in VEGAS BABY! (sorry) Raj is macking on the toiletries in the hotel, but Leonard needs to borrow some aftershave. Fortunately for Leonard, Howard studied at the Brian Fantana School of Spritzing. Howard has about 20 different colognes, musks, forest scents, botanicals, and even pheromonal sprays. (What, no Sex Panther? Amateur!) But Raj and Leonard ARE impressed by Howard's supply of Gold Circle condoms. ("Yes we can!") There will be plenty for Raj, as Howard can't get away from looking at Leslie's Facebook page, which is already changed to update their relationship, or lack thereof. He can't believe it; he wants it to be known that he dumped her!

RAJ: "But she did dump you."

HOWARD: "Grow up Raj, there's no place for truth on the Internet." (Oh, for those of you wondering, I'm 6 foot 2, 190 pounds, brown hair/blue eyes, athletic build, and just made \$2 million short-selling AIG stock.)

Raj and Leonard go downstairs without Howard, but Raj needs a plan in case one of them gets lucky. Leonard agrees if he finds a woman, he'll take her to his stately manor in Gotham City, and if Raj hooks up, he'll find a bunk for the night on the moon.

At Penny's, she tries to find the emergency key; while Sheldon laments that they have a bowl for emergency keys. That bowl would have come in handy, as Penny used the keys to borrow some milk from the guys' apartment and left the key there. ("Leonard thought I was crazy for saying that carton was lighter!") Of course, his keys are in that same bowl right now. Penny says he can eat dinner there while waiting for the building superintendent, but Sheldon's off his rocker.

"Eat my dinner? In your apartment? Sure, why not! And after we're done, we can all go pilin' in my pickup truck and go skinny-dippin' down in the crick! 'Cause today's the day to stop makin' sense!" (helps to use a hillbilly voice)

Leonard and Raj are enjoying themselves with some video slots, free drinks, and all-you-can-eat shrimp at a VEGAS BABY! bar, while Howard keeps Twittering about his lot in life. Raj needs to down some liquid courage (OK, I got that from the HBO series about the Bunny Ranch. So sue me!) as a woman named Michaela asks him if he wants to "party." Raj is more than a little interested, but Leonard needs to tell him something. Since it is expected that Michaela will not be torturing Raj like she did some of the escapees on "Prison Break," one would assume that Leonard is trying to tell Raj that Michaela is a prostitute. Naturally, Raj doesn't believe it, but Leonard wonders how many gorgeous women have ever walked up to Raj in a bar and asked him to party.

RAJ: "Maybe I can save her."

LEONARD: "Maybe. But I'm guessing it'll cost you \$500 an hour to TRY." So much for Michaela.

Howard is not doing well, judging by his Twitters. "I am at the bottom of a black hole, staring into the abyss. My life is meaningless, my future is without hope." Taking him to see Blue Man Group doesn't sound like a viable option, but Raj has an inspiration: Michaela. Leonard is adamantly against it...until Howard Twitters that he is about to open a \$20 jar of peanuts and end it all.

Sheldon and Penny attempt small talk at her apartment...and fail. (Actually, it was even worse than I just described it.)

Leonard and Raj track down Michaela. Since they want this to be a surprise for Howard, they ask her if she can make it seem like she's really interested in him and not really a prostitute.

MICHAELA: "Oh, you want the Girlfriend Experience."

RAJ: "If it's not too much to ask, could we have the Jewish Girlfriend Experience?"

Sheldon and Penny's night isn't getting better, certainly not with 20 Questions. Sheldon tries a different tact: "Are you and Leonard friends with benefits?" That quickly spices up the evening. Sheldon explains he's heard that phrase recently. What he can't understand is that it seems like a practical thing to have sex without getting emotionally attached, yet Howard ended up crying like a little girl.

PENNY: "Well, some people can't handle that kind of relationship."

SHELDON: "Can you?"

PENNY: "Excuse me??"

SHELDON: "Are you able to have sex with men without developing an emotional attachment?"

Penny is clearly uncomfortable with Sheldon's line of questioning, but he protests that he can't tell if she's uncomfortable with the question, as he is bad with reading facial expressions, body lan..."

"I'M UNCOMFORTABLE, SHEDON!!!!!" (Thank you.)

Howard is convinced to come downstairs, but he is wholly unimpressed with the selection of shrimp. Cue Michaela...

"Boy, would it kill them to put out a nice brisket?" Hook, line, and sinker! ("I'm Howard Wolowitz." "Hi, I'm Esther Rosenblatt.")

Penny gives Sheldon some blankets and a pillow for sleeping on the couch, but he's in full-protest mode already, saying he can't sleep on the couch and will NOT be reenacting E.M. Snickering's beloved children's book "The Tall Man for Cornwall." At wit's end, Penny will give him her bed if he "shuts his hole" for the next 8 hours.

Meanwhile, Howard is learning Michaela's...I mean, Esther's...turn-on's, which include reading in front of a fire, long walks on the beach, and getting freaky on the Sabbath with a bacon cheeseburger. However, her "Oy gevalt, you're hot" was probably a bit over the top, as he goes to conference with Leonard and Raj. It's pretty obvious she's a hooker, and he's not happy they set him up. But, since they already gave her the money...THANK YOU!

Sheldon still can't sleep, which of course means Penny won't be sleeping. He asks her to sing "Soft Kitty" for him. She protests it is for when he's sick, but he considers being homesick a type of being sick. Since it's that or they stay up and talk...

"Soft kitty, warm kitty, little ball of fur. Happy kitty...um..."

"Sleepy kitty. Start over."

"Soft kitty, warm kitty, little ball of fur. Happy kitty, sleepy kitty, purr, purr, purr."

But a tender moment: "Penny, thank you for letting me sleep over."

"Awww, you're welcome sweetie."

3 . . 2 . . 1

"I'm sleepy now, you can get out."

Leonard returns home, and Sheldon is more than happy to tell him that, thanks to Penny, he now has a much better understanding of "friends with benefits." Vegas, baby, Vegas.

The Classified Materials Turbulence

Season 2

Episode Number: 39

Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Monday May 4, 2009
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I), Bill Prady, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: Kevin Sussman (Stuart)
Guest Stars: Robert Clotworthy (Astronaut), Travis Davis (Ground Controller)
Production Code: 3T7373
Summary: Leonard is torn between being honest or self-serving when Stuart asks his advice for an upcoming second date with Penny. Wolowitz realizes there's a crucial error in a toilet he designed for the International Space Station.



Of all the people in the world Sheldon could emulate, you wouldn't have Col. Kilgore from "Apocalypse Now" at the top of the list. Or at the bottom. Or anywhere in it. But Sheldon does love the smell of new comic books in the morning. Even better, the comics are on Howard today. He is proud to announce his zero-gravity waste distribution system is being deployed in the International Space Station. Yup, he created a space toilet.

LEONARD: "Thanks to your hard work, an international crew of astronauts will be able to boldly go where no man has gone before." You know it's a good

one when even Sheldon appreciates it, even though Howard is offended.

RAJ: "You're right. It's a very important scientific breakthrough for two reasons. Number one....and number two!" (Sheldon likes that one, too.)

Stuart, the bookstore owner has the latest Hellboy comic for him at the ready, telling Sheldon it is "mind-blowing." Sheldon is mad as hell at the spoiler Stuart gave. (Yeah, I missed it, too.) Sheldon must now read the comic with a pre-blown mind, which cannot be unblown. (It's TV-PG folks, don't go there.) Thankfully, Stuart turns the conversation to Leonard and Stuart's first date with Penny. He didn't feel it went well (thanks to Sheldon mainly), and Leonard is hopeful that Stuart will just pick himself up, dust himself off, and move on. The problem with that is Penny and Stuart have another date. Thankfully, Sheldon is there to have Leonard's back by ruining the new Flash comic for Stuart, saying it'll knock his socks off. ("Good luck getting them back on.") Back to sanity and the date, Stuart asks Leonard advice about how the second date might go. Leonard feigns interest and promises Stuart that he'll call him back with an answer. (Yeah, right.) But of course, Raj and Howard are supportive of Leonard's subterfuge.

HOWARD: "If you want to make sure he gets nowhere with Penny without jeopardizing your friendship with either of them, just tell him to do everything you've done with her for the last two years!"

It's funny how Raj will later bring up the subject of karma when referring to Leonard's actions, as it seems karma is ready to catch up right now. On the way up from getting the mail, Penny

asks Leonard if he was cool with her going on a second date with Stuart. He says it's all in the past, and he's a "right-now" guy. But his job does require him to think about the future, while his interests have to do with things in the past...never mind. Penny asks for some advice on Stuart, as he is extremely shy. Leonard tells Penny to let there be a little bit of awkwardness, since Stuart thrives under pressure. ("That's why he works in a comic book store!")

LESSONS IN DRIVING SHELDON NUTS - NUMBER 810 - When someone calls, don't answer your phone. Sheldon can't believe Leonard won't pick up his call from Stuart at the university's cafeteria. Assuming Stuart is calling to talk about Penny is where Sheldon thinks Leonard is going wrong. ("Perhaps the comic book store is on fire.") Of course, even after it goes to voicemail, Sheldon just can't let it go. "You have to check you messages, Leonard! The leaving of the message is one half of the social contract, which is completed by the checking of the message! If that contract breaks down, then all social contracts break down and we have anarchy!"

LEONARD: "It must be hell inside your head."

The good news is, Howard is there to break up the conversation with an issue of his own. The bad news is, the waste disposal system on the Space Station will stop functioning after 10 flushes. Since you can't really light a match up there for the next six months, he has to fix the problem quickly. He asks the guys for help, who will be glad to help after they stop laughing hysterically.

Howard brings the waste disposal system to the guys' apartment with all of the onboard materials the astronauts can use to fix it. They have to prevent the waste from hitting the spinning turbines. Yes, that's right...if they don't fix this the ****'s gonna hit the fan. Sheldon can't believe toilet humor just gets funnier. But before Howard has to tolerate any more crap, Leonard has to get off the pot (good God, it's spreading) and talk to Stuart, who has tracked him down before his date with Penny. Stuart REALLY needs some advice to make the date go well.

"Off the top of my head, I'd say the most important thing to do with Penny is to go slow. Like glacial. You know, guys hit on Penny all the time, so you need to set yourself apart. Be a little shy, don't make too much eye contact, treat her with cool detachment...and fear. Like if you touch her, she'll break."

STUART: "Wow, that's like my wheelhouse!"

The guys are half-repulsed and half-impressed by Leonard's sneaky plot. He contends he did not give bad advice, just didn't give helpful advice.

SHELDON: "For what it's worth, my mother says when we deceive for personal gain, we make Jesus cry."

The guys are trying to pull an all-nighter on fixing the space toilet. Unfortunately, between Leonard lamenting the mistake he made and Sheldon's solution not being suitable enough for the Russian astronauts and their potato-based diet, the guys are stuck. Leonard's deception will come back to bite him, according to Raj. In fact, karma is quite Newtonian in nature. For every action, there's an equal and opposite reaction. Leonard messed up the date between Stuart and Penny, he comes back in the next life as a banana slug.

Leonard decides to go to Penny's and come clean. He engages Penny in conversation and tries to ask her about the date. She is quite insistent that she doesn't want to talk about it. He presses, and that seems to get her very upset, saying what happened between her and Stuart is none of his business. Fortunately, Raj has some advice...

"If you really want to clean up your karma, go get my frickin' latte."

The guys continue trying to fix the space toilet, minus Leonard. He is permitted to go to the comic book store before Howard has enough of his whining and kicks him in the ovaries. Fortunately, Howard finds the missing piece of the puzzle (and it's not the separator from the pizza box), and they're ready to try it out. Howard has brought some of his mother's meatloaf to simulate the toilet, as it has been testing commodes for ages. (and boy do I wish I wasn't eating dinner right now). He puts in the meatloaf, hits the switch and the meatloaf rockets out, sticking to the ceiling. (At least it didn't hit the fan!) Perhaps breadcrumbs are the problem.

Leonard arrives at the comic book store and goes into apology mode about the advice he gave. It turns out the advice was dead-on. Stuart took it slow, acted distant, and it seemed to work. For him, that is. Two bottles of wine later and Penny is up to the 'ol 5 again on her personality profile. It was going great, then...

STUART: "Everything was good and really hot I said 'Oh, Penny.', and right where she was supposed to say 'Oh, Stuart.', she said...your name."

Leonard can't believe it (for more reasons than one, obviously), but Stuart takes it in stride: she could have said, "You know I'm a dude, right?"

Howard has fixed the problem, but they'll keep it under wraps (or the lid, as it were). Leonard tries to contain his joy about Penny saying Leonard. ("You did say Leonard, didn't you?") Unfortunately, given that the entire crew of the International Space Station wants to take a space walk, whether Houston approves or not, maybe Howard's solution needs more work.

The Monopolar Expedition

Season 2

Episode Number: 40

Season Episode: 23

Originally aired: Monday May 11, 2009
Writer: Eric Kaplan (I), Richard Rosenstock
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali), Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3T7372
Summary: The guys' prestigious offer to work over the summer at the North Pole—and Penny's resultant behavior—leaves Leonard unsure if he should go.



Wow, how can Leonard get something so elementary wrong in his formulas? However, the apartment agreement CLEARLY forbids Sheldon from criticizing Leonard, so Leonard is forced to find his error and correct it. Sheldon observes, "You actually had it right in the first place. Once again, you've fallen for one of my classic pranks. BAZINGA!" Sheldon becomes concerned when the president of the university emails him and tells him to meet at 8AM tomorrow. That's going to put 8AM breakfast (and the 8:20 bowel movement) in a bit of a quandary. As the president didn't say what the meeting was

about in the email, Sheldon has 14 hours (840 minutes!) to contemplate what the president wants. He has this annoying thing over his head now, but at least Leonard knows what he means by having annoying things buzzing about his head.

Give Sheldon credit for waiting 8 hours before disturbing Leonard's sleep with the standard "3 knock-Leonard-repeat" cadence, although the same can't be said for the president of the university, his wife, and their sullen teenage daughter. Sheldon apparently went there when the president didn't reply back and his phone number was unlisted. (Gee, can't imagine why.) However, a theory arises: Sheldon had sent a grant to the National Science Foundation to study slow-moving monopoles at the magnetic North Pole? (which seems to have moved a couple of times this decade for some reason). The NSF's expedition suddenly got an opening or two, so Sheldon thinks that's why the president was emailing him. This is enough to get Leonard out of the bathroom.

LEONARD: "Wait a minute. He offered to send you to the North Pole?"

SHELDON: "In fact, he was quite enthusiastic. He said 'quite frankly, if I could send you tonight, I would'."

It's possible for Sheldon confirm his ideas of String Theory if all goes well, but there is one problem: it's too cold up there. Heck, he has to leave the theatre if his Icee gives him brain freeze. But he can't pass up such a phenomenal opportunity...

LEONARD: "Sheldon, what words are there that I can say right now so I can end this conversation and go back to sleep?!?!?"

SHELDON: "Odd, President Seibert posed the exact same question." Pity that Leonard doesn't have any dogs to set on Sheldon.

The next day, Leonard, Raj, and Wolowitz contemplate the possibility of 3 months without Sheldon. They could go outside, sit on the left side of the couch, go to the bathroom at 8:20. (Even they realize they have small goals.) Sheldon gives them the news that he has tentatively accepted (YEAH!!!!!!!!!!!!) the invitation to attend the Arctic Expedition. Sheldon proposes the three of them join him as support staff. The boys discuss it. It's certainly hard to tell the National Science Foundation "no," but maybe they could say they don't want to spend three months with an "anal nut bag," as Howard puts it. But it is a phenomenal opportunity that could get them on magazines, and Raj figures that putting up with Sheldon for 3 months in a subzero cabin will result in a karmic payback of a "well-hung billionaire with wings" in the next life. They tell Sheldon they're in. Of course, since Sheldon is the team leader, he expects everyone to call him "sir," but there will be a briefing on that later. Maybe Howard can still get on a magazine as the guy who killed Sheldon with a crossbow. (This sounds remarkably like a shotgun for some reason.)

Here's the good news: the way to counter the "3 knock - Penny - repeat" cadence is to "3 knock - Sheldon - repeat" in reply. 5 rounds of knocking and 4 Tylenol later, Sheldon requests access to the Cheesecake Factory freezer ("Honey, I already told you the hamburger meat is fresh and stored at a safe temperature."), so they may practice acclimating themselves to the cold for their expedition to the North Pole. Needless to say, Penny is shocked and promptly goes to Leonard. She questions when Leonard was going to tell her, but Leonard tells her the guys were too busy getting physicals, buying thermal underwear, and studying snow. Penny blows it off, trying to act nonchalant about it. But she does agree to let them stay in the freezer. After she leaves, Leonard wonders if Penny was upset about them leaving. Sheldon correctly guesses that she didn't look upset, and Leonard was a little upset.

LEONARD: "I know she's not my girlfriend or anything, but don't you think she'd feel a little bad that I'd be gone for the whole summer?"

SHELDON: "That sounds like a bonus question. I'm going to stop here and say I've had a great time."

The big test for the guys: survival in the Cheesecake Factory freezer. The guys must practice using tools in the extreme cold. Without the actual equipment, Sheldon has to improvise. Leonard must do complex calculations using an old calculator, while Raj paints sideburns and a Van Dyke beard (a goatee with no mustache) on a six-inch replica of Legolas the Elf, and Howard must do a series of delicate surgical features...using an Operation board. (start with the Funny Bone for \$200) Raj chokes on the paint, Leonard tries to operate the calculator without gloves and instantly gets frosbite, and you can guess what happened with Howard. Of course, assembling the equipment while still in the warm cabin then taking it outside never really occurred to Sheldon. ("I guess we're done here.")

As Wolowitz and Leonard enjoy a hot chocolate with a stick of butter (a stick of "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" for the lactose-intolerant Leonard), Raj is in a videoconference argument with his parents about going on the trip. They don't want him to go, but Howard tries to convince them it is safe to go and that his mother agreed to it. In fact, Howard will put his mother on with Raj's parents to discuss going to the Arctic. ("ARCTIC??? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ARKANSAS!!!") Leonard is more than thrilled that Penny wants to see him in the hall so he can get away from the arguing and guilt. Penny bought him a blanket...with sleeves (yeah, that thing in the infomercials). It allows him to be all snoodled up while doing his "science stuff." Penny gives him a hug. He hugs back. He stops hugging her. She DOESN'T stop hugging him. He starts hugging her again. They finally break up. Penny returns to her apartment, leaving Leonard very confused (and snoodled) in the hall. He returns to find Mrs. Wolowitz being shocked at the fact that, in the whole of India, there's not a single Outback Steakhouse. Hope she never goes to Sydney; she'll be REALLY disappointed.

Late at night, Leonard wakes Sheldon. No, you read that right, although Sheldon's mad because Mee Maw was about to give him a cookie. Leonard doesn't think he can go to the North Pole. Although Leonard shouldn't worry because Sheldon's expectations for Leonard are low, he thinks that Penny might miss him and he shouldn't go in case she move on to someone else in the interim. "She does have a short attention span," Sheldon concedes. But Sheldon agrees he can't go, because Penny would seem to want to have an intimate and carnal relationship with

Leonard.

LEONARD: "You really think so?"

SHELDON: "Of course not. Even in my sleep-deprived state, I managed to pull off one of my classic pranks. BAZINGA!"

Leonard has to wake Penny before he leaves to talk to her. He asks about the "you'll miss me," the blanket with sleeves, and the long hug. It means she'll miss him, wine, a credit card and late-night TV is a bad combo, and it was just a hug. There was no meaning behind it. Leonard is clearly disappointed, but at least things are cleared up. He bids her goodbye.

PENNY: "Have a safe trip. Goodbye. (closing the door) It means I wish you weren't going."

At the North Pole, things are already bleak: they ran out of ice. But on the good side, they should realize they're on the top of the world, a place so few people in human history will ever see. They celebrate with reconstituted Thai food, including dehydrated low sodium soy sauce, freeze-dried spicy mustard, and flash-frozen brown rice. Plus a viewing of John Carpenter's "The Thing". Everything will be fine...when Howard gets out of Sheldon's spot.

HOWARD: "There's no time for a crossbow. Get me an icicle."

Season Three

The Electric Can Opener Fluctuation

Season 3
Episode Number: 41
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Monday September 21, 2009
Writer: Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper)
Production Code: 3X5551
Summary: Discovering that Leonard, Raj, and Howard fudged the results of his Arctic research expedition, a disgraced Sheldon heads home to Texas.



The boys are finally back from the Arctic Circle. Although one wonders if Sheldon had spent more time with the razor and scissors, as he bears more of a resemblance to the evil Mr. Spock (or perhaps Howie Mandel with hair) than the Geico Insurance cavemen look the other three were sporting. Naturally, Sheldon thought the expedition went wonderfully. Perhaps it was because his mom's church group prayed for his safety. (Well, she thinks it worked and told Sheldon that.) To be fair, Leonard found the return home pretty good. Of course, having Penny practically jump him, kiss him

passionately, and drag him into her apartment might have had something to do with it.

HOWARD: Dammit. I should have gone over and told her we were back.

RAJ: (sarcastically) Yeah. It was "first come, first serve."

To say Sheldon was pleased with the results of his experiments would be an understatement. Although he appreciated the contributions of Howard and Raj, he can't mention them in his Nobel acceptance speech. However, they will get an effusive footnote (and a signed copy!) of his memoirs. This would probably be a good time to tell Sheldon the truth, since Sheldon's Vulcan hearing can pick up whispers from another room. Sheldon thinks they want to talk about having to sleep together naked to conserve body heat the one night the power went out. What Sheldon thought were magnetic monopoles he discovered to prove String Theory correct were actually caused by operating the electric can opener and causing static. The reason they did that is because Sheldon wasn't finding any at first and he started acting like an obnoxious giant dictator.

RAJ: I thought we were going to be gentle with him.

HOWARD: That's why I added the "-tator".

It helped the guys from not wanting to kill Sheldon because it made him colon-Capital D. (in the world of emoticons) Finding this out made Sheldon become colon-Captial O. He feels betrayed, especially by Leonard.

Sheldon demands to see Leonard, who would prefer not interrupting his makeout session with Penny. (BTW Kaley, whatever you were doing during hiatus, keep doing that.) Since Leonard refuses to answer to Sheldon's knock, Sheldon decides to demand to talk to Penny.

SHELDON: I realize you're currently at the mercy of your primitive biological urges, but as you have a lifetime of poor decisions ahead of you, may I interrupt this one?

Sheldon tells how the three fed him false data in his experiments. Penny wants to know why. Leonard says it was to keep him happy and prevent them from throwing Sheldon's Kindle outside and then locking him out when he went to get it.

SHELDON: That seems like a bit of an overreaction!

LEONARD: No. An overreaction would be to tie your limbs to 4 different sled dog teams and yell "mush!"

The original data was still available, but Sheldon already sent an email claiming he solved String Theory. Sending a retraction email would humiliate Sheldon in front of the whole university. Penny takes Sheldon's side in this and goes to talk to him. She tries her best, even singing Soft Kitty, which only works when he is sick. He's inconsolable, since not only was the three months at the North Pole for nothing, he missed Comic Con. Penny tries, though. She tells him a story about being told a rumor she would be head cheerleader in high school before they named Valerie Mossbacher head cheerleader (the big ol' slutbag!). She was devastated. Her mom even made her a celebratory pie.

SHELDON: Are you saying a celebration pie is even comparable to a Nobel prize?

PENNY: Well, they're pretty tasty.

SHELDON: And on a different but not unrelated topic, based on your efforts to buoy my spirits, do you think you were ever fit to be a cheer-LEADER?

OK, one more try. Penny tries to compare what the guys did to the new Star Trek movie when Kirk took over the ship and told Spock all those things that weren't true, like not caring his mother died.

SHELDON: I missed Comic Con AND the new Star Trek movie!!! (he's bawling like a 3-year-old)

At the university, the guys have shaved, except for Howard's mustache. (the "Clooney" or the "Mario and Luigi", depending on your opinion) Leonard is spared having to give too many details about whether he and Penny had sex as Sheldon comes in and refuses to sit with them...and unsuccessfully tries to choke Leonard by using The Force. They try to apologize again, but he's not having it. Having Kripke come in and telling Sheldon he "destroyed his weputation" with the retwaction email didn't help. Sheldon tries to defend himself to the cafeteria by invoking the "biggest blunder" Einstein admitted to, but since that blunder was later proven correct, that makes Sheldon a big "woser."

Leonard returns to Penny to give her the gift he wanted before getting interrupted: a preserved snowflake from the North Pole. He begins to explain how he preserved it, but this apparently is the most effective way to get Penny to kiss him. He is again interrupted by Howard and Raj, who report that Sheldon has resigned from the university and went back to Texas, based on the phone call Leonard receives from Sheldon's mother. Her powers of persuasion are not limited to working on Sheldon, as the three of them are on a plane to Texas to bring him back. (Penny promises to still be there when they get back.)

LEONARD: I don't want to go to Texas!

HOWARD: And I do? My people already crossed the desert once. We're done!

At home, Sheldon is getting used to doing things the way he used to, which includes prayer before every meal. But his mom was nice enough to cut a smiley face into his grilled cheese, so a little "God's neat, let's eat" never hurt anybody. She recalls that they had sat together like this when he was a kid, when the neighborhood kids would hate him. Sheldon thinks they were too stupid to know they hated him because of his intelligence, but actually they did know that.

Leonard, Howard, and Raj make it down there. Raj is disappointed he won't get to see a cattle drive, but at least they have steaks on sale at the Costco. It turns out Raj can't talk to Sheldon's mother, either. However, a woman at her church might be able to do a healing thing she does with the crutch and wheelchair crowd, and she might be willing to take a shot at "whatever Third World demon is rolling around" in him. Leonard wants to get back to L.A. quickly. ("A girl? I've been praying for you.") She calls Sheldon out, but Sheldon refuses their apology, as he is convinced he is now destined to teach Evolution to a bunch of Creationists.

MRS. COOPER: You watch your mouth, Shelly. Everyone's entitled to their opinion.

SHELDON: Evolution is not opinion, it's fact.

MRS. COOPER: And that is YOUR opinion!

(pause)

SHELDON: I forgive you. Let's go home!

MRS. COOPER: Don't tell me prayer doesn't work!

Finally returning to L.A. Leonard can get back to Penny, and they FINALLY have sex! Leonard doesn't see why it has to be weird for friends to have sex. They were friends, and now they're more than friends. It is what it is.

PENNY: Leonard? It's weird.

LEONARD: Totally.

The Jiminy Conjecture

Season 3
Episode Number: 42
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Monday September 28, 2009
Writer: Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Lewis Black (Professor Crawley)
Production Code: 3X5552
Summary: Sheldon and Howard wager comic books over a cricket's species. Meanwhile, a less-than-perfect romantic night agonizes Leonard and Penny.



At the comic book store, Leonard interrupts the banal ripostes between Howard and Sheldon regarding whether Wolverine had bone claws. The guys are surprised to see him, even though it was New Comic Book Night, since he is now sleeping with Penny. (Or "Bouncy Naked Yum-Yum Night," according to Raj.) Leonard doesn't think they have to have sex every night, but Howard insists it is highly recommended. Sheldon speculates that Leonard may be trying to cover for some sort of sexual dysfunction ("Leonard got a floppy disk!"), but it isn't that, either. He doesn't want to try and describe it, but he

and Penny were both a little... ("Disappointed? Let down? Ashamed? Horrified? Repulsed?") None of those, apparently. Leonard just thinks it wasn't the way he dreamed it would be.

HOWARD: Hell, sex is never the way I dreamed.

RAJ: That's because in your dreams, you're a horse from the waist down.

The gang is gathered for dinner from Mumbai Palace, which goes against Sheldon's tradition of Tandoori Palace. Howard and Raj start giving some shots across the bow about how Leonard's night went, and Penny is confused. Leonard is ready to brush it off, but Sheldon doesn't seem to get the concept of not revealing sexual details to the other party involved. He spills every last thing Leonard said at the comic book store. Penny is aghast, and Leonard is about to commit the even-bigger mistake of trying to apologize right away. Howard thinks it will be fun if Sheldon tries to figure out on his own where he just committed an unforgivable sin. (Uhh, we'll come back to that.)

Penny is embarrassed about the guys knowing how things went with Leonard, but she had to admit that things were merely "OK" in her book as well. She realizes it takes time for some couples to really know what their partner wants, although she hasn't had that problem herself. Leonard could really use a glass of wine right now.

Much, much later, Sheldon figures out that he shouldn't have discussed Leonard and Penny's sex life in front of Leonard and Penny. ("Now I can eat.") However, Sheldon, Howard, and Raj hear a cricket in the room. To be specific, a snowy tree cricket, based on the number of chirps per minute and the ambient temperature in the room, according to Sheldon. Howard wants to know how he figured that out. Oops...

SHELDON: In 1890, Emile Dolbear determined that there was a fixed relationship between the number of chirps per minute of the snowy tree cricket and the ambient temperature; a precise relationship that is not present with ordinary field crickets.

RAJ: And how do you know what the ambient room temperature is?

SHELDON: According to our agreement, I have control over the thermostat since the sweaty night in '06.

Howard spent his childhood with many an insect, capturing them, putting them in jars, labeling them by genus and species using Dymo labels, and he is not convinced they heard a snowy field cricket. He is willing to wager his Fantastic Four comic #48, with the first appearance of the Silver Surfer against Sheldon's Flash #123 comic. The bet is on, but how do they determine the species of the cricket? Time to do a little hunting in the apartment.

RAJ: I wonder what the non-pathetic people are doing tonight. (Judging by the alternating of wine and kissing by Leonard and Penny, mostly the same thing.)

The boys head into the hall, where a rumbling growl scares them. (RAJ: That was me. Indian food doesn't agree with me. Ironic, isn't it?) They break open the broken elevator (another irony I guess) and Sheldon descends into it to find the cricket. However, Howard and Raj trace the cricket down the stairs, leaving Sheldon in the elevator, and in the dark.

Still that was better than Leonard and Penny's night. Once the wine was gone, they switched to Peppermint Schnapps to get in the mood, mainly because Penny likes Peppermint and Schnapps is a funny word. You can pretty much guess what happens next. Both are having a peristaltic chain reaction, to quote Messrs. Campbell and Algar.

At the university, Howard and Sheldon are still fighting over what kind of cricket they had. They ask Raj to referee, but he has lost interest. Then they ask Leonard, but he has lost the will to live. They thankfully settle it by asking Professor Crawley in the Entomology Department for the definitive answer. Leonard is just glad they left.

In the Entomology lab, it is more than a little creepy, and Howard manages to get Raj to scream like a little girl. It turns out bugs freak him out.

SHELDON: You're afraid of insects and women. Ladybugs must render you catatonic. It was a joke. I made it to lessen your discomfort. You're welcome.

Professor Crawley comes in, and it would seem he is none too happy about his lot in life, since he thinks Sheldon is there to take his office. Dr. Crawley just got his funding cut, and he has nowhere to go after 20 years and a doctorate nobody seems to give him respect for. Of course, Sheldon is oblivious to the soon-to-be-canned professor; he wants the cricket identified. The professor is more worried about having to move in with his daughter in Oxnard. (in the onion fields!) However, Crawley confirms it's a simple field cricket, and Howard wins the bet. Crawley (who was named Creepy Crawley by the other kids, natch) has a dung beetle in the lab named after him that he discovered in the Bornean rain forests. It would have been a greater discovery if his wife hadn't been "shacking up with a two-bit orinthologist" at the time.

CRAWLEY: And when I tell you that that's a common field cricket, you can take that to the damn bank. Cause God knows I can't That tramp took me for everything!

SHELDON: Well, apparently I was wrong. Congratulations.

As Sheldon laments having to get his Flash comic from his safe deposit box, Penny tries to empathize that she's having problems with Leonard, and he's having problems with Wolowitz. To no avail. Until Sheldon points out that the two aren't in the same boat, since Penny can always go back to being friends with Leonard. She considers that.

Sheldon enters the apartment relaying the fact that he and Penny talked about Leonard's sexual problems and that Sheldon has to give up his prized Flash comic.

LEONARD: Wait a minute. You talked to Penny about our sex life?

SHELDON: Leonard, it astonishes me that you continually fixate on the trivial. I LOST a bet to Wolowitz!

Leonard is now mad that Sheldon has "crossed that line" once again and goes to see Penny. He wants to know what Sheldon said. She talks about Sheldon saying they could go back to being friends. He asks if that's what she wants. She thinks it's better because there's less pressure, and he agrees. The pressure is off now. And they go have sex.

The Gothowitz Deviation

Season 3

Episode Number: 43

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday October 5, 2009
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Richard Rosenstock, Bill Prady, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Molly Morgan (Bethany), Sarah Buehler (Sarah), Andy Mackenzie (Skeeter)
Production Code: 3X5553
Summary: Howard takes Raj along to check out the Goth dating scene. Sheldon uses chocolate as part of a behavior modification experiment on Penny.



Most men would find it quite the turn-of to see a beautiful woman wearing only a shirt dancing to Shania Twain and making French Toast in their kitchen. Since today is oatmeal day, Sheldon is not one of those men. Penny thinks she can shake things up in their apartment. However, though Sheldon does believe in there being an infinite number of universes and thus an infinite number of Sheldons, none of them dance. ("Are you fun in any of them?") Leonard apologizes for not giving Penny Sheldon's schedule, in spite of the fact it's an iCal download she can put in her phone. Sheldon wants

to know why they're having their "conjugal visits" in their apartment. It was because they broke the bed in Penny's apartment, which of course goes right past Sheldon's head. He thinks the bed is more than sturdy enough to handle both her and a homunculus like Leonard, which is a perfectly formed miniature human being.

PENNY: Awww, you're my little homunculus! So, who wants syrup and who wants cinnamon sugar?

SHELDON: I want oatmeal.

PENNY: Well, I want a boyfriend who's roommate isn't a giant pain in the ass.

SHELDON: I'm sure that will happen soon enough. But I still want oatmeal.

Penny gives up on him because Sheldon is impossible. ("I'm improbable!")

Sheldon is really trying to fit in with the new Leonard/Penny dynamic. Well, not really, but he'll be more than happy to calculate the odds of the night manager at the Cheesecake Factory and his wife being replaced by people with opposite names. Or perhaps not. As Penny gets up to take her plate to the sink, she asks Sheldon if he is done and cheerfully takes his plate to the sink as well. He offers her a chocolate for doing so. Leonard is wondering what is going on. Sheldon is taking Leonard's advice to be nicer to Penny. However, Leonard is suspicious of Sheldon being nice because...he isn't. This is the time for Lenny and Squiggy to enter...sorry, I mean Howard and Raj. Howard has taken to looking like Dr. Frank-N-Furter, if only his mother would lend him some garters and pantyhose. Howard is apparently rocking the Goth look, as is Raj by his red jacket and Polo shirt. However, you can't knock the tattoos on the arms. Or the

tattoo sleeves they found online. He's heading out to have some sex with a hot chick with her "business" pierced, then he can take the sleeves off and still be buried in a Jewish cemetery. Actually, Sheldon would love to go with him. (Bazinga!) They invite Penny and Leonard, but she is more than happy to turn them down on both of their behalf.

HOWARD: Yes, she's pushy and he's whipped, but that's not the expression.

As Howard and Raj leave to get more eyeliner at Walgreen's, Penny apologizes for almost sitting in Sheldon's spot. At which point he offers her another chocolate, which she graciously accepts.

Howard and Raj are trying to blend in, if a vodka and cranberry juice and light beer could be considered blending in. Raj will get to Howard's Wiki-How link on being Goth, after he's done with his John Grisham kick. However, the light beer is the drink of the two ladies next to them, who are actually fooled by Howard's tat-sleeves. Bethany and Sarah Not That Anybody Cares are happy to talk to them.

RAJ: Do either of you ladies enjoy the novels of John Grisham?

Back at the apartment, "Oshikuru: Demon Samurai" is the cartoon of choice. ("It's anime.") Penny starts to relate a story about Anna Mae Fletcher from her school, but she thinks she might be talking too much and quiets down. This elicits another piece of chocolate from Sheldon. As does taking her phone call out in the hallway. Leonard has had enough.

LEONARD: You're using chocolate as a positive reinforcement for what you consider correct behavior.

SHELDON: Very good. Chocolate?

Leonard is upset that Sheldon is training his girlfriend like a lab rat. But the techniques of Thorndike and B.F. Skinner has Sheldon convinced by next week he can have Penny jumping out of a pool through a hoop and balancing a beach ball on her nose. Leonard doesn't want him to do it. Sheldon is forbidden from using a harmless scientifically proven protocol that would make their lives better.

"BAD LEONARD!" And Leonard gets the spray bottle.

(Ironic they had a commercial for Ghiradelli Chocolates, wouldn't you say?)

At the club, Howard and Raj are trying to make themselves sound like they're into all things Goth, like music, magazines, and food.

"What's Goth Food?" asks Sarah Not That Anybody Cares

RAJ: Blackened Salmon?

It turns out that the truth would have worked, since both deal with the blackness of space in their jobs. It certainly beat their jobs at The Gap. Bethany and Sarah Not That Anybody Cares have a nice place to take Howard and Raj: the tattoo parlor.

Penny is still on the phone, and even Leonard is wondering why she's on so long with someone at the Cheesecake Factory. Sheldon still wants to do positive reinforcement. Or negative reinforcement, which will be much faster. Just a few mild, electric shocks. Leonard is happy with Penny's habits, both good and bad. Except for that high-pitched laugh, which Sheldon reacts to with a lower-pitched conversation, which Penny's voice actually matches. A few more chocolates, and Penny is Barry White.

Howard is going to go through with the tattoo. Fortunately, it will be on his butt, so his mother won't see it anymore when he takes his temperature. In spite of Bethany's promise to make it all worthwhile, the needle is too much, and he folds. He admits to the tattoo sleeves, and the ladies depart.

Sheldon is heading for bed, but does request Leonard and Penny's "amorous activities" are kept to an acceptable decibel level. She agrees and gets a long-distance chocolate. Penny wants Leonard to assemble her new bed, which he refuses. However, they wouldn't have to stay quiet. That's all it takes, and Sheldon wonders if anybody realizes sex works even better than chocolate in modifying behavior. Hmmm....

Howard and Raj head home, attempting to make their story sound better. Maybe Bethany and Sarah Not That Anybody Cares could have had two friends. As long as they smelled good, Raj could get with it. On the bright side, maybe the country bar will work out better tomorrow night.

The Pirate Solution

Season 3

Episode Number: 44

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Monday October 12, 2009
Writer: Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Elizabeth Bogush (Dr. Catherine Millstone), Oliver Muirhead (Professor Laughlin), Elena Campbell-Martinez (Cleaning Lady)
Production Code: 3X5554
Summary: Facing a return to India, Raj needs a job desperately enough to consider working for Sheldon. Meanwhile, Howard becomes a third wheel to Leonard and Penny.



I admit being on Sheldon's side this time. Gremlins is a baffling movie, since they tell you the rules right up front about not getting them wet or feeding them after midnight. Then again, it's a creature voiced by Howie Mandel in a movie where Phoebe Cates keeps her clothes on, so it's really not worth getting in a tizzy over it. The boys are celebrating Columbus day by watching movies written by, you guessed it, Chris Columbus. Penny has upgraded Leonard to "honey," leaving "sweetie" for others as part of a thinly

veiled attempt to soften an insult, according to Sheldon.

PENNY: You're boring people, sweetie.

SHELDON: Although sometimes she omits the veil entirely.

Penny is going to have Thanksgiving at her place, since her family will be busy with her brother's trial at that time. Although Leonard might like him, as he is sort of a chemist. Howard has to decline, as the relatives are coming over for tur-briska-fil. ("Turkey stuffed with a brisket, stuffed with gefilte fish. It's not as good as it sounds.") Raj usually goes to Howard's house, but the thought sends him out of the room crying. And not because of the tur-briska-fil. (He would run out screaming if it was.)

Raj comes back out to talk...once Penny leaves. It turns out that Raj was trying to prove the predicted composition of trans-Neptunian objects and failed. Without his research, he will be deported. The good news is, he discovered Netflix streams movies online now. Sheldon thinks he shouldn't go back to India: he can be a stateless pirate instead. Best of all, it's a predominantly-male vocation, so talking to women wouldn't be a major stumbling block.

At the University, Raj laments that he won't be able to get a hamburger in India, and he'll miss beefaroni most of all. This doesn't stop Sheldon from pointing out that Hindus treating cows like gods is a fallacy, but what else is new. Howard brings some good news. Dr. Laughlin wants someone to join his stellar research team. Raj gets an interview, and he does quite well with Dr. Laughlin. That is until he meets Dr. Millstone. She (yes, she) will be heading up the data analysis team, and Raj immediately changes his mind on the sherry Dr. Laughlin offered earlier. She is impressed by his paper on Kuiper Belt size object distribution, and he is able to explain it

once he has the first sherry. After the second sherry, he'll be happy to discuss it further in his hot tub. So much for the interview.

Raj is lamenting losing his job and getting insulted by his cousin Sanjay, also known as Dave from AT&T Customer Service. Sheldon has a solution. He was going to explore string theory from gamma ray dark matter annihilations, and Raj can work for him.

RAJ: You want me to work with you?

SHELDON: For me. You're going to have to listen more carefully when you're on the job.

RAJ: Please Don't take this the wrong way, but I would rather swim buck naked across the Ganges with a paper cut on my nipple and die a slow agonizing death from a viral infection than work with you.

SHELDON: FOR me.

At his office the next day, Raj decides that he can work with/for Sheldon under certain conditions, primarily that he be treated as an equal, get proper credit for all work, and never hear anything from Sheldon again about Hinduism or Indian culture. Sheldon is impressed by the well thought-out conditions. He rejects all of them. Raj still accepts the job. However, Sheldon demands that Raj interviews like everyone else. BAZINGA!

Penny and Leonard are at the apartment and they decide to get really kinky...by making out in Sheldon's spot. They are getting freaky the carnal corner when Howard pops in. It turns out that this is the night he and Raj normally go line dancing, but Raj is working late with Sheldon. Howard doesn't seem to be taking the hint and joins them to watch "Sex and the City." Sheldon and Raj must focus on their research at work. Focusing on research, you may be interested to know, even has a theme song: Eye of the Tiger by Survivor. (Oh, to have Mr. T come on the show as Clubber Lang and go a few rounds on Sheldon sometime, huh?)

Leonard and Penny emerge from the bedroom to find Howard already there. Once again, without Raj to help him scam on hippie chicks at the farmer's market, he has no place to go on a Sunday. This time, Leonard and Penny are less subtle with their hints, and Howard goes. He does remind them to eat the scrambled eggs while they're hot, and there are some lox and cream cheese in the refrigerator and the bagels are warming up in the oven. They feel guilty, so they invite him back. Leonard didn't have to yell very loud, since Howard was waiting right outside the door.

At the university, Sheldon and Raj were arguing about some numbers regarding dark matter in outer space. I'll skip the details and go to the part where Sheldon gets offended that Raj erases some of his data to prove his point. Sheldon starts erasing Raj's writing with his hand. Raj refuses to give him the eraser back, so Sheldon tries to lay down the law. Raj asks if he is so smart, can he do that trick where you wiggle your middle fingers outside of your flat palms, which of course Sheldon can't do. Raj has had enough and leaves. It turns out Raj's corrections were the right way to go and Sheldon goes to apologize, offering Raj his job back. Raj has conditions, which Sheldon rejects before Raj can offer them. He'll see Sheldon on Monday.

The Creepy Candy Coating Corollary

Season 3
Episode Number: 45
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Monday October 19, 2009
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Wil Wheaton (Himself), Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Production Code: 3X5556
Summary: Sheldon looks forward to squaring off against the the one actor from the Star Trek universe he holds enmity towards–Wil Wheaton–in a fantasy collectable card game tournament. Wolowitz cashes in on an old pact with Leonard to get Penny to set him up with a friend of hers.



People have been ragging on Leonard on the IMDB boards. But if his girlfriend joining the guys for "Mystical Warlords of Ka-ah" doesn't prove he's great in bed, nothing will. Of course, Penny really isn't getting the game, although she does know that practically everything beats Enchanted Bunny...unless it has the Carrot of Power. She is ready to throw a potion card when Sheldon, who isn't even playing, informs her that none of her potions will work, and the cards in the undrawn pile are 4 fire weapons, a troll, two ogres and the Jewel of Osiris, thus ending the game and Penny's eternal ap-

preciation. Apparently, Sheldon has a photographic memory, which is actually an eidetic memory, but who's splitting hairs. (Sheldon...all the time.) He even remembers what Leonard had for lunch on May 7th. (Turkey, and he complained it was dry.) But Penny has to go because the last time she didn't leave, she ended up playing Mystic Warlords of Ka. ("It's Ka-AH!")

Leonard still can't believe Penny is going out with him, nor can the other guys. This reminds Howard that he and Leonard made a pact that if either one dated a hot girlfriend, they would have her find a friend for the other. Leonard can't remember making the pact. ("June 30th, 2004. Opening Day of Spider-Man II, AMC Theatres, Pasadena. They only had red Icees that day, no blue.") Of course, Leonard only made that pact because he never thought he'd have a hot girlfriend, and he was positive Howard never would. Sadly, nature called for Raj, so he wasn't included in the pact.

At the university, Sheldon won't let Leonard participate in his 4-napkin system and Howard won't leave Leonard alone about having Penny find a date for him. Raj has some good news, though. (clearly not about his new sweater vest) There will be a "Mystic Warlords of Ka-ah" tournament at the comic book store, with \$500 going as first prize. Sheldon doesn't feel the need to demonstrate his prowess simply for winning some money. Raj argues half of the money would be his. ("Do you need the money to buy a less disturbing sweater vest?")

Apparently, Leonard's prowess in the bedroom is legitimate, although to be fair, he did Google the information he needed that made Penny declare that he really was a genius. He takes the

post-coital moment to discuss the pact he made with Howard that kind of involved her. ("OK, I don't know where you're going with this, but tread carefully because it may be the last conversation we have.") Leonard tells her about setting up Howard with one of her friends, and she is understandably resistant to the idea.

LEONARD: Come on, you know deep down inside Howard's a really good guy.

PENNY: The problem isn't what's on the inside. It's the creepy candy coating.

At the comic book store, Raj discovers that Wil Wheaton, as in Star Trek's Wil Wheaton, is signed up for the Mystic Warlords tournament. Apparently he lives nearby and is a big gamer. And Sheldon hears this. Somebody ready the USS Reliant, a blonde wig, and a rubberized breastplate for him. It would appear that Sheldon idolized Ensign Wesley Crusher on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" so much so in his youth, he rode 10 hours on a bus, twice violating his personal rule of relieving himself in a moving vehicle, to have Wil sign his mint, in-package, Wesley Crusher action figure at a convention in Jackson, Mississippi. However, Wil didn't show, and Sheldon has pledged eternal hatred for him ever since. Raj thinks he has a partner for the tournament.

SHELDON: He is 6th on my all-time enemies list between Joel Schumacher, who almost ruined the Batman franchise (you gotta give him that one after the Bat-nipples), and Billy Sparks, who lived down the street from me and put dog poop on the handles of my bicycle. In the words of Khan Noonian Singh from the immortal "Wrath of Khan," "He tasks me. He tasks me and I shall have him!"

RAJ: Sign here.

SHELDON: FROM HELL'S HEART, I STAB AT THEE!!!

STUART: OK, Raj, you're teamed up with "Die, Wil Wheaton, Die."

Leonard, Penny, and Howard head out for their double date. Penny told her friend that Howard was an aerospace engineer and spoke 5 languages (6 actually, but Klingon doesn't count) but didn't mention his low percentage of body fat because Penny thought that would be a nice surprise for her. But she did tell her friend about Howard's unhealthy attachment to his mother. Actually, she's kidding. ("Another delightful surprise for her.") But at least Howard isn't staring down Wil Wheaton in the comic book store and destroying the opponents in his path without any effort.

SHELDON: Wil Wheaton, my old friend. I've chased you 'round the moons of Nibia and 'round the Antares Maelstrom and 'round Perdition's Flames!

RAJ: Do you realize you keep quoting "Wrath of Khan" but he was in "Next Generation?" It's a completely different set of characters.

SHELDON: SILENCE!

Howard tries to make small talk in the car with Penny's friend, Bernadette. Well, he tries. Succeeds is a different story. His little joke about her grad school studies falls flat, but really, no guy can make Microbiology sound cute. She doesn't like science-fiction, role playing games (fantasy or bedroom), magic (put away the handkerchief, Howard), and she doesn't even like puppies, mainly because one bit her in the face.

Sheldon and Raj easily dispatch their semi-final opponents, and it's on to Wil Wheaton.

SHELDON: bortaS bachHa'DaHjaj gheD nIvqu'jab bIr!

WIL WHEATON: Did that guy just say "Revenge is a dish that is best served cold" in Klingon?

STUART: I'm afraid so.

WIL WHEATON: What is wrong with him?

STUART: Everyone has a theory.

At the restaurant, Howard continues trying to find common ground with Bernadette, while Leonard and Penny quietly lament how long the night is going to be. Howard's mother calls, and he quickly debates on whether or not to answer it. She is sympathetic, as her mother drives her nuts as well. Her mother calls her every day at work to ask if she had a healthy lunch, but Howard's mother beats that by calling Howard every day to ask if he had a healthy bowel movement. And the debate continues

BERNADETTE: Does she lay out your clothes for you in the morning like you were 9 years old?

HOWARD: (smitten) You live with your mother?

BERNADETTE: No! That's the sad part.

HOWARD: My mother made me wear rubber gloves to kindergarten so I wouldn't catch a disease from the other kids.

BERNADETTE: My mother wouldn't let me ride a bicycle because she thought I'd hit a bump and lose my virginity.

Apparently, Penny and Leonard are quite the matchmakers, and Howard and Bernadette have family dinners to attend. That is, if Bernadette will wear her Catholic cross to a Shabazz dinner to give his mom the big brain aneurysm he wants, and he has to come to Sunday dinner at her house wearing a yamakule.

Sure enough, Sheldon and Raj are doing to Wil Wheaton what Wil Wheaton did to the first season of "Star Trek: The Next Generation." (That was for the Wesley Crusher haters out there.) Sheldon decides to tell the story of Wil Wheaton blowing off the convention when he was a kid. However, Wil's grandmother had just died, and suddenly the tide turns. Wil apologizes completely to Sheldon for ruining his convention.

SHELDON: Your mee-maw died? If my mee-maw died, I'd be one inconsolable moonpie. I should clarify that statement and tell you she calls me moonpie.

Wil is going to play out the hand, knowing he'll lose, to make up for it. But Sheldon is overcome with guilt. Raj wants him to finish the game, but Sheldon tanks it on purpose and throws the Enchanted Bunny.

SHELDON: I can't defeat Wil Wheaton, who loves his mee-maw.

WIL WHEATON: I call my grandmother Nana, and she'll be happy to hear that my small rock kills your Enchanted Bunny.

Yup, Sheldon got Bazinga'ed.

WHEEEEEAAAAAATTTTTTOOOOOONNNNNNNN!!!!!!!

WHEEEEEAAAAAATTTTTTOOOOOONNNNNNNN!!!!!!!

The Cornhusker Vortex

Season 3
Episode Number: 46
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Monday November 2, 2009
Writer: Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, David Goetsch, Richard Rosenstock
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Jason Mesches (Denny), Zachary Burr Abel (Todd)
Production Code: 3X5555
Summary: Leonard, hoping to fit in with Penny's football-loving friends, gets tutored in the sport by Sheldon. Raj is infuriated when Wolowitz's skirt-chasing leads to the loss of his prized patang.



It's time to fly some kites. Well, fight some kites. Kites Ho! Of course, Sheldon has to point out that "ho" refers to the destination, not the activity. Speaking of which, Penny is about to engage in an activity of her own, besides bringing back those shorts with the piping along the leg that were popular in the 70's. Which she can totally rock, BTW. She is having some friends over to watch Nebraska play football. She didn't originally invite Leonard because she thought he would be bored because he didn't like football. Of course,

Leonard thinks it's because Penny is embarrassed to introduce him to her friends.

LEONARD: Well that sucks.

SHELDON: I'm sorry, I got bored and drifted off. Where exactly in the interaction did the sucking lie?

RAJ: Leonard just realized that Penny's been hiding him from her friends because he's a tiny little man who flies kites.

SHELDON: Oh that certainly would suck.

It turns out kite fighting is something of a bust, since Leonard is still too occupied with Penny not inviting him to watch football and Howard thinks a cute jogger smiled at him. Naturally, he has to pursue her (or commit a felony, as Raj says), and Raj loses his prize Patang kite fighting machine which his brother sent over from India. In the car on the way home, Howard laments he would have caught up to her if he hadn't pulled a hammy. ("You weigh 80 pounds, you don't even have a hammy.") Raj and Howard have an argument in the car that would book Leonard's mother for a week concerning their "ersatz homosexual marriage", since Howard once again abandoned Raj for a woman he didn't even have a shot with.

Back at the apartment, Leonard asks Penny if she is embarrassed to have him meet her friends. He has only met her large ex-boyfriend and her other, smaller (but still larger than him) ex-boyfriend. Penny thought he wouldn't like her friends since they weren't geniuses. But Leonard has friends who aren't geniuses...well, Facebook friends, anyway. She invites him to the game next week, since they have them every week.

One thing one can do when one is a genius and doesn't know something is to study it. Leonard is studying football and even bought a "Football for Dummies" book.

RAJ: The only thing I've learned in the last two hours is that American men enjoy drinking beer, pee too often, and have trouble getting erections.

LEONARD: Focus on the game, not the commercials, Raj.

RAJ: I'm just saying maybe if people would cut back on the beer, they could get out of the bathroom and satisfy their woman without pharmaceutical help.

Howard comes in and wants to know why Raj isn't helping him pimp out his Vespa. (Words never before uttered in the English language.) Raj is still upset with Howard for ditching him. He is tired of Howard of abandoning him when he sees a pretty woman even when he doesn't have a shot at her.

Leonard keeps wondering about the stats of the game, such as a sack.

SHELDON: It's football nomenclature for when a quarterback is tackled behind the line of scrimmage.

LEONARD: Huh. (checking) Scrimmage...

SHELDON: (impatiently) The line of scrimmage is the imaginary transverse line separating the offense and the defense.

HOWARD: Sheldon knows football?? Quidditch, OK. But football?

Lest anyone forget, Sheldon is from Texas, where football is a second religion. The only football they don't have in Texas is European football (soccer), which they believe is a Commie plot. He also knows a lot about frying meats that aren't chicken as if they were chicken. Leonard invokes a Tier 1 friendship request to be taught football by Sheldon. He reluctantly agrees.

SHELDON: Alright, Poindexter. Sit down, shut up, and listen! (beat) That's how my father always began my football conversations. And if you like, I'll take you outside and teach you how to shoot so close to a raccoon it craps itself.

Leonard readies himself for the game, even buying a Cornhusker football jersey. Although on him, it looks like a Cornhusker football cocktail dress. (Why couldn't they have Penny wear that?) Well, it was the smallest one they had, unless Leonard bought one for dogs. Sheldon is confused.

SHELDON: Am I correct in assuming your attempt to be accepted by Penny's peers is based on your desire to insure your continuing mating privileges with her?

LEONARD: Well, I wouldn't exactly put it that way.

SHELDON: How would you put it?

LEONARD: (pause) OK, like you said.

SHELDON: Huh. Seems like an awful lot of trouble to go through for intercourse. Don't you have access to women who will do it for money? By the way, another accepted usage for the word "ho."

Give Sheldon credit, though. It is a social requirement that Leonard not arrive empty-handed. He offers to give Leonard some toast made with his Cylon toaster.

Howard tries to go to Raj's house and make a peace offering by giving him a new kite. A Hello Kitty kite. But it does have a coin purse. Raj is still upset about being ditched all the time, especially when he went with Howard to Radio Shack to get a phone with big numbers for Howard's mother...only Howard wasn't even there. He was busy hitting on the counter girl at the hot-dog-on-a-stick place. Howard apologizes and offers to take Raj anywhere he wants to go. Raj decides the La Brea Tar pits. But the traffic and the crowds...great idea!

At Penny's, Leonard tries to fit in with Penny's friends (who apparently don't talk much to reduce costs). The good news is, Leonard is very knowledgeable about football, thanks to Sheldon. The bad news is, Leonard is very knowledgeable about football, thanks to Sheldon. Leonard apparently doesn't know the difference between a highlight from 11 years ago and the live game. Also, he agrees with everybody regarding an intentional grounding call the officials missed...by explaining in detail what constitutes intentional grounding. Penny asks how many beers he has had, hoping that he was simply drunk and not being embarrassing. Sheldon enters, employing his three knock-Penny cadence even though the door was open. He tries to ask Leonard in code if everything is going OK so as not to tip off the rest of the room. Well, code being the word mimesis, when the mimicker takes on the actions of an object or an organism. Sheldon offers to take Leonard kite fighting again, but Leonard declines, even though Sheldon was offering him an alternative, something he never got from football. Penny is almost insisting he go. And given that they've only gotten to halftime, Leonard gives up to go fight a kite.

On the good side, Howard and Raj have made up and are relaxing at the tarpits. That is until a woman walks by. (This one DID smile at Howard.) Howard resists, and resists. But like the

Borg, resistance is futile. He's off again.

The Guitarist Amplification

Season 3
Episode Number: 47
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Monday November 9, 2009
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I), Bill Prady, Richard Rosenstock, Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3X5557
Summary: Leonard and Penny's first big fight sees Sheldon playing mediator due to childhood trauma that's left him with an inability to be around loud verbal conflicts.



Who says Sheldon doesn't know how to have fun? He even invented his own board game: Research Lab ("The Physics is Theoretical, But the Fun is Real!") Sheldon is more than happy to use Penny and Leonard as beta testers and think they'll wipe the floor with Raj and Howard on Sunday, but Penny has to pick up her friend Justin from the airport. Leonard is happy with this excuse and is happy to join her. However, Justin has a lot of stuff, such as guitars and amps, and he will be crashing on her couch for a couple of weeks while he finds some recording studio time. All of this comes as a bit of a

surprise to Leonard, who did not know about any of it. He starts questioning Penny about how close of a friend he is. Also, how straight or gay of one he is. Penny says they went out once or twice but were never serious. Leonard, channeling his inner Ross Geller, automatically assumes this means they've seen each other naked and doesn't want him crashing on her couch. She takes serious offense to his directive, thinking he's treating her like an idiot. Meantime, Sheldon is desperately trying to get them back to playing the game. Or to be more precise, to stop arguing. However, the fight is on.

LEONARD: If you want to invite some stupid guitarist to sleep on your couch, fine. Why don't you just rent a couple of bunk beds and invite the Black-Eyed Peas!

PENNY: Hey if I want to invite the entire lineup of Lollapalooza to sleep at my apartment, I will. And it's none of your business!

LEONARD: Do you know how childish you sound right now!

PENNY: Oh, at least I'm not a child now instead of stupid...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, SHELDON?

Sheldon was apparently running the blender to drown out their argument. Penny gives up trying to talk over the blender and leaves. On the bright side, Leonard won the first game of "Research Lab," and Sheldon gives him a celebratory sno-cone.

Leonard doesn't appear to be letting this go, and Sheldon doesn't appear to be getting used to people fighting. As Leonard complains about the argument in the car, Sheldon tries to get

him to play "Scientist," where you put three scientists in the order of their contributions to their respective field. ("Ready to have some fun?") But Leonard is going out of his mind. He thinks even if he said it was cool to Penny, she'd rag him for even giving his approval, and she'd be doing him a favor just by being in the same room as him. Of course, he's having this whole argument with himself. And now we know how to get Sheldon to walk to wherever he needs to go.

It gets worse. On the way to a movie (where they only have 17 minutes to get there, thus having to skip the concession stand and the pre-show urination), the guys run into Penny, who hopes Leonard is ready to apologize. Naturally, he isn't. (Are they really showing a digital reprint of "Time Bandits?" That would be so cool.) She reads him the riot act again in front of Howard and Raj, but Sheldon successfully ducked out in time.

RAJ: That was unpleasant.

HOWARD: I don't need my pre-show urination now.

To kill time before the next showing, they head to the comic book store, which has replaced Stuart with Gunther from "Friends," although he still apparently pines after blonde waitresses. Leonard asks Howard if he thinks Penny is out of line.

HOWARD: Of course she was out of line, but she'll have a new boyfriend by this time tomorrow, and you'll have a new girlfriend in the time it takes you to build one. The only question is how long before you fold?

Leonard refuses to fold, and Raj thinks Leonard is wrong. As an example, he references the time he took a cooking class with Howard, but Howard blew him off to do a liquid cleansing diet with his mother.

RAJ: I had to cook a chicken and rice dish with a Vegan? Do you know what Vegan chicken and rice is? RICE!

HOWARD: Do you think I was having a fun time listening to my mother say 'have you ever peed so much'?!?!?

RAJ: YOU ARE SUCH A MOMMA'S BOY!

HOWARD: DON'T BRING MY MOTHER INTO THIS!

You can guess what is happening to Sheldon at this point.

SHELDON: STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU! ALL OF THIS FIGHTING, I MIGHT AS WELL BE BACK WITH MY PARENTS!! 'GEORGE, I TOLD YOU IF YOU DIDN'T QUIT DRINKING, I'D LEAVE YOU!' 'WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU A LIAR BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL HERE!' 'STOP YELLING! YOU'RE MAKING SHELDON CRY!' 'I TELL YOU WHAT'S MAKIN' SHELDON CRY! THAT I LET YOU NAME HIM SHELDON!'"

It's time for Sheldon to take action. He stops at the Cheesecake Factory under the guise of having lunch to ask Penny to apologize to Leonard. She's not having it, so Sheldon slowly orders lunch to make her stay. He tries to point out the myriad of things that Leonard does not say about her, such as her driving, the bed full of stuffed animals that stare at him during their "amorous activities," her tardiness, or her singing. (actually, that's on Sheldon's list) However, this is all new information to her, and it only serves to display her bad temper, which Sheldon also mentions as something Leonard never comments on.

PENNY: Well, you can tell Leonard that he can drop dead!

SHELDON: And she wonders why she's undertipped.

Sheldon quickly goes home and suggests to Leonard to apologize to Penny before she busts down the door. Penny comes in at full boil to yell at Leonard for hating her singing, her stuffed animals, and her driving. This time, the yelling is too much for Sheldon. He runs away. First he tries Raj's place, but Raj is having an argument with his parents for not coming to New Delhi for Cousin Sanjay's wedding where they will set him up on a date. (She just got her stomach stapled and her self-esteem hasn't gone up yet.) They're upset because the closest thing they have to a daughter-in-law is Howard. At Howard's, he and his mother are having an argument (which you can hear all the way outside, natch) about who should get the door.

After driving around in Penny's Deathmobile (apparently, her driving is dangerous), they find Sheldon at the comic book store, where he has imagined himself an alternate universe where Leonard and Penny don't exist. (That, or he's ignoring them.) Their fight seems ready to continue, but they realize what they're doing to Sheldon and try to talk him out of it. They try to convince him they're done fighting.

SHELDON: I've heard that before. The next thing you know I'm in my bedroom blaring a Richard Feynman lecture while my mother is shouting that Jesus would forgive her for putting

ground glass in my father's meatloaf. And my dad is on the roof skeet-shooting her Franklin Mint collectable plates.

Unfortunately, there's still a bit of hostility between Leonard and Penny because he can't see why Justin can't crash somewhere else, and she can't see why it's bothering him so much. Sheldon activates a robot to drown them out. But they tell him that he has to get past his childhood issues. So he drowns them out with another robot. Penny tries to convince him that they're in a relationship and they will sometimes fight, but they will always love him.

PENNY: We'll buy you this robot.

SHELDON: I want that one.

LEONARD: We're not going to buy him a robot. He'll just play with it twice and it will end up in his closet.

PENNY: Buy him the robot.

SHELDON: Can I have this comic book, too?

However, Sheldon probably should have demanded more. Penny and Leonard found a couch for Justin to sleep on: Sheldon's couch. (At least Justin isn't sleeping in Sheldon's spot.)

The Adhesive Duck Deficiency

Season 3
Episode Number: 48
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Monday November 16, 2009
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I), Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3X5558
Summary: With the rest of the gang off on a desert camping trip to view the Leonid meteor shower, Sheldon must play hero after Penny slips in the tub and dislocates her shoulder.



Mixing up the couples this week, Leonard, Howard, and Raj are out in the desert observing the Leonid Meteor Shower. Raj just needs to program the correct coordinates into the computer, and a few adjustments by Howard, and...free HBO. ("Real Sex. Wow.") It's either that, or they can watch Dune on the East feed of HBO. While it is a beautiful desert, Real Sex trumps out. They have to admit, it wasn't the same without Sheldon being there. (BAZINGA!) Sheldon is back home, entering into his log that he has to complete his paper on Decays of Highly-Excited Massive String States. He

does miss the warmth of human companionship. (BAZINGA!)

There are some disadvantages to being on your own, however. Sheldon can't order 1/4 of the appetizer plate, and the Golden Treasure for Two really is meant for two. There is also nobody around to assist Penny when she screams for help from across the hall. Sheldon finds her in the bathroom...after knocking on her apartment door, then her bedroom door. (She stops him before he knocks on the bathroom door.) She slipped in the shower and dislocated her shoulder. Apparently she did not have enough adhesive duck stickers on the floor of the tub to prevent slipping, as Sheldon has in his bathroom. They even have umbrellas. They're whimsical. She needs him to drive. He can't drive. Hence there is an impasse. She doesn't want to wait for a taxi or an ambulance, so never let it be said that Sheldon Lee Cooper (oh, like you're totally shocked by his middle name) ignored the pleas of a damsel in distress.

SHELDON: It seems ironic for a lack of 99 cent adhesive ducks, we might die in fiery car crash.

In the desert, Howard is trolling for ladies for him and Raj. Unfortunately, the only females of legal age are a couple of 50-something middle school teachers. Give them credit. They gave Howard a batch of cookies to share with the guys. They had such a nice VW microbus and tie-dye Grateful Dead t-shirts, too. (Hey, it beats when someone brought brownies to our school laced with Ex-Lax. Deal with it!)

Sheldon manages to get Penny to her room, and now she needs him to help her get dressed. It would be easier if Sheldon had more fashion sense. But he finds suitable attire for her and closes

his eyes while holding out the shirt for her to slip on. She needs his help putting her injured right arm through the sleeve. Apparently, that would have been a good time to open his eyes because he accidentally grabs something slightly inside of her right arm. (And guys around the country are muttering "lucky bastard" right now.)

In the desert, (you can't remember your name, 'cause there ain't nobody...sorry) the guys are feeling no pain. The meteors are on their way. But Raj points out, the meteors aren't moving; the Earth is moving towards them.

LEONARD: I can feel it! I can feel the Earth moving! It's moving too fast! Raj! Slow it down! (Thankfully, Raj can slow down the Earth's speed in this condition.)

Raj loves it, because everything Leonard says with his American accent makes him sound stupid. Penny probably could use a cookie right now. Or perhaps to have Mel Gibson show her how to pop her shoulder back in place like he did in the "Lethal Weapon" movies, as Sheldon spends way too much time adjusting the side mirrors, fixing the seat, and panicking over the "check engine" light in Penny's car. Naturally, he drives slow enough to drive Miss Daisy to get Penny to the hospital. She wants Mr. Spock to give her warp speed, but clearly Mr. Spock would never do that and would immediately pull the Enterprise over if he saw the "check engine" light on. At a stop light, which Sheldon nails, he wonders why Penny has the Chinese character for soup on her right buttock. She thinks it's for "courage", but Sheldon does admit it takes courage to tattoo the symbol for soup on your butt. Apparently, the hero always peeks.

Back in the desert, Raj contemplates being able to communicate with rabbits and rule them, Leonard realizes his name has "nerd" in it (the pronunciation, anyway), and Howard lost his virginity to his cousin, Jeanie. Raj would be kind to his subjects (at first), Leonard wants to be known as Angelo because it has "angel" and "jello" in it, and Howard will forever not look at pickled herring without getting horny ever again. And then...the munchies hit. Howard goes through all the pudding cups, and Raj uses the Slim Jims to scoop out the pudding in his. ("Sweetie and meaty at the same time!") All that is left are blue ice packs, which look like big yummy Otter Pops!

At the hospital, Sheldon fills out Penny's medical form. She is not diabetic, have kidney disease, but migraines are a big yes. She's not pregnant ("Are you sure? You look a bit puffy."), no skin lesions (apart from a soup tattoo), and is not having her menstrual period. (Could have fooled Sheldon.)

PENNY: Sheldon, I'm scared and in a lot of pain. Could you take a break from being you for a minute and be...I don't know...comforting?

The guys are starting to relive scenes from "Lord of the Flies" because of the munchies when Howard saves the day. Mom sent an "I love you" care package of a brisket. No forks or knives needed, it melts in your mouth. The potatoes and carrots that accompany it are so good, they forget why they are there. Fortunately, the meteor shower taking place behind them gives us a gentle reminder.

Sheldon gets Penny home, although she could have floated home from all of the pain medication she was on. She wants him to take her to bed (first time that phrase was ever uttered!) and sing the Soft Kitty song to her. He protests, saying the song is for when one is sick. But she is injured and drugged, and that should count. He is ready to go ballistic when she decides the song should be sung "in the round". However, the "nice person" persona he has under his annoying surface comes up, and they enjoy a lovely melody together. That is certainly nicer than Howard's night, who gets reminded constantly by Leonard and Raj about sleeping with his cousin.

The Vengeance Formulation

Season 3
Episode Number: 49
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Monday November 23, 2009
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Maria Ferrari, Richard Rosenstock, Jim Reynolds (I), Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter)
Recurring Role: Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Ira Flatow (Himself), Katee Sackhoff (Herself)
Production Code: 3X5559
Summary: Barry Kripke pranks Sheldon during his spot on NPR, leaving him with a taste for vengeance. Wolowitz, pressured by Bernadette to define their relationship, gets advice from a fantasy version of Katee Sackhoff.



We must be in a "Twilight Zone" version of The Big Bang Theory: Howard is finishing a date with Bernadette. Granted, it was ending on a very bad joke Howard was telling, so that's reality. Bernadette gives him the "where is this going" line, and Howard hopes at least second base. (can't blame him) But as it is the end of the third date, she is wondering about sex, and Howard is wondering when he was supposed to know that the third date is supposed to lead to sex. (aren't all men?) Bernadette leaves him with that hanging question about the "one night stand vs. relationship". She leaves him to think

about it. He goes home to the homies and homette. He covers for himself by saying romance is like showbusiness: always leave them wanting more. ("He struck out.")

Howard asks the guys at the university if three dates meant sex, but they're not really the best references when you think about it. Sheldon has great news for them. He's going to be on Scientific Fwiday on National Pubwic Wadio. Actually, Kripke told them, but it still was exciting. Kripke wants to know when National Pubwic Wadio had to sqwape the bottom of the bawwel for its guests, but it was a rhetorical question. But the guys are excited. Sheldon's mother has even invited her Bible study group over, and they'll pray for his soul on top of it.

Sheldon is a well-organized person: he has his talking points all written down, and he needs someone to check them to make sure they are at the less educated members of the listening audience.

SHELDON: Howard, look this over and tell me what's unclear to you.

HOWARD: Excuse me! I have a Masters' Degree in Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology! It required the completion of 144 units of graduate work AND an original thesis!

SHELDON: Yes. Look this over and tell me what's unclear to you.

Penny enters, fails to get Raj talking to her ("Yo Raj! Talk to me! Nah, sorry! Just screwing with you!"), and asks why Howard hasn't called Bernadette in a week.

HOWARD: I'm not sure if she's my type

PENNY: She agreed to go out with you for free. What more do you need?

Howard apparently has higher standards: like Megan Fox or Katee Sackhoff from Battlestar Galactica.

LEONARD: You'd have a better shot with the three-breasted hooker from "Total Recall."

HOWARD: That movie was 20 years ago. Imagine how saggy those things would be.

Penny can't believe it, but Howard feels she shouldn't take it out on him just because she settled.

LEONARD: I'm sitting here!

PENNY: I didn't SETTLE for Leonard. OK, maybe he isn't the type of guy I normally go out with. You know, physically.

LEONARD: Again, I'm right here!

PENNY: My point is, I don't judge a book by its cover. I am interested in the person underneath.

LEONARD: (to Sheldon) I'm right here! I mean, you do see me, right?

Sheldon's interview on NPR does not go well. Mainly because Kripke feeds a hose into Sheldon's office and pumps helium into it. And if that was Jim Parsons doing all the work with the voice instead of the sound department messing with it, just give him the ****in' Emmy now, willya!

Howard is in the tub. With Katee Sackhoff?!?!?

KATEE: Thanks Howard. Always nice to be part of your masturbatory fantasies.

(What, you didn't think she was REALLY in the tub with Howard, did you? Although, technically, she WAS in the bathtub with Simon, and well, he has a girlfriend, and I'm sure she was wearing a bikini under the bubbles and...never mind.)

Katee gives Howard the advice all of us want to give him: give up the fantasy. Bernadette's a very sweet and cute lady and he is wasting his time playing Cylon and Colonist (isn't she the wrong blonde for that?) with a mental image and a washcloth. Fortunately for Ms. Sackhoff (and us), Howard's mom gets us out of this by telling Howard to get out of the tub. ("We share that tub!")

Sheldon is understandably depressed about being humiliated on public radio, where everybody in the cafeteria can laugh, including Leonard and Raj. Although Raj wants Sheldon to join the Lollipop Guild, Leonard convinces him that Sheldon should stoop down to Kripke's level and level some serious payback.

SHELDON: How about we put a whoopee cushion on his chair?

LEONARD: Let's keep thinking.

Howard comes down to the Cheesecake Factory to talk to Bernadette. Too bad, because he just missed Scarlett Johansson and Wonder Woman in there trolling for neurotic weasels. He tells her that he had been thinking about it, just like she said...and he gets down on one knee.

BERNADETTE: Is this more comedy I don't understand?

He proposes, and she reacts the same way you should to any person who asks you to marry them after three dates: by freaking out. To be fair, Howard is right that he'll never find another girl like her who likes him and...is real.

(The only thing missing was a "Holy Crap on a Cracker!!")

Sheldon's revenge consists of ordinary dish soap, hydrogen peroxide, saturated potassium iodide...and Mountain Dew. ("Ah, refreshing!") The result is a "foamy vengeance" that would get him in good with the kid scientists on Letterman. It is already deployed to activate in Kripke's office thanks to a motion sensor. It works perfectly! Kripke is completely soaked! As are several members of the university board, including the president. But they don't know Sheldon did it...until Sheldon's video message plays taking credit for it...and inspired by Leonard and Raj.

RAJ: (to Leonard) Well, I'm going back to India. What's your plan?

Howard's people may be done crossing deserts, but he is not done trying to win Bernadette back. Up on the stage he goes (at the Cheesecake Factory?) and belts out the Four Tops song named for her...with altered lyrics, natch.

Bernadette! I am so sorry for trying to...propose to you!

And Bernadette! You found it creepy but, that's just the kind of thing I do (Ahhh)

I know now it was too soon to talk of love

It was just crazy idea that came to me in my tub

But Bernadette, give me one more chance (Sweet Bernadette!)

I'll get the hang of this thing they called romance (Sweet Bernadette!)
I dream to once again to kiss your lips (Sweet Bernadette!)
Sincerely yours, Howard Wolowitz (Sweet Bernadette!)
BERNADETTE: That's the most romantic thing anyone's ever done for me!

The Gorilla Experiment

Season 3
Episode Number: 50
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired:	Monday December 7, 2009
Writer:	Richard Rosenstock, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Maria Ferrari, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role:	Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Production Code:	3X5560
Summary:	Penny seeks Sheldon's help to better comprehend Leonard's physics work. Wolowitz sees green when Leonard invites Bernadette to watch an experiment.



A few lessons in dining with Sheldon: 1) Don't upset Sheldon by playing with your food. 2) Don't upset Sheldon by playing with the Sheldon. 3) NEVER, EVER use the phrase Nerdizzle. (Actually, that's my rule, but I don't think anybody will object.) Howard brought Bernadette over for dinner, and she is more than welcome to stay, provided they eat dinner family-style, since it was only meant for 5, not 6. Of course, she can't sit in Sheldon's spot because, as Penny explains, in the winter it's close enough to the radiator so he is warm but not so close he sweats, and in

the summer, it gets a nice cross-breeze by opening up certain windows. It also points to the TV not at a direct angle so that he can converse with others in the room but not so indirect where the picture looks fuzzy.

SHELDON: There's hope for you yet.

Penny certainly likes the arrangement of Bernadette in the room, since she now has a person to talk about shoes with. Apparently, this is the definition of Hell for Sheldon, but Bernadette can even tolerate Howard's vain and sexist attempts at humor because his face lights up when she laughs. ("Howard, don't ever let her go.") Bernadette is most interested in Leonard's experiments with subatomic particles, which Sheldon thinks are as ground-breaking as 3rd graders growing lima beans on wet paper towels. Bernadette continues the conversation with Leonard, making Penny feel a lot smaller, since she knows she can't keep up.

Later on, as Sheldon gets run over by Raj in Mario Kart, Penny asks him for a favor. He is open to it, as long as it isn't about shoes. She wants him to teach her about physics so that she can understand what Leonard is doing at work. Clearly there is a small amount of jealousy on her part since Bernadette is fascinated with Leonard's work. She wants to surprise Leonard. ("If you really want to surprise him, why don't you do something like clean your apartment?") She comes up with a good angle: it would make for a fascinating experiment. Since someone was able to teach Coco the Gorilla 2,000 words of sign language, not one of which was related to shoes, Sheldon accepts the challenge to teach Penny.

On the other side of the new Bernadette/Leonard platonic coupling, Howard is making a big show of showing her off. (BTW, Melissa Rauch, could you please not channel Kelly Boyd from "Cheers" when playing Bernadette? That would be helpful. Thanks. :-D) Leonard invites her to his lab to look at some of his experiments. While she's away, Howard berates him for moving in on his girl.

HOWARD: It's not enough you got the Prom Queen, now you want the Chair of the Decorating Committee?

Leonard insists he is not interested in Bernadette, but Howard still threatens Leonard, saying that "he's crazy!"

Sheldon types in his research journal that he is ready to conduct his experiment. He notes that Penny is on time, well-rested, and eager to learn. ("Apparently, ignorance IS bliss.") After giving her a notebook, hoping the college-rule style won't intimidate her, he begins his lecture back in ancient Greece, where people would look up at the stars and see some of them move in the night sky. (She may want to start taking notes.) Penny wants to know if the 2600 year study is necessary, but Sheldon want to take her from the Greeks to Isaac Newton to Niels Bohr to Erwin Schroedinger to the Dutch researchers Leonard is currently ripping off. She'll need to use the bathroom first.

SHELDON: Project Gorilla - Entry 2. I'm exhausted!

Howard has Bernadette up in his room, so you know his mom is ready to ****block that situation. Howard comes up with the idea to make her cook lamb stew for dinner, requiring her to go to the store for the Leseur peas. She goes, since Howard's mom can't say no to her little tushy-face. As they are ready to get it on, Leonard texts Bernadette to tell her that Howard might get weirded out if she went to his experiment tomorrow. Howard thinks that it is weird for Leonard to invite her without clearing it with him first. She doesn't appreciate that and takes off.

Sheldon is trying to teach Penny physics, but he instead gives a good demonstration of why the phrase "those who can't do...teach" is complete and utter BS. (I knew what he was talking about and I still couldn't follow him.) Neither can Penny, and Sheldon is going ballistic at her. Which causes her to cry.

SHELDON: Why are you crying?

PENNY: Because I'm stupid!

SHELDON: That's no reason to cry. One cries when one is sad. For example, I cry because others are stupid and that makes me sad.

Penny begs him to teach him one thing that she can understand. Sheldon tells her Leonard is dealing with subatomic particles. She gets that part and then asks what are subatomic particles.

SHELDON: Good question! To answer that question, we must first answer the question...what is physics?

PENNY: Oh balls!

Howard goes to Leonard's lab, angry that Leonard text-blocked him with Bernadette by saying he has a problem with Bernadette hanging out with Leonard. That's because he does. Howard wanted Leonard to tell Bernadette something that didn't make him look like a petty, jealous douche. When Bernadette arrives, Howard tries to cover for himself by saying he was interested in Leonard's experiment as well. Bernadette said Howard thought it was stupid. (Howard, Kettle returned your call. Something about her being black?) Howard finally apologizes to Bernadette for what he did, and she forgives him, on Leonard's recommendation. After all, Leonard can put tushy-face on Twitter right then and there.

At the next dinner, Penny was able to converse with Leonard about his experiment (which would take too long to repeat here). But she did want everybody to know that Fig Newtons were named after a town in Massachusetts and not the physicist.

The Maternal Congruence

Season 3
Episode Number: 51
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Monday December 14, 2009
Writer: Maria Ferrari, Richard Rosenstock, Steven Molaro, Lee Aronsohn (I), David Goetsch, Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter)
Recurring Role: Christine Baranski (Beverly Hofstadter)
Production Code: 3X5562
Summary: A Christmas visit from his mother has Leonard discovering she's kept a lot of news from him that she shares with Sheldon and worrying if she'll approve of his romance with Penny.



Everybody loves to watch "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," even Sheldon. He can understand people crying when the Grinch's heart grows three sizes, as hypertropic myopathy is quite painful, and he can totally identify with the Grinch...until he gave back the gifts. ("What a buzzkill that was.")

LEONARD: When we watch "Frosty the Snowman," he roots for the sun.

One can't blame Leonard for getting into Christmas these days, as his youth holidays were spent writing papers on the psychological and anthropological effects of the holidays on society. There were

even discussion groups, something that obviously Sheldon can get with, as he feels Sir Isaac Newton better represents Christmas than Jesus Christ does, since Newton's birthday actually falls on the holiday. Fortunately for Leonard, he switches topics. Unfortunately for Penny, the topic is the impending arrival of Leonard's mother, who does not know the two of them are dating. Of course, Sheldon is more than happy to point out why while putting his Sir Isaac Newton ornament on the spider-invested fire hazard that is a tree. (I'm Catholic, and I sympathize that 12 straight hours of church followed by a fruitcake will put anybody out.) He also points out that Leonard's mother likely thinks that Penny is not worthy stock for their family, given that "her greatest accomplishment is memorizing the Cheesecake Factory menu."

PENNY: It's a big menu! There's two pages just for desserts!

LEONARD: I agree. And those specials, they just change every day!

PENNY: You know, it's lame when I say it. It's just ridiculous when you pile on.

Dr. Beverly Hofstadter thanks Sheldon for picking her up from the airport...even though Leonard did the driving. ("Yes, mummy's proud.") Apparently, Sheldon and she have kept in close contact, comparing notes, video chatting, and Sheldon is sympathetic to her about her carpal tunnel surgery and the engagement of Leonard's brother...none of which she told Leonard.

At dinner, Dr. Hofstadter wanted to know if Howard and Raj had finally admitted their homosexual feelings toward one another. Howard is happy to report he now has a girlfriend, whom

he can't produce because Bernadette's grandmother died, and she went out of town. ("I see. Her *grandmother* died.")

HOWARD: Her name is Bernadette, she's a waitress, and she's studying to be a microbiologist!

DR. HOFSTADTER: Howard, keep in mind, the more you stick to this construct, the more you're hurting your partner. (Raj)

Penny arrives and confirms that she still has "daddy issues," since her father got his "little slugger with breasts" a football and catcher's mitt for Christmas. On a side note, Dr. Hofstadter talks about her impending divorce. Jaw, meet floor.

DR. HOFSTADTER: Yes, he was cheating on me with some waitress from the university cafeteria. Can you believe that? A *waitress*. (to Penny) No offense, dear.

PENNY: No, it sounded like a compliment.

LEONARD: When did this happen??

DR. HOFSTADTER: Hmm, let's see. Sheldon, when did I leave Leonard's father?

SHELDON: Um, September 22nd.

DR. HOFSTADTER: Oh, right. The weekend after Leonard's dog died.

LEONARD: MITZY'S DEAD?!?!?!?

Leonard is, to say the least, not happy with the situation. Therefore Penny has to drive Dr. Hofstadter back to her hotel...and endure yet someone else who complains about her check engine light. Penny can't believe Dr. Hofstadter is more upset about the check engine light than her divorce.

DR. HOFSTADTER: Well, initially I did feel something akin to grief and perhaps anger. But that's the natural reaction of the limbic system by being betrayed by a loathsome son of a bitch.

Fortunately, they hadn't had sex for 8 years, so the shock is lessened by that...and the fact that she's been responsible for her own orgasms since 1982. (Wow, we have something in common.)

PENNY: Yikes!

DR. HOFSTADTER: That's exactly what I say during orgasms.

Penny SO needs a drink, and is willing to teach Dr. Hofstadter how to do that. On the other hand, Sheldon's methods of comforting Leonard need some work.

SHELDON: Leonard, what you're experiencing is the classic Jungian crisis in which the aging individual mourns the loss of the never-to-be-realized ideal family unit. ("Weltschmerz", as the Germans say)

Leonard should take comfort, though, as Sheldon is his surrogate family. Or at least take comfort in the fact that Sheldon is not happy about it, either.

Several shots later, Penny and Dr. Hofstadter are feeling no pain. In fact, Dr. Hofstadter is sensing a lowering of her inhibitions, to the point where she wants to take the busboy and have him ravish her while eating cheesecake. Penny takes the opportunity to tell her that she is sleeping with Leonard.

DR. HOFSTADTER: Well, that's convenient. How did his penis turn out?

PENNY: Beverly, I really can't talk to my boyfriend's mother about his penis.

DR. HOFSTADTER: Fair enough. What can you tell me about that busboy's penis?

PENNY: Actually, I've only had the cheesecake.

Dr. Hofstadter concludes either Leonard is embarrassed about the relationship or doesn't care enough about his mother to tell her. Now both women are interested in the answer and have no problem waking Leonard up in their drunken state to find out.

DR. HOFSTADTER: Why didn't you tell me you were tapping my homegirl?!?!? (to Penny) Did I say that right?

After a night of drunkenness (which has to explain the trip to Del Taco), Leonard insists that she doesn't communicate with him, so what right does she have to say anything? She gets the point that he wants a more intimate mother-son relationship, and she hugs him.

DR. HOFSTADTER: There, it's late. Now go to bed. (to Penny) I'm getting a warm feeling spreading through my heart.

PENNY: That's the Del Taco.

Sheldon is woken up by the pounding of Leonard's head against the door, and Dr. Hofstadter still has that warm feeling. She grabs Sheldon and kisses him.

DR. HOFSTADTER: Nah, I'd still rather have the busboy.

The next day, Leonard and Sheldon are driving (well, Leonard is) the corpse he once knew as his mother to the airport. She's in no mood to discuss the previous night. Actually, nobody is willing to talk about her inappropriate behavior the previous night. On the good side, Dr. Hofstadter gives her complete blessing for Leonard to date Penny.

DR. HOFSTADTER: She doesn't have much in the way of career prospects, and don't make her responsible for her own orgasms as well.

LEONARD: Mom, you know when I said we don't communicate enough? I'm over it.
Happy holidays!

The Psychic Vortex

Season 3
Episode Number: 52
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Monday January 11, 2010
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds (I), Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper)
Recurring Role: Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: David Trice (Waiter), Danica McKellar (Abby), Jen Drohan (Martha)
Production Code: 3X5561
Summary: Leonard is aghast to find out a secret of Penny's: she believes in psychics. Meanwhile, Sheldon tries to assist Koothrappali in picking up a girl at a university party.



It's date night for Leonard and Howard! Yes, dates with women that will acknowledge that Leonard and Howard are their boyfriends. If there are other kind of women out there, Howard would probably be the expert on ones of the artificial variety. Howard asks Leonard to watch the PDA's. That is, since he wants to make out with Bernadette, then Leonard has to make sure he makes out with Penny. ("No problem. We're planning to have sex on the salad bar.") Unfortunately, Raj is left with only Sheldon, who wants to run a full backup, reinstall, and reinitialization of his computer. Oh, what fun.

Penny is looking forward to having a good night, once the talk of flesh-eating bacteria ceases. She's considering cutting her hair. Her psychic told her that cutting her hair would get her a national TV commercial. Scientist Leonard tried not to laugh at that thought. Tried, anyway. Needless to say Penny is not happy, and even more needless to say, Leonard doesn't know when to shut up. ("Good job not making fun of her."—Howard)

PENNY: Why are you being such a jerk?

LEONARD: What, your psychic didn't tell you I was going to be a jerk?

Raj tries to get Sheldon to go outside, but Sheldon wants to know why outside is so good when humanity has spent centuries perfecting inside. ("It's a marketing scheme.") Raj foregoes Sheldon's idea of using their imagination to go to "Flatland." suggest wearing Zoot Suits and swing dancing at the mall, but Sheldon wonders why you'd wear something that was a part of the Zoot Suit Riots in the 1940's. (And I feel so embarrassed for thinking of the Cherry Poppin' Daddies' song first.) He then suggests going to a university mixer for the science and philosophy departments. ("For those who split atoms or split infinitives.") Sheldon is convinced to go...when Raj bribes him with his Green Lantern Lantern. Sheldon's job is to be Raj's wingman. No matter what lie Raj comes up with, Sheldon has to nod and agree with it. Raj checks out the females, and Sheldon finds him one...the 80-year-old wife of one of the professors. (Well, she is a female.)

The Limited Edition Green Lantern Lantern does hook them Abby (Danica McKellar), who is impressed that Raj is from India.

ABBY: Well, I saw Slumdog Millionaire.

RAJ: Well, I'm a Slumdog Physicist.

SHELDON: I thought your father was a gynecologist.

Obviously Sheldon needs to work on being a wingman. But the Green Lantern Lantern works its magic again when Abby's friend, Martha, comes by and swoons in its presence.

Clearly the dinner is the most uncomfortable double-date in history. Leonard won't let it go. Penny is upset that Leonard won't budge on this because he doesn't think something is a fact if he disagrees with it. Leonard tries to get scientists Howard and Bernadette to back him up, but they know better than to jump into a couple's argument. Even going up the stairs back to the apartment, Penny won't budge, and Leonard won't back off. She slams the door in his face, leaving her leftovers in his hands.

LEONARD: Want your fish? (she grabs it and slams the door) I knew you were going to do that. It doesn't make me psychic!...Attaboy, Leonard. Make it worse.

On the good side: there is good music in his apartment, courtesy of Sheldon, Raj, Abby, Martha, and The Guess Who.

LEONARD: What's going on?

SHELDON: We scored. I'm the wingman.

Howard had a better night than Leonard: he got to eighth base. Which is seventh base and his shirt off. Leonard's method for stress release without Penny? Lasering innocent Cylon figurines. Howard still can't believe how stubborn Leonard is being. Leonard doesn't want to compromise all of his intellectual beliefs for the mere fact he can date.

LEONARD: What am I supposed to do? Pretend to believe something I don't when I'm with Penny.

HOWARD: I'm sure Penny fakes all sorts of things when she's with you.

Howard demonstrates using a Venn diagram on the whiteboard the intersection between all the women he'd want to sleep with, the ones who believe what Leonard believes, and the ones willing to sleep with him. Leonard doesn't think he can do that. Howard then marks for Leonard the one person he can have sex with...by placing a dot on Leonard's right hand. ("Have fun tonight!")

Raj comes over and wants to date Abby again, but Sheldon would have to double-date with Martha. Sheldon has more important things to do...like reformat his hard drive...and disinfect the kitchen and bathroom while that's going on, and learn Finnish. In spite that Sheldon had fun the last time, he doesn't want to do it. Raj begs and begs, but he only has one remaining avenue.

RAJ: My Incredible Hulk Hands signed by Stan Lee.

SHELDON: Oh, my. (puts them on) HULK AGREES TO SECOND DATE WITH PUNY HUMANS!

RAJ: You can't wear the hands on the date.

SHELDON: Hulk sad.

Leonard joins Penny in the laundry to try and apologize. Clearly he sucks at it.

PENNY: Wow, that's all you've got after being the most obnoxious person on a double-date that included Howard Wolowitz? (true that)

Penny will forgive him if he goes to see her psychic. He reluctantly agrees. She also warns him that she believe in ghosts, astrology, but not healing crystals. They don't work. Although Voodoo does. You don't want to mess with it.

The double-date with Sheldon and Raj seems to be going well. Martha, who apparently prefers Sheldon over Raj, thinks that "Flatland" is a treatise on Victorian social morays. The Hulk appreciates that...just like Abby and Raj are appreciating each other right now. However, it is time for Sheldon to go to bed. Martha is excited, thinking she'll be joining him.

SHELDON: GOOD NIGHT, PUNY HUMAN!!!!

Martha is not swayed. Since Raj and Abby were getting it on in the living room, she asks Sheldon if he could hang out in his room...and he agrees. He'll go sleep in Leonard's room and lets her have his.

The Bozeman Reaction

Season 3
Episode Number: 53
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Monday January 18, 2010
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Jim Reynolds (I), Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Artie O'Daly (Young Man), Julio Oscar Mechoso (Officer Hackett)
Production Code: 3X5563
Summary: A robbery of their apartment sees Leonard and Sheldon call on their friends to devise a security system.



It's a night out for the guys at a Chinese restaurant. Of course, Sheldon is suspicious that the General Tso's Chicken is no longer a specialty, and now they have shrimp in "mobster sauce." He doesn't want to eat at a place that could be a front, so he suggests they get a pizza at Corleone's. They make it home to find their place robbed. The TV is gone, so are their laptops, but the good news is, Sheldon's comic books were spared. (It's a good point. The crooks would have done much better if the collection was decent enough.)

After receiving little help from the police, even though Sheldon knew they took their Playstations (1, 2, and 3), Xbox, Xbox 360, Classic Nintendo, Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64...and Wii ("We like games."), Sheldon is not doing well. He thinks he hears a sound outside and locks his bedroom door...and puts the bookcase in front of it. But he is master of his own bladder. ("Drat!") Penny is upset that she wasn't there at the time the robbers were, as she would have gone Nebraska on them with her baseball bat. They should keep the bat handy, as Sheldon is too scared to sleep in his apartment, although he concedes her couch is too small for the two of them if he's in their bed. They regretfully agree to stay up with him, and one fly-over-their-head of Pictionary later, Leonard and Penny go off to bed. However, Sheldon can't, so he watches TV on his mobile phone. Ah, exactly what he needs: a good slasher flick.

Howard and Raj come to their rescue with motion sensors, facial recognition cameras, software to control everything, even a net for capturing a robber. It'll take a while for Howard to get the materials from the Department of Defense to electrify the net. But the successful test works...on Penny. It works great until Sheldon hears a noise outside once again. He crawls out of his window and over to Leonard's to see what's going on. As it happens, Leonard and Penny were going on...or trying to...and accidentally knocked over a lamp. Sheldon apologized and left the room. He walked right into the trap, complete with an electrified net, which worked beautifully.

Rather than be snagged by his home security system, he decides to move to the safest city in America: Bozeman, Montana. He leaves a goodbye message on his computer for his three friends

and one acquaintance (huh?) and takes the bus to Bozeman. He meets a friendly person who will help him with his bags. Or should I say, help him TO his bags. One robbery in the Bozeman bus depot later, and he is heading back to Pasadena. He greets Leonard, Raj, and his treasured acquaintance, Howard.

The Einstein Approximation

Season 3
Episode Number: 54
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Monday February 1, 2010
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), David Goetsch, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Yeardley Smith (Sandy), Kevin Brief (Glen)
Production Code: 3X5565
Summary: Stuck on the solution to a physics problem, Sheldon seeks a number of alternative approaches to change his thinking and free the mental block—including working with Penny at The Cheesecake Factory.



It looks like Sheldon has been up all night. That, or he likes to exercise early in the morning. Penny makes the mistake of asking what he's doing. As he is stuck on a problem, he whips his head and sees the problem on his whiteboard as a fleeting image to engage superior colliculus of his brain. Penny settles for coffee in these situations. He then tries to focus in on each individual aspect of the problem with a pirate's spyglass made of his hands. Leonard suggests a fresh start, and Sheldon is grateful for the idea. He throws the whiteboard out the window and grabs a fresh one.

At the cafeteria, Leonard and Raj study the frazzled Sheldon. Howard suggests rebooting him, but Leonard, not having seen Sheldon this confused since "Matrix: Revolutions," is certain it's a firmware problem. Hence Sheldon using butter for deodorant that morning. ("I thought I smelled popcorn!") Raj is having no luck. Howard and Leonard usurp his suggestion for roller skating, and Sheldon takes his lima beans to use as protons in his experiment. Raj can't have his cookie. Leonard donates his peas for electrons, and Howard offers his corn. ("What would I do with corn?") Raj hopes Leonard and Howard fall and break their coccyxes.

SHELDON: The plural of coccyx is coccyges.

RAJ: Screw you! Give me back my lima beans!

Turns out disco skating night was no fun for anybody. Bernadette wasn't sure if the guys' skating was lamer or their disco dancing, although Penny knows that leaving with them was lamest. Love the disco pants on Howard (Emily-Blink182 is drooling right now), and they slowly make it up the stairs, having not broken their coccyxes. ("Coccyges!") Suddenly, Penny is falling for Sheldon. Literally. She slips on the marbles Sheldon laid out on the floor of their apartment, as does Leonard. Sheldon has gone three nights without sleep trying to solve his problem. (The equation. His other problems are a much longer story.) Bernadette appears to be the logical one of the group, as she tells Sheldon in no uncertain terms to go to bed. Apparently, her mom used to run an illegal daycare center in their basement.

Leonard gets a call in the middle of the night, although the Joker ringtone on his phone creeps Penny out. ("It cost three dollars.") He has to retrieve Sheldon from an indoor playground because the sleep-deprived Sheldon is using the ball pit to separate neurons, protons, and electrons. Sheldon, naturally, will not go quietly, and Leonard has to pull him out...as soon as Sheldon comes up for air from under all of the balls.

Sheldon finally has the solution and must tell Leonard and Penny. While they are sleeping. With his infamous three knock-Leonard&Penny-three knock cadence. Actually, he doesn't have the solution, but he does have a way to get it: find a menial job, just like when Einstein did his best thinking as a patent clerk. After a not-so-successful go of it at the employment office, he determines that the three most mind-numbing jobs available are: tollbooth attendant, Apple Store Genius, and what Penny does. Although Sheldon made a mistake. He's a busboy, not a waitress. He fixes this instantly by serving the customers. After all, he didn't need to be hired since he's not being paid. Nor does he recommend the salmon. Of course, the guys have to take advantage of the situation. Leonard orders his favorite: the factory burrito grande.

LEONARD (SHELDON): Black beans, not pinto beans? (Yes) Double guacamole? (Of course) Lettuce shredded, not chopped? (Yes) You understand why I'm doing this? (I do.) That will be all.

Apparently, they were tired of waiting for Penny to take their order, although she didn't drop an entire tray of dishes. But something startling happens: Sheldon discovers the pattern to solve his problem! He's done being a waitress. He also isn't cleaning up the broken plates, since he doesn't work there.

But things get back to normal. Normal being that Disco Howard finally takes Disco Raj for their couples' skate and Leonard goes back to chasing Sheldon in the ball pit.

The Large Hadron Collision

Season 3
Episode Number: 55
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Monday February 8, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds (I), Lee Aronsohn (I), Richard Rosenstock, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X5564
Summary: Leonard faces a dilemma in choosing between Sheldon or Penny to accompany him to Switzerland to see CERN's Large Hadron Collider on Valentine's Day.



It's Valentine's Day, and Howard is only too happy to announce his plans with Bernadette to the world, since he finally has a girlfriend at Valentine's Day. Or as Sheldon puts it, Howard is flaunting a positional good, which is an object only valued by the possessor since nobody else possesses it. It was coined in 1976 by economist Fred Hirsch, replacing the old term "neener-neener." He is taking Bernadette for the \$39.95 Lovers' Special at P.F. Chang's. No coupon required. Of course, Sheldon must wonder

why Howard would take Bernadette out on a night that celebrates a 3rd century saint who was stoned and beheaded. But that still beats Raj's imitation of Diane Lane from "Must Love Dogs," since he plans to spend the holiday eating rotisserie chicken over the sink. Leonard has the best news: he's going to Switzerland to observe the Hadron Collider at the CERN Laboratory. Sheldon is beyond ecstatic, so much so that he didn't bother questioning why Leonard would get such an honor. Of course, Sheldon is assuming that Leonard will take him as his Plus 1 instead of Penny. Leonard has an awkward situation when he gets home.

Sure enough, Sheldon can't handle it.

SHELDON: But Penny has no interest in subatomic particle research!

LEONARD: Yes, but it will be Valentine's Day. We can go sightseeing and skiing and make love in front of a roaring fire in the shadow of the snow-capped Alps!

SHELDON: But Penny has no interest in subatomic particle research! I've been dreaming of seeing the Large Hadron Collider since I was 9!

LEONARD: Well, I've been dreaming of spending Valentine's Day with a girl since I was 6!

Leonard brings items to give Penny clues on where they're going, but apparently the Swiss Cheese cut by the Swiss Army Knife and the fondue set aren't enough. Leonard tells her they're going to see the CERN Lab Supercollider in Switzerland! (and ski and sightsee, too) THEN she gets excited. And then Sheldon whips out the Roommate agreement. And SOMEHOW (because it makes for a funny plot device), there is a clause in there stating one roommate must take the other if one of them gets invited to the CERN Supercollider.

PENNY: Wait! Isn't there anything in there if a roommate gets a girlfriend?

SHELDON: That seemed too far-fetched.

Sheldon maintains he has lived up to his end of the bargain thus far, including asking how Leonard is doing at least once a day, not staging mock biohazard drills after 10PM and not practicing Tuvan throat singing. Leonard isn't backing down, so Sheldon starts on the Tuvan throat singing. To Sheldon, Leonard is a bigger traitor than Judas, who at least had the decency to hang himself for what he did, Darth Vader, Benedict Arnold, and Rupert Murdoch, who owns Fox, the network that cancelled "Firefly."

And the war is on. And the Frodo-shaped pancakes are the first salvo! Actually, Sheldon is attempting to catch more flies with honey than with vinegar by making Leonard breakfast in bed and suggesting they watch "Babylon 5" with director's commentary, even though he hates it. It still doesn't work; Leonard isn't taking him to Switzerland. Sheldon takes the pancakes away and attempts his next target: Penny. Penny is treated to a PowerPoint presentation for her about why his the more appropriate choice to go. He has images of himself and Penny, and of the Supercollider and Bath & Body Works. Now let's match the person to where they should be...

Penny puts her foot down and insists it is Leonard's decision and he chose her. Sheldon walks meekly away and hopes Penny appreciates the place she'll get to see that he's been dreaming of for years. She finally relents and says she'll talk to Leonard. Sheldon thanks her, and even hugs her. Although he needs help in knowing when to stop. However, Leonard puts his foot down and says Sheldon isn't going. This dissolves the "friendship clause" in their agreement; thus Sheldon will never take Leonard as his guest when Bill Gates invites him to go swimming. Leonard and Penny are excited to go, until Penny catches the flu. Now Sheldon can go, and he'll pack as soon as he's done vomiting and hocking up his Swiss breakfast cholermus. Sheldon is perplexed on how he got the flu...until he remembered he hugged Penny.

But all is not lost: Leonard and Raj get the beautiful room. And the chocolates and the champagne Leonard bought.

RAJ: This is going to be the best Valentine's Day ever!

The Excelsior Acquisition

Season 3
Episode Number: 56
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired:	Monday March 1, 2010
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Bill Prady, Steve Holland
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Recurring Role:	Kevin Sussman (Stuart)
Guest Stars:	Steve Paymer (Judge J. Kirby), Marcus Folmar (Guard), Stan Lee (Himself)
Production Code:	3X5566
Summary:	An appearance in traffic court comes at the worst possible time for Sheldon—the same day Stan Lee is appearing at the comic book store.



Time to hit the comic book store, and Raj makes his presence known with his new t-shirt, which plays music. But the music might be necessary, as Stan Lee will be at the comic book store signing autographs. Apparently, Stuart's uncle is Stan's dermatologist...which totally ruined the signing for Sheldon. He won't be able to discuss the scientific implications of flying on a silver surfboard while checking the famous comic writer for contagious skin diseases. Raj can't believe he's going to meet Stan Lee. (Cue music: I'm so excited! And I just can't hide it!)

As the guys try to figure out which comic book Stan should sign (accompanied by Final Jeopardy music, courtesy of Raj), Howard grabs some Neosporin and bandages from Sheldon's desk for a paper cut...and apparently, Sheldon never heard of direct deposit, given the copious amount of checks in there. There was also a summons from the Pasadena Municipal Court. It wasn't a snide letter about Sheldon's complaints about how the flags flew at the courthouse; Sheldon ran a red light while driving Penny to get her separated shoulder looked at. And in true Murphy's Law fashion, the court date is on the same day as Stan Lee's appearance. Sheldon protested, as he was trying to help Penny and only had a learner's permit. He doesn't think he's guilty, but Raj's "Law & Order" sound effect says otherwise. (that was good)

Sheldon goes to meet Penny (and as an aside, you know you're hot when you got guys totally drooling over you when you wear a business suit), and Sheldon wants her to practice his script. Apparently, he'll represent himself and wants Penny to follow what he wrote down. (Gee, if only Penny did that for a living.) Of course, his "homespun corn-fed Nebraska turns of phrase"...combined with a few Valley Girl references...has her annoyed beyond belief within a few seconds. Still, what Sheldon did to Penny was nothing compared with what Sheldon said to Judge Kirby. (cute reference, huh?)

SHELDON: I am appearing "Pro se," that means I 'm representing myself.

JUDGE KIRBY: I know what it means. I went to law school.

SHELDON: And yet you wound up in traffic court.

Sheldon defends himself by saying he was improperly instructed by Penny, that he was doing what was necessary to help Penny, and his Sixth Amendment rights are being violated since he cannot face his accuser: the camera. The judge is impressed: Sheldon is still guilty.

SHELDON: I would like to point out that I am at the top of my profession while you preside over the kiddie table of yours!

The judge gives him a chance to apologize, Sheldon naturally refuses, and Sheldon is in jail for contempt of court. And he STILL wants his spot in the jail cell. Penny tries to call Leonard, but he, Raj, and Howard are about to meet Stan Lee, and Howard wants to get in before Raj demands why all of Stan Lee's characters have the same double-initials (Reed Richards, Sue Storm, Matt Murdock, Bruce Banner, Steven Strange, Silver Surfer, and worst of all, Jay Jonah Jameson Jr.) Sheldon has until 5PM to apologize to the judge or he'll spend the night in jail. Fortunately, a solution provides itself.

SHELDON: Excuse me, jailer? I need to use the restroom.

GUARD: Knock yourself out. (pointing to the toilet in the jail cell)

SHELDON: (shocked) That's the toilet?!?!?

GUARD: Well, it ain't a wishing well!

Leonard and Howard are drooling over their "To My Friend, Leonard/Howard, from Stan Lee—Excelsior" Poor Raj wasn't a friend and didn't get an Excelsior. Penny and Sheldon made it home, and Sheldon was \$533 lighter in the wallet. And now has three points on a license he doesn't have. And missed gelatto with Stan Lee. Sheldon goes ballistic and takes it all out on Penny.

Penny decides she wants to make amends and asks Stuart to get her in contact with Stan Lee. He's a little busy sharing a can of tuna with a cat that may or may not show up, but Penny begs and pleads. Several awkward moments later, Stuart gives her Stan Lee's address...if she would go to his cousin's wedding. She's not the happiest person, but then she may not get stood up by a stray cat tonight, so concessions must be made.

Penny takes Sheldon to Stan Lee's house. He is, to say the least, not happy that a fanboy just walked up uninvited to his house (although Sheldon thought he and Penny were invited).

STAN LEE: You think you fanboys can just ring my doorbell anytime you want? I mean, why don't you just come in and watch the Lakers game with me!

SHELDON: Well, I'm not much of a sports fan, but OK!

PENNY: (apologetic) He doesn't really understand sarcasm.

On the good side, Sheldon got a wonderful gift: Stan Lee's autograph and a guarantee to see him again...at the hearing regarding his restraining order. Sheldon is putting that one on the wall next to the one from Leonard Nimoy.

The Precious Fragmentation

Season 3

Episode Number: 57

Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Monday March 8, 2010
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Eric Kaplan (I), Maria Ferrari, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Richard Rosenstock
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: Frank Maharajh (Venkatesh Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X5567
Summary: The discovery of a prop ring from The Lord of the Rings movies puts a strain on the guys' friendship.



The guys are returning from a garage sale with a heavy box of stuff they got for \$60. Of course, Leonard has to carry it upstairs, as he is the "muscle" of the group. (Ironic, given that Johnny Galecki works out quite a bit. Seriously. See an episode of "My Boys" in which he appears. I'm not joking.) They got some great stuff, like an original script from "Ghostbusters" with actual slime on it. (oops, sorry, it was Ghostbusters II). Not to mention, an actual "Alf" doll, which brought back such memories for Howard, since his mother got him one when he was eleven and he wished that Alf would bring his dad back

from Melmac.

PENNY: That's so sad.

SHELDON: No, sad is you not knowing that Adam West was "Batman."

Other items include Mr. T's head on a Mr. Spock doll ("I pity the fool who's illogical!"), an Indiana Jones connect the dots, an Aqua-Man action figure (with a penis drawn on him, which Raj rubs right off), and a "Lord of the Rings" ring. Howard checks with "a guy" who says the ring is the real deal. Of the 9 rings that were made by the production company, 3 were given to cast members, 5 were destroyed, and the 9th was just claimed by Sheldon under the Maritime Salvage Laws. ("Other than the water, how is this not salvage?") As Sheldon starts going Gollum on the ring, Howard tells that the ring is worth \$15,000 on the black market, and Leonard insists on returning it to Peter Jackson.

RAJ: Look, we all want to do different things with the ring. But all of yours are stupid. I want a jet ski!

Finally, a compromise: Penny will hold on to the ring until something can be decided.

PENNY: OK just to be clear, the first piece of jewelry my boyfriend gives me is a prop from a movie and I don't even get to keep it?

HOWARD: If you had gone out with me three years ago you'd have my great-aunt Ida's brooch that she smuggled out of occupied Belgium in a cat.

LEONARD: How am I lookin' now?

However, the ring's powers have overtaken Sheldon. He tries to steal it off of the sleeping Penny's neck. Of course, since this is a sitcom, she rolls over twice, in spite of Sheldon's decent imitation of a hornet. He then uses a grasping arm like you see in the infomercials to get it. She is startled and slugs him.

SHELDON: YOU HIT ME! I'M BLEEDING!

LEONARD: What was that?

PENNY: Sheldon tried to take the ring, and I punched him.

LEONARD: That's my girl.

After a failed attempt by Raj's lawyer/cousin to get him a jet ski, they fight over the ring and come up with a solution: everybody holds on to the ring and it stays that way until only one person is holding it. They want to start right in the cafeteria...if it only wasn't for the bug movie marathon on the SyFy Channel (how nerdy am I to remember the new spelling of SyFy?). Then again, I didn't drive home with my hand on the ring, nor walk up the flights of stairs with it.

SHELDON: I have you know I once spent 2 1/2 hour on the Hewlett-Packard Support Line just to complain about the Hewlett-Packard support line.

LEONARD: Talk about patience, Penny made me watch all five seasons of Sex and the City.

(and just when I said there were six seasons of Sex and the City...seriously, I did)

RAJ: There were six seasons of Sex and the City, dude.

LEONARD: Awww, CRAP!

Penny actually thinks what they're doing is sweet. Of course, she's also holding a bag from Victoria's Secret. So, it's \$15,000 or Penny in lingerie.

LEONARD: I'm out! (can't lie, that was a good choice)

Howard has to explain to his mother, and Raj is only too happy to ring-block him on the phone. ("I am so glad we came to this Gentile strip club! Howard, here's more bacon to stuff into the shiksa's g-string!!") Howard is ready for payback, but Sheldon's egging them turns both against him and his mother...actually, his grandmother. ("I call No Meemaws!") But no good.

RAJ: The only way your mother was born is that your Meemaw had sex!

HOWARD: I bet she had sex because she LIKED it.

RAJ: Yeah, Meemaw did the nasty!!!

Sheldon counters by putting the idea of water in their heads to make them want to use the bathroom. It works great...for Sheldon. But all of them have to, so they all decide to go on three. (stand up and go, you sick bums!)

Many hours later, sleep takes them out...and Sheldon is holding the ring. But Howard and Raj are holding something as well...each other. His first order of business is to clean it, so he can make it his own, his precious. (AAAAGH!)

During the night, Leonard became the voice of reason and sent the ring back to Peter Jackson, rather than let the ring destroy their friendship. Or so we thought!

LEONARD: (pulling the ring out from a box underneath his bed) Hello, my precious!

However, Sheldon isn't done. His grappling arm discovers the ring around Leonard's neck, and they fight.

PENNY: I gotta go back to dating dumb guys from the gym.

The Pants Alternative

Season 3

Episode Number: 58

Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Monday March 22, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan (I), Richard Rosenstock, Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X5568
Summary: Sheldon's fear of speaking in front of large groups threatens his ability to accept an award, so the gang tries to help him get ready for the big night.



Did you know the ponytail is the equivalent of "their junk" to the creatures in "Avatar?" Little tip from Raj. But they also use their ponytails to ride horses and fly on their birds. There are some horses and birds that are very nervous around James Cameron. Leonard comes in and tells the gang he knows who won the Chancellor's Award for Science. Sheldon figures he's here to gloat.

SHELDON: What self-important preening fraud are they honoring this year?

LEONARD: I'm so glad you asked it like that. You.

Sheldon is excited, even though he feels he deserves the award every year. He decides to tell his mother first...until

he comes up with the idea of conducting an interview with himself and posting it online.

The guys are watching Avatar in 3-D (which I didn't even know was out yet), although Raj is watching it in 2-D because he didn't want to spring for the Slurpee and glasses. Sheldon gets a call from Chancellor Morton, who expects him to make a speech at the banquet. Sheldon has spoken in front of groups before. He did 20 minutes before the movie on why guacamole turns brown. But any group large enough to trample Sheldon to death is his limit. ("36 adults or 70 children.") Penny comes in and says that she was scared once, too. But the world looks a lot different on a haystack in the back of a Ford F-150 as a part of the Corn Queen's Court.

SHELDON: Thank you, and I'll bear that in mind if I ever win the Hillbilly Peace Prize.

Leonard thinks Sheldon is being ridiculous, but Sheldon wants to tell them a story. ("Where's 70 children when you need them?") Sheldon had to give a speech as valedictorian of his college...at 14...and his heart started pounding in his chest, his vision became blurry, and...well, we don't know what happened next because he just fainted.

The gang comes up with a solution: they'll be his team...the X-Men to Sheldon's Professor Xavier. Penny's power will be to buy him a nice suit to give him confidence. Leonard's power will be to analyze him thanks to his mother's Psychiatry doctorate and the fact he spend so long in therapy for being a co-dependent breast feeder. Raj whispers to Howard some "Indian Meditation crap." Sheldon assumes they've saved the best for last. Howard?

HOWARD: My power is my ability to pretend to give a damn about your piddly-assed problems.

PENNY: So, can we be your X-Men?

SHELDON: The name X-Men is for the X in Charles Xavier. Since I am Sheldon Cooper, you'll be my C-Men.

Raj is up first to have Sheldon goes through some Indian meditation exercises to help him overcome his fears. ("And yet you can't talk to women?") Raj tells him to look for a place that gives him peace. That place: Sim City's Sheldonopolis. Where he can get a sweater from Shel-Mart in Sheldon Square, where he gets a 15% discount, even though he owns it. All is well, until Godzilla attacks Sheldonopolis and the people have to run! As does Raj.

Penny is up to bat next. Sheldon wonders how a new suit will prevent him from passing out. Penny says when she feels stressed out, she buys a fun skirt or a cute top to give her a whole new outlook.

SHELDON: Don't you eventually realize you're just the same stressed-out person in a fun top or a cute skirt?

PENNY: That's when I buy shoes.

Several scary attempts at Sheldon choosing something he likes, which includes one that could double as a chessboard, he finds a suit that wows the ladies in the live audience. ("This suit is absurd. I look like a clown.")

Next up is Leonard, who has the notepad out and is asking questions. Sheldon doesn't like the "how are you" questions, and dream interpretation got a little weird. ("I was a giant, but everything around me was to scale.") Sheldon's answers to the inkblot tests were a bat, a bat, a bat, and his father killing his mother with a hypodermic (and they didn't even need the cards). Last try: The Adler Inferiority Complex. Leonard thinks Sheldon might subconsciously think he doesn't deserve the award. He cites an example from his youth about giving back a ribbon he won for seeing if lima beans grew better with classical music when his mother pointed out his older brother did a lima beans growing worse with rock n roll music experiment already. However, she pointed this out at the awards ceremony in front of everybody.

SHELDON: And how did that make you feel?

LEONARD: Terrible. I worked really hard on that project. I stayed up all night singing the clown's aria from Pagliacci to a lima bean sprout.

SHELDON: Go on.

LEONARD: I've never seen my brother's project. She could have told me beforehand.

SHELDON: So I hear you saying you're angry with your mother.

LEONARD: (crying) Damn right I'm angry with my mother. I was eight years old! She humiliated me! That's when the bedwetting started again!

Sheldon is cured. If someone like Leonard can crawl out of bed every morning, he ought to be able to face a room full of people.

At the banquet, Leonard introduces Sheldon. Leonard first reads a letter that Sheldon's mother sent him.

LEONARD: She's so proud of him! Wonder what that's like. "Dear Shelly." Shelly is his pet name. (pause) You know what my mother's pet name for me was? Leonard!

Sheldon is getting nervous, but Penny hands him some wine to make him calm. Then, another. And another. He has time as Leonard works out his issues on the dais. Sheldon is ready...and feeling no pain.

SHELDON: Thanks, Shorty. I'll take it from here. Why did the chicken cross the Mobius strip? To get to the same side! Hello? I know you're out there! I can hear you metabolizing oxygen and expelling carbon dioxide!

In the morning, the hangovers are evident. Sheldon comes out with no pants. But apparently it's on YouTube under "Physicist Melts Down." And just when Sheldon thinks it can't be any more humiliating...

SHELDON: And now for the astronomer in the audience, get ready to see the dark side of the moon. Annnddd....HERE'S URANUS!

The Wheaton Recurrence

Season 3

Episode Number: 59

Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Monday April 12, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Nicole Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jessica Ambrosetti, Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Jim Reynolds (I), Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Wil Wheaton (Himself)
Production Code: 3X5569
Summary: Sheldon gets to square off on the bowling alley against nemesis Wil Wheaton. Meanwhile, Leonard's miffed when Penny doesn't respond the way he hoped after saying, "I love you."



Apparently, Penny has gotten VERY good at knowing what Leonard likes in bed. Trying to calm him down post-coital, she even quotes Yoda. (Seriously! You do NOT let a woman like that go!) She even knew the correct movie! How could Leonard not say "I love you, Penny."? Unless she wasn't ready for it and decides to channel her inner Emily from "Friends" by replying to Leonard's Ross, "Thank you." Now the moment is awkward for both of them, and they decide to not talk about it and get some sleep.

As the non-getting any members of the group discuss the potential of giant ants

as a cool mode of transportation, possibly cooler than the Batmobile, Leonard is showing that his is in a bit of a funk, not even caring that giant rabbits would make a good mode of transportation, even with their scrotums in front of their penises. Still Leonard couldn't give a rat's ass, not even a giant rat's ass. Sheldon theorizes Leonard's at a sensitive point in his monthly cycle ("He's man-strating?").

LEONARD: Could we PLEASE talk about something else? Maybe something vaguely related to life on this planet as we know it?

HOWARD: OK, how about this for a topic? Why is Leonard being a giant douche? Assuming giant douches are possible.

SHELDON: Of course they are. Leonard being one.

Leonard doesn't want to talk about it, but of course Howard and Raj do.

HOWARD: Did you pour maple syrup all over your body and ask Penny if she was in the mood for a short stack?

RAJ: Did you think it would be funny to put on a pair of her panties and jump around but it only ended up creeping her out? I'm just saying...it happens.

HOWARD: Did you ask her to start waxing?

RAJ: Did YOU start waxing?

HOWARD: While making love, did you accidentally spank your own ass and cry out "Mommy!"?

Fortunately, the discussion changes from sex to bowling. (feel the whiplash) Apparently, the gang, including Penny because of her lack of femininity, according to Sheldon, will be taking on

Stuart in bowling tonight and his partner...well, the episode IS named after him. Of course, it's Evil Wil Wheaton. He's ready for Sheldon's taunts, although he wasn't ready to answer Howard's question about Whoopi Goldberg...and if he ever hit that.

As it turns out, Sheldon is a pretty good bowler being the captain of his East Texas Christian Youth Group Holy Roller team (7-12 division). Certainly he's doing better than Leonard or Penny, who still are having an awkward moment about the "I love you," from the prior night. Penny is upset that Leonard is bringing the topic up at the bowling alley and is pushing her for an answer. She departs, and the team loses its best player.

Later that night, Sheldon confronts Penny about what happened. (He's a bit softer with the three knock-Penny cadence, though.) He gives her ice cream, since he figured that's what Penny needed after her fight with Leonard. He had been studying the comic strip "Cathy." ("If you were a cat, I would have brought you a lasagna.") Sheldon cried himself to sleep the previous evening, both because of being forced to forfeit to Stuart and Evil Wil Wheaton and Leonard singing himself to sleep to Alanis Morissette. He begs Penny to join in a rematch against Stuart and Evil Wil Wheaton. Obviously, this would require Penny to talk to Leonard about their issues, and Sheldon had no plans to leave her alone until she did.

Down in the laundry room, Penny tries to talk to Leonard. He admits to overreacting. She confessed saying "I love you" too soon in a relationship and got burned as a result, and he had to admit having a two-year head start on her in their relationship. He says they're cool, and Sheldon is ready to bowl. He was eavesdropping, as there was a lot at stake.

Back at the bowling alley, Sheldon presents everyone with their shirts and new team name: The Wesley Crushers. BTW, that's the Wesley Crushers, not the Wesley Crushers...never mind. And apparently, there is a bet going to humiliate the losers in a manner the winners see fit. Sheldon has his paper on expounding the disproved Velikovsky hypotheses ready for Stuart to promote. Of course, Evil Wil Wheaton has a few tricks up his sleeve, such as letting Sheldon bowl before him and then interrupting him so he gets a gutter ball.

SHELDON: I so loathe you.

EVIL WIL WHEATON: That's right, Sheldon. Embrace the dark side.

SHELDON: That's not even from your franchise!

Everybody is playing with various success. Howard would prefer that Sheldon not quote Chevy Chase while he was bowling. ("Be the ball, Howard.") But Sheldon is in a groove. ("THANK YOU, JESUS!...as my mother would say.") And it would seem Leonard hasn't let go the "I love you" awkwardness. Making it worse was Evil Wil Wheaton talk to her about not stringing a guy along if she didn't love him. Of course, Sheldon won't permit Evil Wil Wheaton to get into Penny's head. ("He's not above playing the dead meemaw card.") It's up to Penny to win the game for them. Leonard is up in her face to get her to concentrate, and she tells him to back off. He apologizes, clearly wounded, and she feels like hell for doing it.

PENNY: I didn't mean 'shut up.'

LEONARD: Look, just tell me what to do and then I'll do it.

PENNY: (tearing up) No. That's not fair to you, Leonard. I'm sorry. (runs out)

SHELDON: No, wait! Penny, come back! I'll buy you ice cream! If she leaves, it's all over.

LEONARD: (depressed) I think it already is.

SHELDON: (turning to Evil Wil Wheaton) You did this, didn't you!

EVIL WIL WHEATON: Do you honestly think I'd break up a couple just to win a bowling match?

SHELDON: (humbled) No, of course not.

EVIL WIL WHEATON: Good. Keep thinking that.

SHELDON: WHEAAAATOOOONNNN!!!

Time to collect the bet. The guys come into the comic book store as Batgirl (Howard), Supergirl (Leonard), Wonder Woman (Sheldon), and Catwoman (Raj). But Raj DOES feel empowered.

The Spaghetti Catalyst

Season 3
Episode Number: 60
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Monday May 3, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steven Molaro
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Jannette Bloom (Woman)
Production Code: 3X5570
Summary: Subsequent to Leonard and Penny's break-up, Sheldon tries to hide from Leonard and the gang that he had a friendly spaghetti dinner at Penny's.



Sheldon needs to get his mail but doesn't want to approach Penny at the mailboxes. He'll have to get it telepathically, and Sheldon immediately corrects her to the term telekinetically. Sheldon is uncertain what the protocols for talking with Penny since she and Leonard are no longer having coitus...or not seeing each other, as the rest of the planet would say. Penny says they can still be friends, and he can't use the word 'coitus.' Or intercourse, or fornication.

PENNY: So, how have you been?

SHELDON: Well, my existence is a continuum, so I have been what I am at

each point in the time period.

PENNY: You're just coitusing with me, aren't you?

SHELDON: Bazinga.

Sheldon tells her that Leonard is fine, apart from looking at pictures of her and smelling the pillow that has her scent. Obviously, he wasn't supposed to reveal that.

PENNY: I'll pretend I didn't hear that.

SHELDON: I wish you'd pretend I didn't say that.

A jar of spaghetti sauce in Penny's shopping bag reminds him of the spaghetti his mother used to make for him, because it was what the Romans made Jesus eat. She offers to cook him dinner some night, and he decides that tonight would be perfect...if she can include cut-up hot dogs in the sauce. He volunteers the hot dogs and goes to get them. However, the guys have already bought him tangerine chicken and insist he be on Team Leonard, not team Penny. But Leonard doesn't care. He's over it.

RAJ: That's why he's been here all day whining about inventing that memory-wiper gizmo from Men in Black.

SHELDON: Is he making any progress? Because I'd like to erase Ben Affleck as Daredevil.

HOWARD: So would Ben Affleck.

Howard and Raj insist that Sheldon pick a side, but Sheldon will be on whichever side will pick last, since he's always picked last. Since Leonard bought him dinner, he says "Go Team Leonard!" (whose symbol is an L on the forehead)

The guys continue to enjoy dinner, since Howard can eat pork without going to Hell. ("Jews don't have hell; we have acid reflux.") Sheldon excuses himself to get a water...and surreptitiously puts the hot dogs down his pants. He sneaks out, not convincingly, and tries to go to Penny's...after taking a brisk walk downstairs to cover for Howard walking down with him. And a dog outside smells the hot dogs, which changes Sheldon's fake walk into a real sprint.

Leonard watches TV with Raj, who is now happy that Leonard wants to hang out with him again. Of course, Raj complains about not having sex in a year, since apparently he and Danica McKellar only cuddled. Hoping to avoid Raj resorting to downloading porn, Leonard is convinced Raj will meet a beautiful, funny, kind, sexy girl one day who will take his heart and grind it up into pathetic little pieces.

RAJ: But we'll have sex first, right?

Penny asks Sheldon at dinner, spaghetti with only one hot dog in the sauce, if Leonard is OK with him having dinner with Penny. Sheldon assures her he said he was fine with it and did not say it in a way to make it look like he was covering up. He's also all cried out now over Penny, which doesn't make her feel good. But Sheldon tries to cover by saying he's enjoying the meal. Penny goes to get the cheesecake. ("Dear Lord, I'm in Jewish hell.")

Sheldon rolls back into the apartment and lies through his teeth about taking a walk for 90 minutes, as the solar flares interrupted the satellites controlling the GPS in his phone, thus getting him lost. He wakes Leonard up in the middle of the night, and proceeds to hem and haw about what he wants to talk about. The guilt overtakes him.

SHELDON: I've been seeing Penny behind your back.

LEONARD: OK, when you say 'seeing Penny,' what exactly does that mean?

SHELDON: We had dinner last night. She made me spaghetti. With little hot dogs cut up in the sauce. Well, little hot dog. I gave the other five hot dogs to a real dog. A real big dog. A hell hound. Tangential to the primary story.

Leonard asked him why did he eat Chinese with them first, and Howard said his allegiance to be to male comrades before women who sell their bodies for money.

LEONARD: Are you sure he didn't say 'bro's before ho's'?

SHELDON: Well, I changed the phrasing so as not to offend the ho's.

Leonard assures him he is fine with Sheldon being friends with Penny, and Sheldon realizes he's been worried for nothing.

SHELDON: As my meemaw would say, "looks like we butchered a pig, but nobody wanted bacon."

Leonard and Penny find each other in the laundry, and it'll take time for them to get used to it. But it would seem that Sheldon's mother wants Penny to help with some of the things Leonard used to do, like take Sheldon to get sheets and towels, or buy him some new shoes. Leonard isn't happy that Penny is taking Sheldon to Disneyland, but Sheldon heard her making plans with her friends and wasn't going to say 'no.' Leonard tells her not too much junk food, and don't let him ride Space Mountain after he eats. And keep him away from Goofy, or he'll get nightmares. Pluto is OK, though.

Penny and Sheldon make it home from Disneyland, and Leonard is upset that he got dinner for Sheldon but Penny never called. After making sure that Sheldon thanks Penny for taking her, Leonard asks her to stay for coffee. It's just coffee, although Raj and Howard thinks it feels a bit twisted. Leonard and Penny watching Sheldon sleep is a bit twisted, though. But Leonard and Penny think they can be friends.

LEONARD: Here's an idea, I'll just throw it out there: friends who have sex.

PENNY: Good night, Leonard.

The Plimpton Stimulation

Season 3
Episode Number: 61
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Monday May 10, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds (I), Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Judy Greer (Dr. Elizabeth Plimpton)
Production Code: 3X5571
Summary: Sheldon hosts a visiting female physicist, but her intelligence seems matched by her libido.



Raj tries to eat with the guys in the cafeteria, but his sneezing gets him banished by Sheldon to another table. Sheldon has to talk to Leonard (Johnny Galecki) anyway, handing him the official 24-hour notice (according to the roommate agreement) that a non-related female will spend two days at the apartment. A human female, as no pets are allowed, other than seeing-eye dogs and cybernetically-engineered helper monkeys. Dr. Elizabeth Plimpton, the world-famous cosmological physicist from Princeton. Sheldon and she have been corresponding for years about gravitational wave signatures of in-

flatrons in the early universe. Leonard is a huge fan of hers and is excited about Dr. Plimpton being there. She will sleep in Sheldon's room. Howard has a two-part question.

HOWARD: Are you kidding me? and Seriously, are you freakin' kidding me?!?!?

However, they wouldn't be sleeping in the same bed. He goes to prepare, and Leonard and Howard let Raj back at the table. And he proceeds to sneeze all over their food.

At the apartment, Sheldon questions Penny on his choice of maxi-pads in his bag, whether the wing design is just a marketing ploy. Naturally, Penny needs it explained, and Sheldon tells her about everything he bought for his lady friend: scented soaps, pantyhose, Midol, calcium chewables, and the yogurt that is good for regulating the female bowel.

PENNY: You're having a woman stay with you?

SHELDON: Yes. Why does that seem to flabbergast everybody?

Sheldon requests that Penny not waste her time with a lot of female banter, such as hair styles, shoe styles, mudpacks, or Brad and Angelina.

Dr. Plimpton shows, and Sheldon insists Leonard play it cool, since years from now, Sheldon's biographer might ask him questions about this event. Fortunately, Dr. Plimpton remembered to write their address on her left hand, because her right hand contained the coordinates of a new neutron star, and she didn't want to visit there. Sheldon greets her, and Leonard is rather nervous to meet Dr. Plimpton, shaking her hand three times and saying "hi-lo." (A combination of hi and hello.)

SHELDON: I apologize. He's only an experimental physicist.

DR. PLIMPTON: Not to worry. Some of my best friends are experimental physicists.

Sheldon shows her to his room and gives her the tour...and rules and regulations. The gloves are available to wear if she wants to peruse his comic book collection, and the emergency exits and emergency 8-day ration kit is at the ready. Dr. Plimpton does ask one question: what the relationship status of Leonard was. Sheldon explains his relationship with Penny, which was over as inexplicably as it started. She decides to visit Leonard's room because she can't sleep. He's reading her book and is on Chapter 6.

DR. PLIMPTON: Can I let you in on a little secret? I wrote the section on the Wilson-Bapu Effect completely naked.

LEONARD: Really? It doesn't read that way.

DR. PLIMPTON: Here, let me show you. (and drops her robe)

LEONARD: Wow. You really make science come alive.

Everybody wakes up in the morning, and Leonard and Elizabeth had more than a pleasant night...if the giggling is any indication. She'll have her coffee first, since hearing Sheldon in the bathroom put her off doing that. Penny stops by to request a ride to work because the engine light came on. The one that tells you to fill the car with gas. Leonard will take her, but she is introduced first to Elizabeth. Elizabeth says she was really enjoying her stay...and fortunately Sheldon inadvertently stops the moment from being awkward for long, as Leonard's bathroom time was coming up, and you really don't want to follow him. Leonard goes to get dressed but Penny stops him. A little jealousy about Leonard sleeping with Elizabeth seeps out, given that they just broke up. Sheldon is offended that Penny would suggest Leonard sleep with his "doctor buddy,"

PENNY: I'm not suggesting it, I'm saying it happened.

LEONARD: It wasn't my fault.

SHELDON: What, did you accidentally trip and fall into her lady parts?

Penny is not happy about this turn of events and decides to take the bus, just in case Leonard slips on a banana peel and gets her pregnant. Sheldon is shocked by the betrayal...of him.

SHELDON: She's my friend. And you are playing with her!

LEONARD: (to himself) Yeah, I guess I did.

At the cafeteria, Sheldon and Elizabeth stop by the table after Howard and Raj can't figure out Leonard's clues as to what he did the prior night. She wants a coffee, but not black. This time, she wants it hot, brown, and sweet...while making eyes with Raj. For proof, we go to later on with Elizabeth and Raj at his apartment. Howard brings over soup thinking Raj is still sick, and Raj tries to send him away, since he's loopy on Ny-Quil. However, Elizabeth wants Howard to stay for some role-playing games. And not the kind that required a 12th-level dungeon master.

ELIZABETH: You two work out the details while I change into something I don't mind you ripping off my milky flesh.

RAJ: Will you go! She wants New Delhi, not Kosher Deli! You have a girlfriend!

HOWARD: I broke up with her weeks ago! I was waiting for the right time to tell you. And this IS the right time!

And Leonard arrives, making it even more fun for Elizabeth. Now it'll be a foursome.

HOWARD: Welcome to the Penthouse Forum.

Realizing they'd all be naked in front of each other, they decline. And then Elizabeth shows up in panties and a bra. (and looking good, too. Kudos to Ms. Greer.) Raj suggests they go outside to make a dramatic entrance. Howard and Leonard do...and get locked out.

RAJ: So you say you can't pay your rent...

Not only does Leonard lose something special, he has to walk upstairs with Penny. He wants to explain why he did what he did.

LEONARD: She let me.

The Staircase Implementation

Season 3
Episode Number: 62
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Monday May 17, 2010
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, David Goetsch, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Ally Maki (Joyce Kim), Steven Yeun (Sebastian), Ajgie Kirkland (Louie), Ed Lieberman (Announcer)
Production Code: 3X5572
Summary: A squabble over the thermostat setting leads to Leonard going over to Penny's and recounting for her the story of how he met and moved in with Sheldon.



Penny is painting her toenails a lovely shade of pink to hide the fact she inherited her father's feet. She has no plans to find out what the argument is between Sheldon and Leonard. Unfortunately, they're so loud she doesn't have to leave her apartment to find out. Leonard asks to sleep on her couch. Leonard asks her if she thinks Sheldon is bat-crazy to argue over the thermostat being set two degrees higher. She says that person is not as crazy as the one who decided to move in with Sheldon. Sounds like a flashback episode, doesn't it? You would be correct in that assumption.

SEVEN YEARS EARLIER

Leonard walks into the building, having borrowed Juan Epstein's hair from Welcome Back, Kotter, and takes the elevator (yes, it works) looking for Sheldon Cooper's apartment. He chose to ignore the warning from Sheldon's former roommate.

LEONARD: That should have been my first clue.

Penny wondered why that wasn't enough of a warning, but naive Leonard thought his roommate might have been the crazy one instead of Sheldon. Back in the past, Leonard knocked on the door (Penny's door), but the large, cross-dressing black person he saw wasn't Sheldon. ("Nah, you want the crazy guy across the hall.") Leonard ignored Clue #2 and knocked on Sheldon's door. And it's time for the quiz.

SHELDON: What is the sixth noble gas?

LEONARD: Radon?

SHELDON: Are you asking me or telling me.

LEONARD: Telling you? (pause) Telling you.

SHELDON: Kirk or Picard?

LEONARD: Original Series over Next Generation but Picard over Kirk.

SHELDON: Correct. You've passed the first barrier to roommatehood. You may enter.

Leonard gets to see the apartment, which was bereft of any furniture, save a TV, two lawn chairs, and a bunch of whiteboards. Leonard wants to see the bedrooms, but that would be contingent on making it through the second and third barriers. ("Each more daunting than the last.") Leonard sits down, but not in Sheldon's spot after being rebuked. Sheldon finds out Leonard is an experimental physicist. Sheldon asks if he can drive him, as he chooses not to drive (lie). The final question Leonard asked, but it was easy, since the only thing Sheldon wouldn't want in a post-apocalyptic world is procreation.

LEONARD: Good! I passed the barriers.

SHELDON: Only the second one. Don't get cocky.

They're ready for the tour and the first stop is the bathroom.

SHELDON: When do you evacuate your bowels?

LEONARD: Ummm, when I need to?

SHELDON: I'm sorry, but I can't rent to hippies.

LEONARD: OK, 8:00?

SHELDON: I can't give you 8. I can give you 7:30.

Leonard agrees, and he gets to see his room. Granted, Leonard would have to paint over the "DIE SHELDON, DIE!" written in blood on the wall, but it was a minor detail.

Leonard goes over the roommate agreement. He is shocked that he is obligated to watch *Firefly* on Friday nights, but Sheldon thinks it's important since it will be on for years. There is an apartment flag ("don't fly it upside-down unless the apartment is in distress"), and if either invents time travel, the first place they'll go is five seconds from this meeting time. Leonard initials it...and they make sure nobody shows up.

In the present, Leonard defends his decision by saying how nice and affordable the apartment was, and he felt obligated to go through after crashing the first three barriers. And then he brought a girl over.

Leonard is making out with (possibly) Joyce Kim (big mistake to let her go), and Sheldon initiates his first ****-block. And we get the origins of the three knock-Leonard cadence. ("I'm just going to keep knocking until you answer.") Apparently, the roommate agreement clearly stated you have to give a coitus warning of 12 hours. ("I didn't even KNOW HER 12 hours ago!")

Penny is certainly more sympathetic to Leonard now. (although helping her with her toenails is winning him points in her book). Penny wants to know why he'd stay when Sheldon chased Joyce Kim out of the apartment, but Joyce turned out to be a North Korean spy trying to get some top secret information from Leonard. Keeping Leonard from federal prison was half the reason he stuck with Sheldon. The other half has to do with the elevator.

Back to the past, Sheldon walks in on Leonard...and Raj (Kunal Nayyar) and Howard(Simon Helberg). Seven years ago, Howard was sporting an afro and a soul patch, while Raj apparently didn't get the memo that *Miami Vice* was cancelled 10 years earlier. Sheldon is going out of his mind about the leather couch that was now in the apartment. Sheldon thinks he violated the agreement, but Leonard is permitted to decorate 50% of the common area as long as he emails Sheldon. Which he did, and Sheldon checks his Palm Treo for verification. (or whatever they had in 2003). Damn spam filters. But Sheldon is mollified by the fact that Raj wasted his money on an iPod when Microsoft has one of their own coming out.

PENNY: But what does this have to do with the elevator?

Perhaps it had something to do with Leonard wanting to watch *Babylon 5*, which Sheldon denies, since nobody in this apartment (meaning him) likes *Babylon 5*. But Leonard says it's a tie, and he didn't agree to the "all ties decided by Sheldon" rule, which Sheldon did agree to, and all ties...

Leonard decides he can fix it, by having everyone leave. Sheldon tries to go with, but he's the guy they're trying to get away from. ("The correct syntax is: the guy from whom you're trying to get away.") They go to Howard's, and Howard's mother is in good voice tonight. (Didn't sound like Carol Susi, though. Hmmm.) Howard has a three-stage rocket he created, and Leonard thought it was his lucky day because he has rocket fuel back at the apartment. The thing he was going to show Joyce Kim. They return, and Sheldon tells him the rocket fuel won't work because Leonard didn't adjust the formulas correctly to account for a model rocket instead of the real thing. Sheldon goes ballistic, and so does the fuel. Leonard tries to take it in the elevator, but Sheldon does it for him and was quicker about it. Sheldon saved his life and didn't rat him out to the police, landlord, or Homeland Security.

PENNY: So the reason I've been walking up and down the stairs for three years is that you did something stupid?

Leonard guffaws, not believing Penny didn't do anything stupid 7 years ago. She was in high school, keeping her nose clean, doing community work, and celebrating the pregnancy test coming back negative.

Back in the present, Leonard apologizes to Sheldon for setting the thermostat to the wrong number. He goes to watch Babylon 5. Oops.

SHELDON: Don't make me turn that flag upside-down, because I'll do it!

The Lunar Excitation

Season 3

Episode Number: 63

Season Episode: 23

Originally aired: Monday May 24, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Maria Ferrari, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steven Molaro, Steve Holland
Director: Peter Chakos
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Brian Smith (XXXVI) (Zack), Lauri Johnson (Mrs. Gunderson)
Production Code: 3X5573
Summary: Howard and Raj try to find the perfect match for Sheldon by setting him up on an Internet dating site. Seeing her moronic new boyfriend interact with the gang makes it abundantly clear to Penny that she can't go back to dating stereotypical dumb jocks after dating Leonard.



The boys are up on the roof doing a lunar ranging experiment and Raj will happily give back the telescope after he's done watching *The Good Wife* on someone's TV. (It's his new *Grey's Anatomy*.) Leonard admits he thinks Penny would like to be up here to see this. Sheldon didn't realize Penny had an interest in lunar ranging.

SHELDON: Although the retro-reflector left by Neil Armstrong on the moon could qualify as a shiny object.

Of course, she won't come up because she and Leonard were in different places in the relationship. Or as Howard puts it,

she dumped him.

Leonard decides to go tell her they're on the roof bouncing laser beams off the moon and wondered if she wanted to see it. However, Zack, her date, wonders how you can bounce stuff on the moon if there's no gravity but he wants to see it anyway, and everybody awkwardly goes up to the roof. Zack apparently designs the menus for the Cheesecake Factory. There's a lot of science in it, but he'll figure out that stuff after he determines that the elevator doesn't work on any of the floors. Leonard tries to explain what's going on, as the guys are bouncing lasers off the reflectors left by the Apollo 11 astronauts.

ZACK: But how can you be sure it won't blow it up? The moon?

SHELDON: See? Now THIS is a man for Penny.

Leonard quickly gets him away and they fire the laser. 2.5 seconds later, the reflector on the roof records it. The guys are happy.

ZACK: That's it? That's your big experiment?

LEONARD: Don't you see what we've done? It's the only definitive proof that a species put objects on the moon. A species that only 60 years before had just invented the airplane.

ZACK: What species is that?

SHELDON: I was wrong. Penny could do better.

Howard suggests getting Leonard an online dating profile. He's had 8 dates in the last month, 12 if you count the ones that just show up and leave. (Better record than me, sadly.) As Sheldon "orders" Leonard to go get a heavy nitrogen tank down, Raj comes up with the idea of making an online dating profile for Sheldon. It's an experiment, like when Frankenstein's monster was lonely and they found him a wife.

During the night, a drunk Penny yells at Leonard for making her realize how stupid Zack was. Apparently, she's having a hard time dating because she now factors intelligence into her potential suitors.

PENNY: You have destroyed my ability to tolerate idiots! Now let's go!

LEONARD: Where are we going?

PENNY: We're going to have sex!

LEONARD: But why...I mean, OK.

Sheldon has to break out the noise canceling headphones...per Penny's advice, because this was going to get loud.

In the morning, Penny can't do her walk of shame without disturbing Sheldon. And his noise-canceling headphones were not enough last night. ("As a native Texan, I must say I've never heard the phrase 'yee-haw' used in quite that context.") Leonard can't walk out to the kitchen either. Sheldon tells him Penny went back to her apartment to shower and vomit...not necessarily in that order. Lenny and Penny have an awkward moment as she runs off to work. Leonard wants to go dinner and a movie but Penny tells him last night was a mistake (and not the good kind, like penicillin). She wants him to forget it, but the whole rodeo thing is kind of implanted in his brain.

LEONARD: So, that's it? Wham, bam, thank you Leonard? You used me for sex?

Raj has the proof that aliens walk among us: the dating site matches Sheldon with a woman. An actual woman. Now Dr. Sheldon must send an email to his perfect match.

It's time for Leonard to get his revenge. He wants payback sex, so he goes to Leslie Winkle. They talk awkwardly for several minutes. He asks her since she had sex with him for fun, did she want to do that again? ("Blondie dumped you?") Since it's OK to have recreational sex with people they've known before, he asks her. She says she'll think about it...and slams the door in his face.

The Bride of Frankenstein experiment is proceeding as expected. In other words, it's out of control. Sheldon's perfect match wants to meet him. Howard decides to resort to the truth. They got him a date with his perfect match for the next day. Of course, Sheldon thinks the algorithms used to determine the compatibility of potential mates is hokum, but that is literally the answer they gave when the questionnaire asked what they thought of online dating sites.

RAJ: Even Spock had a date once every seven years.

That still won't convince Sheldon. But Raj hid the dirty sock that freaked Sheldon out on the roof, somewhere in the apartment, and refuses to take it out unless Sheldon meets Amy Farah Fowler (Mayim Bialik) tomorrow at 4:30.

Leonard comes back to the apartment drunk and goes to Penny's apartment.

LEONARD: I was a perfectly happy geeky, lonely little guy, and you ruined it for me! Come on, we're going to have sex and it's not going to mean a thing.

PENNY: Are you out of your mind? (throws him out)

LEONARD: I really think there's a double-standard here.

At the coffee shop, Sheldon is going over the ways he'll react when this experiment is a failure...either a "told you so" with a "neener-neener" or a haughty look of derision. Amy shows up, who also agreed to date once a year just to keep her mother off her back and shares Sheldon's aversion to soiled hosiery. She tells Sheldon all forms of physical contact up to and including coitus are off the table.

SHELDON: Can I buy you a beverage?

Howard and Raj are shocked. "Good Lord, what have we done?"

Season Four

The Robotic Manipulation

Season 4
Episode Number: 64
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Thursday September 23, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I), David Goetsch, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I), Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Vernee Watson-Johnson (Althea)
Production Code: 3X6651
Summary: Howard uses a robotic arm for his own pleasure. Penny assists Sheldon with his first date.



Season 4 opens with the boys having Chinese. And there's an extra set of hands to serve them. Well, one hand anyway. Wolowitz stole (borrowed) a robotic arm from JPL and brought it home with him. He's quite adept at programming it because it only took 28 minutes to get all the food out. Of course, using a robotic arm he originally designed for extravehicular repairs on the International Space Station really shouldn't be in the apartment, especially if Sheldon is right and it goes back in time to kill Sarah Connor. Penny thinks it's amazing, but Sheldon thinks it's merely a modest leap forward. But Howard can program the hand to give

the peace sign to Sheldon. (One too many fingers, apparently.)

Sheldon receives a text from Amy Fowler, his girlfriend. ("Sheldon has a girlfriend?!?") Howard and Raj explain to Penny they put Sheldon's info on a dating site, and it spit out Amy Fowler. And four months later, the guys got around to telling her about "Shamy." Naturally, Sheldon denies she's his girlfriend, even though they plan to have a child together. Now everybody is on the floor, given that they wonder how Sheldon and Amy would even have a kid, since all they've done in four months is text and Twitter.

SHELDON: Amy pointed out that between the two of us, our genetic material has the potential of producing the first in a line of intellectually-superior benign overlords to guide humanity to a brighter tomorrow.

HOWARD: I'm guessing that future historians will condemn us for not taking this opportunity to kill Sheldon.

However, Sheldon insists on being clinical about procreation instead of doing it the old fashioned way, which is messy, unsanitary, and in Penny's case, involves loud and unnecessary appeals to a deity.

PENNY: (shocked) Oh, God!

SHELDON: Exactly.

Penny suggests dating Amy first, but since she's not Sheldon's girlfriend, perhaps he can first meet the mother of his future child. That worked.

Sheldon is all set for his non-date with his non-girlfriend, but he needs a ride. He asks Penny (obviously the three-knock cadence is used), and she begrudgingly agrees since she doesn't have anything better to do and Leonard told him what he could go do with his cockamamie idea...although that wasn't the word Leonard used. Penny wants to give him advice since she's been on plenty of dates, and this is his first date.

SHELDON: If you know so much, how come I have a date tonight, and you have nothing better to do than drive me to it?

PENNY: (completely humbled) Fair point.

Howard took the robotic arm back home and enjoyed a massage from it. He then has to call Leonard, who is thankful he doesn't have to hear Raj's questions about how Aquaman goes to the bathroom. Apparently Howard is stuck because he tried to get the robotic arm to give him a massage on a body part OTHER THAN his shoulder. (and seriously, if you haven't figured it out, you shouldn't have been watching this show in the first place)

Amy joins Penny and Sheldon in her car, although for reasons unexplained, she rode in the back while Sheldon remained up front. Probably better, since Amy has the same thing about a "check engine" light Sheldon does. Penny tries to compliment Amy's hair.

AMY: Are you a homosexual?

PENNY: Uh, no. Just paying you a compliment.

AMY: I would have been more flattered if you were a homosexual.

And since neither Sheldon nor Amy want music played, Penny tries to break the uncomfortable silence with talk of Sheldon's youth...which took all of four seconds.

Leonard and Raj make it to Howard's house, and the situation is pretty much how you would picture someone dumb enough to let a robotic arm near their...reason to live. Apparently Howard loaded the wrong program, and the robotic arm thinks it's holding a screwdriver in space, which means continuing the program would be a very bad thing.

RAJ: When Winnie the Pooh got his head stuck in the honeytree, his friends all grabbed onto him and pulled and pulled and pulled.

LEONARD: You do what you want; I'm not touching another man's honeytree.

Saws and acetalyine torches are also out ("No saws! One circumcision was enough!") But they have to hurry, because Howard's mother has COOKIES AND HAWAAIIIIIIAAAANNNN PUNCH! They take the whole thing to the hospital, where the nurse performs a CTRLALTDELECTOMY (yes, she reboots the computer just as Howard is condescendingly informing her that it's a little more complex than simply turning the computer off.)

Sheldon and Amy have their date...and Penny is with them. They eat in silence, while Penny tries to make conversation. She tells Amy Sheldon is on his first official date, as a "semi-incestuous Teens for Jesus Fourth of July Hoedown" doesn't count. Amy has one date a year in exchange for her mother not bothering her about it and loaning her a George Foreman grill. ("It seals in the flavor without the fat!") And the question falls to Penny about the number of dates she's had. But before she can answer, Sheldon does a few calculus equations to determine Penny has dated 171 men (correction: 193, since Penny dated one year sooner than Sheldon theorized). As a result of the number of men Sheldon saw leave her apartment or the number of times Penny came home with the same attire, Penny has had 30.96 sexual partners. ("Let's round that up to 31.")

AMY: This is very interesting. Cultural perceptions are very subjective. Penny, are you a slut?

While Penny drowns her sorrows, Sheldon asks Amy the same question. If direct electrical stimulation of the brain to the point of achieving orgasm counts, Amy's an even bigger slut than Penny.

In the end, Sheldon considers the date a success and is ready to have his in-vitro baby with Amy...until Penny points out he'd be giving his born-again Christian mother a test tube baby out of wedlock. Sheldon decides not to procreate.

Leonard answers the phone. It's Howard. "What do you mean, it happened again?!"

The Cruciferous Vegetable Amplification

Season 4
Episode Number: 65
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday September 30, 2010
Writer: Bill Prady, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Steve Wozniak (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6652
Summary: Sheldon calculates that he'll be dead before technology exists to download his consciousness into a robot, so he goes on a binge of healthy living and ultra-safety.



Sheldon is busy at the whiteboards and not devising a way to catch the Roadrunner, as Leonard theorizes. Sheldon is calculating when he's going to die. ("A lot of people are doing that research.") Unfortunately, even taking out Uncle Carl's "death by badger" out of the longevity formula of the Cooper family tree, Sheldon will fall just short of the invention of the singularity: the point when man will be able to transfer their consciousness into machinery.

LEONARD: So, you're upset about missing out on becoming some kind of freakish, self-aware robot.

SHELDON: By this much!

Unified Theory, cold fusion, and the dogapus (yes, it's what you think) will be created after Sheldon has left the planet. Even though he hates dogs, he could play fetch with eight different balls. ("Nobody can hate that!")

As a result of Sheldon's panic, Thursday nights are now Cruciferous Vegetable Night instead of Pizza Night. And this week is Brussels Sprouts. Penny asks why...and regrets it once again. Sheldon explains his plans to extend his life through diet and exercise.

PENNY: So you want to turn yourself into some sort of robot? OK, here's my question: didn't you already do that?

Jogging is Sheldon's choice for exercise, despite the fact his only experience in it is being chased by bullies and ticked off farm animals. Raj suggests...using Howard as a translator, naturally...that he jogs with Penny.

SHELDON: That's an excellent idea. If we chat, it will create the illusion of time going faster!

PENNY: (less than thrilled) No it won't.

And Penny asks the second question of the evening she'll regret: how did Raj know Penny jogs? Stalking with high-powered binoculars is the reason...according to Howard. But apparently that's not true, so Raj will have to learn to talk to women to not seem so creepy.

Unfortunately for Sheldon...and Leonard, since Sheldon had to wake him up...he has to go to the hospital to get his appendix removed. Or it may have been the brussels sprouts, as Leonard

finds out the hard way when he's standing behind Sheldon. But Sheldon hasn't given up on jogging, and Penny is ready to go. She stretches, he can't, and he falls down the stairs. Onto Penny. And the brussels sprouts decide to announce themselves yet again.

SHELDON: If it's any help, Thursdays are no longer Cruciferous Vegetable Night

Later, the gang enjoys Indian food, while Raj enjoys Chicken McNuggets. Penny has been a little short of cash, so Leonard again floats the meal for her, along with a dozen other meals, gas for her car, rent. She's up to \$1400 on the meter, and Raj claims she doesn't even have to put out to get free stuff. Sheldon joins them...or should I say, SHEL-BOT! Basically, it's a Segway with an LCD monitor and Sheldon's Green Lantern shirt on a hanger. (tasteful) Sheldon has conceded his body is too fragile for traditional methods of improving longevity. As a result, he'll remain in seclusion while interacting with the world via the Shel-Bot.

HOWARD: (off Raj's whispered question) Really? That's your question? When did he put a ramp in?

After Penny moves away from Shel-Bot's spot, Sheldon assures the gang they'll grow accustomed to dealing with Sheldon in this manner.

PENNY: Honestly, I don't see much difference.

Sheldon requiring Leonard to disassemble the Shel-Bot every day and take him to work is the proverbial last straw. While Penny negotiates the sale of her underwear to either Raj or Howard for \$1,400...and they think about it...Leonard goes to talk to Sheldon.

SHELDON: At my age, do you know I'm statistically most likely to die?

LEONARD: At the hands of your roommate?

SHELDON: An accident.

LEONARD: Oh, that's how I'll make it look.

Leonard refuses to help, but Sheldon proves it was in the roommate agreement. He even shows Leonard the paragraph...and highlights it in yellow on the screen. But Sheldon enjoys the drive to work a lot more...especially since Shel-Bot was smart enough to call shotgun. But he does try to soothe Leonard with a video of a traditional Bavarian dance while playing the recorder. That didn't work, so Sheldon tries a 1911 picture of a discussion of radiation, with anachronisms Photoshopped in, and Leonard has to find them. Why doesn't Leonard just unplug Sheldon? He tries. But you know Sheldon prepared for that, right? And Sheldon's poorly-timed Bazinga! almost causes an auto accident only Leonard would suffer from.

Leonard, Howard, Raj, and R2-D-Bag head to the Cheesecake Factory, and there may be a solution to the guys' problem. Penny refuses to wait on them, and the guys get to meet Steve Wozniak of Apple Computer fame. Even Penny knew who he was, since he was on Dancing With the Stars. Sheldon tells Steve he still has an Apple II computer from 1977, despite the file limitations of the OS at the time. Steve offers to autograph it, and that gets Sheldon out of his bed. And to the stairs. And the atrophy in his legs from lying down for several days does the trick to him and the computer.

Oh, by the way, Shel-Bot can do the three-knock-Penny cadence...sort of. But since Sheldon hurt his ankle and couldn't get out of bed, Sheldon wants her to sing Soft Kitty to Shel-Bot. That beats singing it to him in person, although she could have done with out the recorder accompaniment.

The Zazzy Substitution

Season 4
Episode Number: 66
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday October 7, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Jim Reynolds (I), Steven Molaro, Lee Aronsohn (I), Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper)
Production Code: 3X6653
Summary: When Sheldon "breaks up" with Amy, the guys worry when he starts replacing her with cats.



Sheldon and Amy (don't call them Shamy) are enjoying a trivia game they invented called "CounterFactuals," where they postulate a situation in the world that currently doesn't exist and pose questions to each other. Such as the one Leonard is dumb enough to ask for.

SHELDON: In a world where mankind is ruled by a giant, intelligent beaver, what food is no longer consumed?

Leonard guesses cinnamon, but the answer is clearly a cheese danish. Since the people would build many dams to appease their overlord and flood the city of Copenhagen, devastating the Danish peo-

ple enough to never invent their namesake pastry. Sheldon and Amy offer to play a game more Leonard's speed: hide and seek. And Leonard goes to hide...although he wasn't actually playing the game.

At the Cheesecake Factory, Leonard has to contend with Howard and Raj using the term "toilet" at the dinner table. (Suddenly CounterFactuals doesn't seem so bad.) Sheldon and Amy arrive, late because Amy had to get some feminine hygiene supplies, since she wears them all the time as a precaution. (TMI to the guys on that one.) Penny wants to take their order but makes the mistake of using term Shamy. ("I don't like that. Don't do that.") And asking her about her life is worthless, as it is the same as everybody else's: subject to entropy, decay, and eventual death. But Leonard doesn't fare much better Amy agrees with Sheldon that Leonard is a "festival of humdrum chitchat." Howard only has a Master's, so he's beneath her, and Raj is grateful for not being able to talk in front of women.

Leonard asks Sheldon if he can take his girlfriend ("She's not my girlfriend!") elsewhere to date, as she is judgmental, sanctimonious, and obnoxious...and they already have Sheldon for that. But Sheldon points out he suffered in silence for eight months dealing with Penny's off-key country music caterwalling, rubbing her feet with a pumice stone, and vast knowledge of Jersey Shore.

LEONARD: SUFFERED IN SILENCE!?!?!?!?!?

Unfortunately, attempting to move the group to Penny's proves fruitless, as Howard insists on correcting Penny's use of the pumice (he has plenty of practice with his mother) and Raj insists on getting drunk and acting like a jerk.

At the university cafeteria the next day, Leonard, Howard, and a hungover Raj are joined by John and Yoko ("more like Yoko and Yoko"), more commonly known as Shamy (don't call them Shamy!), who are looking at some of the work Sheldon does. Amy thinks it's very impressive for theoretical work. Oops.

SHELDON: Do I detect a hint of condescension?

AMY: I'm sorry, was I being too subtle?

As she is an expert on the real-world applications of neurobiology, she finds theoretical physics 'cute'. And Sheldon isn't happy about that. He can't believe the work of someone like Babinski could ever rise up to the work of Clark Maxwell or Dirac.

AMY: I'm stating it outright. Babinski eats Dirac for breakfast and defecates Clark Maxwell.

Sheldon demands she take it back, she refuses, and Sheldon is dumped by his first girlfriend. ("She's not my girlfriend!")

HOWARD: Women. Can't live with them, can't successfully refute their hypotheses.

Penny finds Sheldon in the laundry and asks if he's OK after his breakup with his girlfriend.

SHELDON: A breakup would imply she was my girlfriend. She was a girl, who was my friend, who is now a girl who is not my friend.

PENNY: That's, like, the worst country song ever.

Sheldon assures her that his relationship with Amy was purely intellectual. And he is feeling no ill effects. He has to leave to go buy a cat. A cat that Sheldon takes EVERYWHERE, even to the university, and the bathroom. Sheldon introduces Dr. Robert Oppenheimer to the guys before getting him a saucer of milk. And apparently, Dr. Robert Oppenheimer is really a female. And not spayed, as Sheldon now has six more cats. Sheldon bought the "whole Manhattan project" because Dr. Robert Oppenheimer was lonely, but Zazzles is his favorite. Leonard thinks it's intervention time, as clearly Sheldon is having difficulty getting over his breakup with his non-girlfriend. He sends for Sheldon's mother. She verifies that Sheldon had a real girlfriend and not something the boys cooked up in the lab. Sheldon makes it in the bedroom, and the normally unflappable Mary Cooper (Laurie Metcalf) is fully flapped at seeing all the cats. ("You should have called me sooner.")

Mrs. Cooper's plan is to have a non-feline dinner with Sheldon, Leonard...and Amy. She told Amy Sheldon may have been having emotional problems with their breakup, which he promptly denied. Mrs. Cooper chatted with Amy and was of the opinion she and Sheldon really weren't meant for each other. Suddenly, Sheldon is defending the relationship, as Amy and Sheldon were as close to each other's intellectual equals as they have ever had. His mother still insisted she would have ended their relationship if he hadn't done it first.

SHELDON: Amy, I propose we resume our relationship and attempt to work out our differences.

Amy is for that, if Sheldon will agree that 80% of the breakup was his fault. He negotiates it down to 65% and tells her about his 25 cats. She's elated, as cats are the epitome of indifference (ain't that the truth). Leonard correctly guessed Mrs. Cooper was using some reverse psychology on Sheldon.

MRS. COOPER: If we hadn't told our brother Stumpy not to clean out the wood chipper by hand, we'd still be calling him Edward.

Fortunately, Sheldon and Amy were able to give away the cats for \$20 each. That is, they PAID people \$20 to take his cats.

The Hot Troll Deviation

Season 4
Episode Number: 67
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday October 14, 2010
Writer: Director:
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Katee Sackhoff (Herself), George Takei (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6654
Summary: Wolowitz tries to get back together with Bernadette. Sheldon and Raj go to war at the university.



It's so cute to see Sheldon and Raj arguing about whether or not slow-moving xenon would emit light. Naturally Sheldon thinks he's right. Raj thinks he's so arrogant, if Sheldon was a superhero, he'd be Captain Arrogant. Actually, Sheldon prefers Dr. Arroganto. Sheldon even has a strategy for getting Raj to shut up: call Penny over. Howard overturns him on appeal: Sheldon played fair. Of course, since they're at the Cheesecake Factory, Howard would have to run into Bernadette. And he does...and immediately hides under the table.

It's night in Howard's bedroom, he has his burgundy silk pajamas on, and it's time for love. (Woman sold separately.) He puts on the music, illuminates the light sabres (remote control, of course), and conjurs up Katee Sackhoff in her full Battlestar Galactica flight suit. (It's Howard's fantasy; he can do what he wants.)

KATEE: (deadpan) Oh ravish me, Howard. My loins ache for you.

Howard prepares himself, and suddenly Bernadette is there. Apparently, Howard's fantasy life is projecting her in because he saw her earlier that day. Katee agrees, since Howard would have been done by now. (And if you need that explained, go away. Seriously, stop watching. The show won't miss you.) Howard is getting a little confused, which apparently was the cue for George Takei to join the fantasy, complete with his civilian clothes from Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home

KATEE: Howard, do you have latent homosexual tendencies?

HOWARD: No! Of course not!

GEORGE: So you say. Yet, here I am!

Katee and George leave because Howard really wants to be with Bernadette. That, and Katee wants advice on how not to be typecast. (Easy: don't stink up the joint on 24.) And now that Howard's mother has put her girdle on in anticipation of her Weight Watchers meeting, the fantasy is officially over.

The mystery surrounding why Howard and Bernadette broke up in the first place continues. Howard merely says it was something stupid he did that makes it hard to face her now, but Leonard (Johnny Galecki) thinks that could cover anything between farting in bed and killing a homeless guy. How to find out?

LEONARD: Kidnap Bernadette from the opera wearing a creepy mask!

HOWARD: See, I don't know whether you're kidding or not.

Sheldon's and Raj's argument continues. Raj wants a desk, and Sheldon says there's no money in his budget, since he spent it on a glow-in-the-dark ant farm. (they do some of their best work at night). Howard suggests Raj buy his own desk, and Sheldon can't counter the argument.

Penny is visited by Sheldon, complete with his three knock-Penny cadence. Except it was Howard with a recording of Sheldon. Apparently, you give Penny one teddy bear with a webcam, and you're banned for life. Howard asks her to talk to Bernadette to see if she'll agree to meet with Howard. She refuses until Howard tells her why he broke up with Bernadette. Apparently there was a hot troll named Glissinda on World of Warcraft while he was online, and Bernadette wasn't sleeping with him, so... Fully creeped out (but not surprised), she doesn't want to help, so Howard lays some award-winning Jewish guilt on her. She practically shoves the phone in his hand.

Leonard relates the entire story about Howard meeting Bernadette for coffee to Sheldon.

SHELDON: One question. Why are you telling me all this?

LEONARD: I don't know. Sometimes your movements are so lifelike, I forget you're not a real boy.

Sheldon heads to his office, where Raj has moved in the mother of all executive desks. It takes up most of the room. But Sheldon said he could buy the "Brobdingnagian monstrosity" (and thank you to Raj for making him repeat it so I could type it correctly). And now Sheldon wants it out. Raj refuses, and Sheldon realizes it's the opening salvo of an escalating of juvenile tit-for-tat exchanges. ("Well titted. Prepare for my tat!")

Bernadette and Howard meet at the Cheesecake Factory, which may not have been a good idea, as Penny was working and used any excuse to eavesdrop. Even nachos. She's still mad about the "slutty troll," but Howard was going crazy because they weren't having sex. But Bernadette thought that was Howard's fault because he never made the move. Which he did not know. Nor did he know that Steve Patterson, the greasy old fat guy in Facilities Management, was Glissinda the Troll. Still, Howard could handle that after seeing Sheldon and Raj fighting with marshmallow and Nerf guns in their office.

Howard takes her on a date and they start to kiss. Katee Sackhoff is in Howard's ear to take it to the next level and make his move, while George Takei is telling him to slow down.

GEORGE: A lady wants to be wooed. Courted slowly.

KATEE: How would YOU know?

GEORGE: (offended) I read!

Howard makes the move, and Bernadette stops him. She needs to get to know him again before they sleep together. She tells him to be patient. They'll get there.

GEORGE: Told you!

Something nasty is coming from Sheldon's and Raj's office. It's Sheldon mixing hydrogen sulfide and ammonia gas. ("A little experiment in pest control.") Raj counters with his cinnamon-apple scented aroma therapy candles. However, hydrogen sulfide and ammonia gas is highly flammable. Somehow, the parakeet survives the explosion. Raj's hair? Eh...

The Desperation Emanation

Season 4
Episode Number: 68
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday October 21, 2010
Writer: David Goetsch, Lee Aronsohn (I), Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Recurring Role: Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Charlotte Newhouse (Joy), Annie O'Donnell (Mrs. Fowler)
Production Code: 3X6655
Summary: Leonard is depressed to realize all the other guys have girlfriends, while he doesn't. Amy wants to introduce Sheldon to her mother.



Sheldon and Leonard are enjoying a nice movie on the couch, although I would never have pegged either of them to enjoy the Eric Bana/Jennifer Connelly version of Hulk. (Really, outside of Munich, what has Eric Bana done, and Jennifer has looked horrible since she went heroin-chic with her figure.) But Leonard wants to know why Sheldon isn't hanging out with Amy Fowler. Sheldon doesn't feel the need to have that sort of closeness with Amy, although he certainly has no problem rubbing it in Leonard's face that he's in a relationship (with a girl, who's a friend, who's not his girlfriend) while Leonard is not. Sheldon even chuckles nowadays, something he wonders why

Leonard does not. Perhaps it's because Leonard has the impunction to be social with a member of the opposite sex, which Sheldon is all too happy to point out to him. Sheldon even suggests what they did for his Meemaw: take him to a center three times a week to socialize...if Leonard likes bridge.

At the comic book store, Sheldon's theory of Leonard's jealousy takes on substance. Leonard points out that Howard assigned Bernadette her own ringtone (Bernadette by The Four Tops, natch) to rub their noses in it that he has a girlfriend and we don't.

RAJ: You mean you don't.

Apparently, Raj found the solution to getting a girl even though he can't talk to them: deaf chick! What? ("That's what she said.") Even Stuart, the comic book store owner, has a girlfriend. (If she ever puts on her plus-size Wonder Woman costume, go the other way.) Perhaps Leonard's psychological state is producing a pheromonal "stink of desperation." At least that's Amy's theory, who is in videoconference with Sheldon. While Leonard was sleeping on the couch. Leonard did suggest Sheldon have more contact with Amy, so he can't whine about this. Amy suggests a bar for Leonard, but Sheldon correctly points out picking up women in a bar requires feats of manliness, strength, and the ability to hold down liquor and/or throw darts. Although juice bars,

salad bars, and sushi bars might be more Leonard's speed. And that'll do it for Leonard. Amy then asks Sheldon if he'll meet her mother. And that'll do it for Sheldon. Sheldon chases after Leonard to ask him what it means.

LEONARD: Well, you know how you're always saying Amy's a girl who's your friend but not your girlfriend?

SHELDON: Uh-huh?

LEONARD: You can't say that anymore.

Leonard tells Sheldon Amy wants to take it to the next level, and Sheldon wants to stay on the current level. And his idea of giving Amy to Leonard doesn't go over very well. ("You're right, Amy will never go for that. Amy thinks you're tedious.")

Leonard is apparently really desperate, as he wore an Apple shirt to make it look like he worked at the Genius Bar. He goes to Howard to invoke his "girlfriend pact" with Howard to get Bernadette to fix him up with someone. Howard will be happy to do it, as his mother is doing a cleanse for her colonoscopy. ("HOW MUCH WATER CAN THERE BE IN ONE TOCHES???)

Leonard is prepared for his date with Bernadette's friend, while Sheldon removes his digital footprint to hide from Amy. He also changed his mobile phone number and the address of the building. Of course, Amy's been there before. ("The only flaw in an otherwise perfect plan!") Sheldon goes to hide while begging Leonard to cover for him. Sheldon makes sure Leonard has a good lie ready.

LEONARD: (answers door) Hi, Amy. Sheldon's not here.

AMY: OK. (leaves)

Bernadette's friend, Joy, arrives from her spin class, and she needs to use her napkin to dry her armpits. But she's hilarious! Bernadette knows Joy from their Israeli Krav Maga class. ("Basically 100 different ways to rip a guy's nuts off.") And enjoys lobster on the date's dime. And belching said lobster. And announcing she had asparagus right before going to the bathroom. (God, even I wouldn't date her.) Leonard's not happy with the date, especially given there's 93 ways Joy hasn't tried to rip his nuts off yet.

HOWARD: I was once robbed by a pre-op transsexual once on J-Date, and that doesn't even crack my Top Ten.

Leonard is ready to bail, until Joy asks him to her cousin's wedding the following weekend...with an open bar so she planned to give him the green light. He's in!

Sheldon wants to head out for the night, only Amy never left the building and is waiting for him. He tries going down in disguise...without saying the secret word and collecting \$100...but Amy realizes how meeting her mother could be misconstrued. She was only introducing Sheldon to get her mother off her back. They videoconference with her mother, and Sheldon assures her he's having wild, hot intercourse with her daughter. That seemed to work. Sheldon even offers it to Amy. BAZINGA!

The Irish Pub Formulation

Season 4

Episode Number: 69

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday October 28, 2010
Writer: Steven Molaro, Lee Aronsohn (I), Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan (I), Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X6656
Summary: When Raj's sister has a one-day layover he forbids the others from hooking up with her, unaware she and Leonard already did long ago.



At the cafeteria, the peach cobbler tastes like it's made of actual pieces of shoe-maker...which Sheldon actually found amusing. Raj brings by his sister, Priya. She has a one-day layover in Los Angeles on the way to Toronto. Of course, there is a rule about dating the sisters of your friends, and Howard wonders why he got singled out, given that he's dating Bernadette.

RAJ: My sister's much hotter than your girlfriend and you know it

HOWARD: Let's just agree they're both hot.

RAJ: Dude, that's my sister you're

talking about!

But both Howard and Leonard had made a pact not to hit on Priya. (no pinkie swear, though) Of course, they forgot the rule about Priya hitting on one of them. She hits on Leonard. Specifically, her lips hit his lips. And he's OK with that. Raj hasn't made plans with her yet, and Priya really isn't up for a Train Day in Los Angeles, complete with stops at hot dog stands at the beginning and end that are situated in old train cars. ("Did you make it clear they are two completely different hot dog stands?") But Priya will be perfectly happy spending time with Leonard...in his bedroom. One tiny problem: Sheldon. OK, that's a big problem. Sheldon found an online emulator that will let you play text-based games on your computer. Because apparently you lose something in the translation by just using a regular computer window. He's obsessed with playing well past his bedtime (of 9PM), but Leonard warns Sheldon he doesn't want to accidentally yawn during his Thermodynamic Fluctuations seminar.

SHELDON: Everyone will see my oddly-shaped uvula.

LEONARD: And you don't want that, do you.

SHELDON: No. But it's a shame our society mocks the differently-uvulated.

In the morning, after a lovely night with Priya, Leonard gets a visit from Sheldon. (and yes, with the three knock-Leonard cadence) Sheldon heard a woman laughing, which was Leonard, smells perfume (air freshener), and red marks on his cheek (rash). While Sheldon gets Leonard a topical steroid for the "rash" (cream, non-prescription, with a numbing agent because there are no heroes when it comes to dermatitis), Leonard tries to sneak Priya out, but they get caught.

SHELDON: For shame, Leonard! For shame! And to think I was going to waste the last of my good hemorrhoid cream on you!

As Leonard drives Sheldon to work, Leonard begs Sheldon not to say anything, but Sheldon is afraid of betraying a trust . . . with Howard. Not Raj, Howard. Sheldon remembers the pinkie swear Leonard made with Howard in 2005 at the Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake. (He had a patty melt) But Sheldon is upset Leonard betrayed Howard and Raj . . . and Sheldon, as Leonard violated the guest notification clause of their roommate agreement.

LEONARD: Fine, I'm a horrible human being. I'm the Darth Vader of Pasadena.

SHELDON: You're far too short to be Darth Vader. At best, you might be a turncoat Ewok.

Since Priya's gone, Leonard wants Sheldon to keep a secret, which Sheldon can't do. But Leonard points out Alfred kept Batman's secret. Sheldon comes by later to organize Leonard's iron-clad alibi. Leonard was actually with the "fun loving and morally loose Ms. Maggie McGarry."

SHELDON: You met her at Pasadena's favorite Irish watering hole, Lucky Baldwin's. (Wonder how Alec Baldwin will react to that.) Where Maggie spends her night tending bar with a head full of curls and a heart full of dreams. Sheldon even has a phone number and an automated message and a lock of Maggie's auburn hair . . . from an orangutan.

Raj grills Leonard on whether he thinks Priya was ever attracted to Howard, and Sheldon starts talking too much. Then they grill Leonard on the new (and last) episode of Caprica, but Leonard doesn't have an answer. Except now he started using Sheldon's alibi at his prompting. Leonard decides the truth is better than the lie and admits to Raj he slept with Priya. Both Howard and Raj go ballistic, while Sheldon chews him out for not sticking with the alibi. Leonard tells him he tried to convince Priya to turn what they had into a relationship . . . even offering to live in New Delhi . . . but Priya didn't want it. Raj is OK with it, but Howard staunchly defends himself by saying he never violated Raj's trust.

LEONARD: And what about the time you dropped Raj's iPhone into the urinal?

SHELDON: Or when you convinced him foreigners give presents to Americans on Thanksgiving?

And the confessions begin, as Raj used Sheldon's toothbrush once, Sheldon put crumbled moths into Leonard's food, and Howard has to cancel Raj washing everybody's clothes on the Fourth of July. Leonard points out everybody did things that were wrong, but they were friends. Everybody apologizes, except Sheldon is still livid at Raj. However, a Thomas the Tank Engine (with working smoke) makes it all better. Although Sheldon never really apologized or returned the Snoopy Snowcone maker.

The Apology Insufficiency

Season 4
Episode Number: 70
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday November 4, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I), Maria Ferrari, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Eliza Dushku (Agent Angela Page), Neil DeGrasse Tyson (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6657
Summary: The rest of the gang is interviewed by the FBI for Wolowitz's security clearance, with Sheldon accidentally letting slip some damaging information.



Leonard has finally figured out his problem with women! (only 70 episodes after the rest of us did!) And Sheldon can't change the topic by talking about the capybara rodent. Leonard doesn't exude confidence. He demonstrates what he'll do the next time he sees a woman, which includes whipping off his glasses and talking in a manly (relative to him) voice. It worked on Raj. Howard arrives and bogarts Sheldon's second attempt to talk about the capybara rodent by asking everybody to put in a good word for him, since the FBI may interview them for a

security clearance Howard needs for an upcoming project for the Defense Department. Raj is naturally scared, as he has a hard time going through airport security without getting a colonoscopy and a one-way trip back to Gandhi-ville. And Sheldon is offended they don't want to talk about the capybara ("Feast on your disappointment, much like the capybara feasts on its own waste.") And there goes lunch.

Raj is up first for the interview, and he's a bit annoyed having his Twilight reading interrupted by Special Agent Page of the FBI. And as Page is quite hot, the conversation starts out a bit muted until Raj liquors up with some rum cake. The questions are pretty simple: he's known Howard for seven years, he's never seen Howard commit a felony, and Howard's only foreign contact is...him. Of course, Raj is completely paranoid about being deported back to India.

RAJ: It's like one really big Comic Con, only everybody is wearing the same costume: Indian Guy!

Leonard is up next for Agent Page, and he decides now would be a good time to act confidently towards the fetching FBI agent. He was glad to get Scully instead of Mulder...which goes right past her. Leonard says he's great with relationships, and then it's time to whip off the glasses.

LEONARD: You are beautiful. You pop, sparkle, and buzz electric. I'm going to pick you up at 8, and I'm going to show you a night you'll never forget.

PAGE: Sounds great.

LEONARD: Really?

PAGE: Can my 6'2" Navy SEAL husband come with us?

Next up is Sheldon, who naturally doesn't trust her, despite Page showing her badge. After all, Sheldon has a Justice League ID card, but it doesn't mean he knows Batman. Page goes right to asking if Sheldon thinks Howard is responsible. To answer, Sheldon shows her his 9-disc Blu-Ray edition of *Lord of the Rings*, in which Howard accidentally damaged one of the plastic retention hubs and didn't tell him. She wasn't really interested in that level of responsibility. ("You heard me say Blu-Ray, correct?") Changing one of Sheldon's World of Warcraft characters to Smeldor and insisting Sheldon go see the third Matrix movie don't count, either. However, crashing the Mars Rover to impress a woman does count. Sheldon wants to retract it, as it didn't directly involve him, but he couldn't shut up, and Sheldon thinks he deflected her enough to not worry about it. Nope. Howard confronts the gang, and Raj confesses he was drunk on rum cake and Leonard admitted hitting on her. Sheldon doesn't say a thing, but he's giving away the signs of guilt.

It turns out Sheldon can't sleep that night, and he admits to Leonard he mentioned the Mars rover incident to the FBI agent. ("But why should that keep me up?") Actually, Sheldon is asleep and having a guilt-ridden dream. The Gorn on the couch (in Sheldon's spot, no less) was proof of that. Sheldon tries to talk to Agent Page (filing a complaint with her boss gets you into her office, apparently, which looks amazingly like Sheldon's office with different things on the walls), but since Sheldon wasn't lying, he couldn't retract his statement. ("I don't remember you calling no backsies.") Sheldon is upset she won't even listen to the letter he wrote in praise of Howard.

SHELDON: You know, when I first met Leonard, he was on the verge of giving away rocket secrets to a North Korean spy, and not one agent ever investigated that!

PAGE: (pulls out a pad) This is Leonard Hofstadter?

SHELDON: No, this was a different Leonard, Chinese, red hair, six fingers...

Sheldon finally goes to Howard to tell him he is responsible and his attempts to retract his statement have only made things worse. He is suffering from Gorn-infested guilt. He apologizes, and Howard is ticked. Sheldon thinks the apology should be accepted since he went through standard protocol of making the mistake, attempting to correct it, and apologizing for it. But since Sheldon set Howard's career back two years, he isn't in a forgiving mood.

Sheldon engages in another tradition: pouring out his troubles to the sympathetic ear of the bartender at the local establishment. And Penny (welcome back, Kaley Cuoco!) immediately recommends the bar at the Olive Garden. ("I don't like the Olive Garden. They treat me like family.") He asks for alcohol, and thanks to computer-savvy alcoholics, there's an app for that. He goes for the Rosewater Ricky, which requires sugar-dusted brandied cherries, overproofed rum, bitters, rosewater...and Penny just pours him a shot, since every bartender makes it differently. Sheldon finally gets to the point about not having his apology accepted by Howard. Penny's solution for things you can't do anything about: drinking. Doesn't work for Sheldon, but he has to admit that he's encountered the Kobayashi Maru scenario, which Penny correctly points out is an unwinnable situation.

SHELDON: Kirk won.

PENNY: He cheated.

Sheldon is impressed with Penny's knowledge. And Sheldon is inspired. Just like James Tiberius Kirk reprogrammed the simulator, Sheldon will reprogram Howard. The neuro-linguistic programming e-book was a waste of \$9.95, so Sheldon resorts to bribery. He gives Howard his spot on the couch.

RAJ: (in tears) Oh my God, dude. Now you have to forgive him! I haven't cried like this since Toy Story 3!

Howard does accept Sheldon's apology and even high fives him...after which he breaks out the hand sanitizer. And Sheldon made it 94 seconds before demanding his spot back.

The 21-Second Excitation

Season 4

Episode Number: 71

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 11, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Jim Reynolds (I), Steven Molaro, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Wil Wheaton (Himself), Eric Andre (Joey)
Production Code: 3X6658
Summary: The guys camp out in line to see a print of Raiders of the Lost Ark with 21 extra seconds and are outraged to see Wil Wheaton and his friends being allowed to skip the line. Penny and Bernadette invite Amy to their girls night.



Everybody is enjoying Raiders of the Lost Ark, even Penny. Although she'd like to know how Harrison Ford got so good with the whip if he was an archaeologist. Presumably, he didn't practice the way Howard did...at an adult bookstore. Everybody (except Penny) is even more excited to be going to the midnight showing of the movie, complete with 21 extra seconds of footage. Apparently, it answers all of the questions about the submarine. (Thank God. That's kept me up nights for 29 years.)

LEONARD: I can't believe you've never seen Raiders of the Lost Ark!

PENNY: I can't believe you've never

read Eat, Pray, Love

LEONARD: Well, when she comes out with Eat, Pray, Run Away from a Giant Boulder, I'll read it.

Raj backs Penny on that book. It changed his life. But Penny does love Indy's hat, designed by Deborah Nadoolman, who also designed Michael Jackson's black-and-red jacket for the "Thriller" video, according to Sheldon. Although he never saw the whole video, as zombies dancing in choreographed sync is implausible...and very scary. But he is picking up on Penny's sarcasm more these days. Well, he's 8 for 26 this month.

PENNY: Well, I'll pass, but you guys go enjoy your extra 21 seconds.

LEONARD: Bet you if I could make you understand why this is so cool, we'd still be together.

PENNY: Mmmm, yeah....no, we wouldn't.

HOWARD: (off Raj's whisper) Yeah, I'm guessing 21 seconds had something to do with that, too.

At dinner, the guys, plus Amy, are enjoying themselves. Except for Sheldon, who is panicking the movie is only seven hours from now and they have to get in line.

HOWARD: You know, if we miss it, we'll have the fun of Sheldon whining about it for the rest of our lives.

SHELDON: See? Howard's on my side.

HOWARD: Actually, I'm not. I'm using sarcasm to mock you.

SHELDON: (deflated) Drat, now I'm 8 for 27.

Sheldon thinks Leonard should be backing him more, as they waited 14 hours to see Star Trek: Nemesis.

LEONARD: Actually, he waited in line for 14 hours while you slept in a lawn chair, got into a fight with a Klingon when he had step out of line to go pee and you wouldn't vouch for him, and worst of all, he saw Star Trek: Nemesis!

SHELDON: But how were our seats?

LEONARD: (defeated) Excellent.

Amy would agree with Sheldon, but she's trying to be more accepted in his social group by agreeing with everybody else from time to time. Meanwhile, Bernadette stops by and makes lovey-dovey with Howard. (It's as bad as it sounds.) She tells everybody she was invited over to spend time with Penny, and suddenly Amy doesn't want to be left out of any of the girl activities for the evening. Bernadette says she'll ask Penny, but Amy takes it upon herself to tell Penny she'll be there. Amy thinks she and Penny are close. ("Our menses are synchronized.") Penny didn't realize Amy wanted to be part of a girls' night out. ("I'm a girl!") Penny begrudgingly agrees, and Amy goes shopping for something comfortable to wear.

As it turns out, Sheldon was right. The line is ridiculously long, and he is more than happy to point out the locations they would have been standing had they left when Sheldon told them, had Raj not ordered dessert, etc. ("I informed you thusly!")

HOWARD: Gee, I can't wait for that to start.

SHELDON: I informed you thusly

RAJ: 8 for 28.

And now they are far from the "nourishing teats of Indiana Jones." And the appearance of someone else is about to put them further away. Yes, it's the Jar-Jar Binks of the Star Trek Universe...EVIL Wil Wheaton! Of course, to the rest of us, he's just Wil Wheaton. Including the theatre manager, who lets Wil and his entourage in ahead of everybody. And the only person to protest? Really, need you ask?

SHELDON: AS CAPTAIN JEAN-LUC PICARD ONCE SAID, THE LINE MUST BE DRAWN HERE! THIS FAR, NO FARTHER!

At Penny's, Amy's quite good with the girl talk. She has an unusually firm cervix and a tilted uterus. Penny tries to correct her about it, and Amy thinks her friend's thesis on the fungus that grows on manicure implements should do the trick nicely. And Penny reaches for the next bottle of wine. But Bernadette suggests they'll have to make it a slumber party if they're going to get hammered, and Amy is all on board.

AMY: We'll do makeovers, initiate phony phone calls, and have spirited pillow fights in our frilly nighties!

Penny isn't thrilled, but it turns out Amy never went to a slumber party.

AMY: Well, there was this one time when I was a kid and I had my tonsils out, and I shared a hospital room with a little Vietnamese girl. She didn't make it through the night, but up 'til then it was kind of fun.

Penny agrees...and immediately gets a pillow in the face from Amy.

Naturally, Evil Wil Wheaton isn't going to let it go. He Tweeted "Best seats in the house for Raiders' screening. Suck on that, Sheldon Cooper." Sheldon is depressed, but then he gets a call to test his cell service. He has to repeat some phrases back to the operator.

SHELDON: Imatote. Ulba. Twad. All together? 'I'm a total butt-wad.' Why are you laughing?

PENNY: (laughing) And that, girls, is how you make a phony phone call!

Well, it certainly beats Amy hating the nail polish Penny put on her. But now Amy is researching what to do at slumber parties. Next: Truth or Dare. Bernadette chooses a Truth.

AMY: To what temperature must you heat beef in order to kill the prion that causes bovine spongiform encephelopathy?

PENNY: No, Amy. You're supposed to ask her something personal or embarrassing.

AMY: Oh, OK. Bernadette, what is the circumference of your areolas?

The guys don't get into the movie (shocking!), as the theatre didn't have four more seats. As they leave (and Sheldon warms up his vocal chords to start whining), he spots an open side door.

If he can't see the movie, nobody can. Yes, he steals the prints from the unguarded projection room.

Did you know *The Miller's Tale* by Chaucer is a very dirty story? Well, Bernadette did dare Amy to tell a dirty story. But it loses something in the translation when spoken in Middle English...and when you're plowed. And some serious truth is about to come out, as Bernadette asks Penny why she hangs out with Leonard so much if they broke up with each other. Amy likes the question, too. Penny? She wants to change to a Dare instead, but the judges disallow it.

PENNY: Look, just because we're not seeing each other anymore doesn't mean we can't be friends. I mean, Leonard's a great guy.

AMY: Then why did you terminate your relationship with him?

PENNY: I...don't know. He got...really serious, and I just wasn't ready for it.

AMY: Interesting. How will you react if in the future, you become ready for it, and Leonard is unavailable because another woman has realized he is...to use your words...a great guy?

PENNY: (not happy) You can only ask one question.

AMY & BERNADETTE: That one.

PENNY: (really not happy) I really don't want to play this game anymore.

Penny goes to her room, and stays there. After a long time, Amy and Bernadette wonder what to do, so Amy looks at another item on the list of things to do at a slumber party...experimental lesbianism. And she goes to try that with Penny. Bernadette thinks skipping to 'eating cookie dough' might have been the better option.

The Boyfriend Complexity

Season 4
Episode Number: 72
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 18, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds (I), Lee Aronsohn (I), Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, David Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Keith Carradine (Wyatt)
Production Code: 3X6659
Summary: When Penny's father visits, she gets Leonard to pretend to still be her boyfriend. Meanwhile, Howard, Raj, and Bernadette spend the night on an astronomy project.



Here's a little quiz that Leonard, Sheldon, Howard, and Raj contemplate: who is the bravest person in the comic book universe?

RAJ: Whoever has to give She-Hulk a bikini wax.

HOWARD: How about Captain America's undocumented Mexican gardener?

LEONARD: He's not braver than whoever uses the bathroom after The Thing.

Of course, Sheldon thinks they're all wrong.

SHELDON: The bravest man in the Marvel Universe is the doctor who gives Wolverine his prostate exam.

HOWARD: How about the guy who GETS a prostate exam from Wolverine?

SHELDON: Now you're just being silly.

Their pizza is downstairs, and Sheldon browbeats the delivery guy about coming up the stairs. And while the delivery guy is spitting on their pizza, Leonard goes to get Penny...only to be introduced to the man with her. But he was looking forward to meeting Leonard, as he is Penny's father. Penny introduces Leonard and tells him she'll catch up with him later. She tells him goodbye...and lays one sizzling kiss on him. (Sizzling for a comic book nerd, anyway. All things in context.)

Raj and Howard are preparing to monitor the telescope at work for twelve hours, but Sheldon points out he only has 7 hours' worth of comic books. But Raj and Howard will also pass the time with Indian Monopoly and Intergalactic Battleship. Sheldon only prefers the classic styles of Monopoly: regular and Klingon. Leonard returns without the pizza and tells the guys about Penny kissing him. They have no conclusions, other than she went for his cheek and got his lips instead (happens with Howard and his mother all the time), or think that wasn't her father and the kiss was a cry for help, or Penny's simply cuckoo for Coco Puffs. Penny takes him back into the hall and explains she told her father they got back together because he was so upset when they broke up in the first place. Apparently, Leonard was the first guy Penny dated with a college degree...or a real job...or without a neck tattoo...or with no outstanding warrants...or without a

baby...or never tipped a cow over on himself. Leonard is a bit offended by the situation, especially when Penny refuses to make it look like she was wrong in the fake reconciliation.

LEONARD: Do you REALLY want me to deceive your father with some sham playacting and kissing...because I'm good with that.

Leonard makes it even worse when he overdoes the kissing in front of her father and takes him up on his invitation to dinner with Penny. Penny's embarrassed, but her father isn't. ("I've seen you do a lot worse with a lot stupider.")

At the university, Bernadette joins Howard and Raj, which was good, as Howard couldn't locate Raj's Romulan Space Bagel in Battleship. She brought a bottle of wine so Raj could talk freely with her and bond, like he did with Howard's mother. Which went along much more swimmingly after she stopped calling Raj Slumdog Millionaire. However, Bernadette was about 95% sure she washed her hands after dealing with penicillin-resistant gonorrhea strains earlier in the day. And Raj hops on the wagon for the night.

Wyatt, Penny's father, who changed his name from Bob at some point, is glad Penny and Leonard are back together, as the guy who wanted to make biofuel from pig waste and water didn't pan out so well, nor did the guy who tried to make beer pong an Olympic event. Leonard is high as a kite on pride as they make it back to the apartment. This time, Penny manages to keep Leonard from coming into her place, but she can't avoid his "I love you" in front of her father, so she has no choice but to say it back. And has to kiss him again...in full view of Sheldon.

SHELDON: Oh, friggity-frak. Not this again.

As Raj decides to throw caution to the wind and drink the wine, resulting in a lovely bonding session with Bernadette...at Howard's expense (great imitations of Howard's mother, btw), Penny comes to read Leonard the riot act about what he did. She had to listen to her father gush over him for hours, and she wants to know why he's doing all of this. He offered to go tell her father the truth and end it, but that wasn't a good idea to Penny. And as much as she didn't want to see Sheldon's amendments to the roommate agreement over fines for her annoying personal habits (took up an entire page, too), Leonard cautions her telling Sheldon the truth would force him to be part of the lie, and we all know how that goes. And now two people are convinced Leonard and Penny are together.

Raj was feeling no pain...actually, he was feeling plenty of pain. He was all depressed about not having kissed a girl in a year. Since Bernadette caused this by opening the second bottle of wine, she figured she had to take one for the team. She tells Raj he's a very cute guy and plenty of girls would want to kiss him. Drunk Raj thinks Bernadette's one of them and goes in. Howard tries to block him...and what we've all suspected from Day 1 is true! OK, not really, but Howard and Raj do finally kiss.

Leonard and Wyatt are enjoying some fishing (Wii variety, natch), and Penny gives him a call. She tells him the truth. The fish aren't the only things that are biting now. Wyatt is livid with Penny for not respecting him enough to be honest with him. He supported her decisions, even when she did things that were, to use his phrase, bull squirt. Such as the baggie in her drawer was NOT potpourri, nor the pee stick in her bathroom was to check for diabetes. She apologizes, and Wyatt turns his full wrath on Leonard. If begging Leonard to take Penny back could be considered his full wrath. Wyatt's tired of the skateboarders, white rappers, and the guys who wear their hats backwards (like he was). Wyatt tells him to lie, cheat, do whatever it takes.

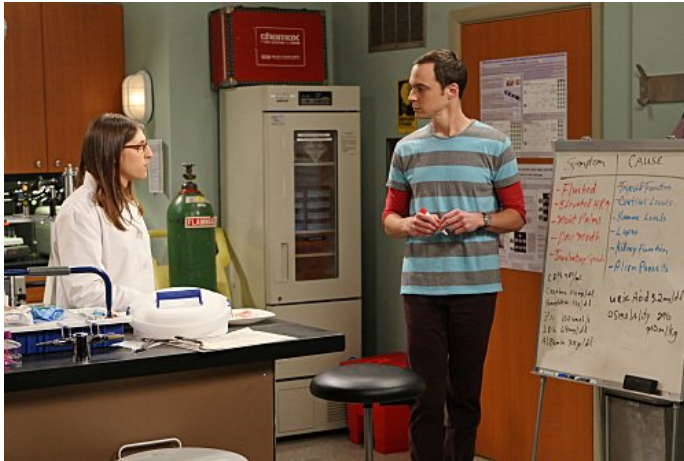
WYATT: I want grandkids before I die, and I want them to grow up in a house without wheels.

Wyatt starts yelling at Leonard loud enough for Penny to hear it in the bathroom to attempt a bit of reverse psychology. Sheldon tells him he was up all night altering the Penny-specific sections of the roommate agreement, and Leonard tells him they broke up again. Sheldon was...not happy. But neither were Raj and Howard. Leonard was curious if Raj let Howard play with his big telescope.

The Alien Parasite Hypothesis

Season 4
Episode Number: 73
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday December 9, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds (I), Lee Aronsohn (I), Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette)
Guest Stars: Brian Smith (XXXVI) (Zack)
Production Code: 3X6660
Summary: Amy crushes on one of Penny's dim ex-boyfriends, Zack. Raj and Wolowitz argue over who'd be the better superhero.



Sheldon is wondering why the guys aren't talking at a communal dinner but apparently he threatened to put the next person who ate with their mouth full to death. So he decides a new topic: the best number. Not 5,318,008, even though that spells "boobies" upside-down on a calculator (thanks Raj), but 73. And he explains why, despite nobody asking him to. And now Howard remembers why Penny, Bernadette, and Amy didn't want to eat with them. But Bernadette loves the heart-shaped locket Howard gave her after yet another night of enduring his mother.

AMY: Did you know that the iconic Valentine's heart shape is not based on a human heart, but rather the shape of the buttocks of a female bending over?

PENNY: So I spent seventh grade dotting my "I's" with little asses? Cool!

Penny's ex-boyfriend, Zack, stops by to drop off menus, and the ladies say Hi. Actually, Amy says Hooo! A couple of times, including when Zack bent over to pick up a box.

PENNY: Well, we know what's causing that.

AMY: Clearly I'm coming down with the flu combined with a sudden onset of Tourette's Syndrome!

Howard and Raj find out a lab tech got bitten by a rat who was injected with radioactive isotopes. Which naturally compels Raj to wish he were Rat-Man. He could go through mazes in no time, squeeze into really small places, and shut down restaurants in a single bound. And Howard could be his sidekick. And Howard takes serious offense to it. They want Leonard to settle who of the two would be the sidekick. (Hero Support! Sorry, wrong show.)

LEONARD: Twelve years after high school and I'm still at the nerds table.

Amy is slicing up pieces of a human brain...and enjoying lunch. They are two separate things, yes. But she's also checking her vital signs every hour because of what happened last night. Sheldon, naturally oblivious to her predicament, offers to chart it for her. She had localized vascular throbbing.

SHELDON: Localized to what region?

AMY: (matter-of-factly) Ears and genitalia.

Sheldon reduces it to hyperthyroidism, premature menopause, an alien parasite, and sexual arousal, but he's just putting that in to cover all the bases. She is able to eliminate hyperthyroidism, menopause.

AMY: I'm afraid we must face the cold, harsh truth. I was sexually aroused by Penny's friend, Zack.

SHELDON: Hang on! I don't think we've given this alien parasite hypothesis a fair shake.

Sheldon has some advice to give her on how to handle this. (WHAT?!?!?!?) He turns to...Star Trek. But Amy doesn't want to rely on the teachings of the Vulcan way of Kolinar from some cheap science fiction. And now Sheldon is JEALOUS! Not sure if he's jealous of Zack or Amy mocking Vulcan methodologies, but he's not eating lunch with Amy and her brain today.

Howard wants the sidekick argument settled, so he gets a giant spider in a large jar and wants both of them to put their hands in. First one to pull out is the sidekick. But Raj has no problem, as the spider was crawling up Howard's arm. Round One to Raj. The deciding contest: wrestling. Why Leonard has to waste his Friday night watching is beyond him, but the wrestling match is basically the two of them circling and trash-talking.

Sheldon heads down to do laundry...one day early to cover for the different fabric softener. Penny asks him how things are with Amy, but he says she's changed. She might be a slave to her baser urges...like Penny.

PENNY: So are you saying Amy is...what is the right scientific word?

SHELDON: Forget science; she's horny.

Sheldon thinks there's nothing he can do about it, but Penny thinks there might be something Sheldon can do about Amy's urges. ("It's illegal to spay a human being!") But he figures he might as well get it over with. Penny thinks Sheldon is ready to give Amy the ride of her life, but apparently Sheldon wants Zack to man up. And what's even more bizarre, she agrees to do it.

AMY: I stand here before you, 130 pounds of raging estrogen, longing to grab your hold of your gluteus maximus and make Shakespeare's metaphorical Beast with Two Backs.

ZACK: My gluteus what?

Oops, now Amy figured out why Penny dumped Zack. So it's the Vulcan disciplinary practice of Kolinar for her. Although she does try holding Sheldon's hand on the way home. ("Nope. Never mind.")

The Justice League Recombination

Season 4
Episode Number: 74
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday December 16, 2010
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Lee Aronsohn (I), Maria Ferrari, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Brian Smith (XXXVI) (Zack)
Production Code: 3X6661
Summary: The guys get Zack and Penny to join their Justice League costume for a New Year's Eve bash at the comic book store.



Did you know in Mystic Warlords of Ka'a you can make up your own cards? Apparently, Infinite Sheldon beats all others. And it isn't cheating, since the card isn't homemade: Sheldon printed it at work. And Sheldon continues to wonder why nobody wants to play with him. Penny and Zack came to the apartment, and Penny gave Leonard his copy of Science magazine, which featured a planet on the cover, according to Zack. According to the right answer, it was an atom. ("Agree to disagree...") And Zack discovered a show

on the Discovery Channel that showed a starfish being killed and coming back to life.

SHELDON: Was the starfish wearing boxer shorts? Because you might have been watching Nickelodeon.

Zack also knows dolphins may be smarter than people. ("Smarter than SOME people.") Penny is none too happy with the guys for bullying Zack, despite Howard's protestations that they didn't give Zack a swirly and his butt crack remained underwear-free. Leonard goes to apologize, and the rest of the guys go to see him get beat up. As a peace offering, Leonard invites him to the comic book store, where apparently Zack is really into the Archie comics, and admittedly, I did not know Archie now had two universes where he was married to Betty in one and Veronica in the other. (Lucky bastard.) Stuart, the comic book shop owner, is equally surprised by Zack being there, but he asks the guys if they're coming to the shops New Year's Eve costume party. The guys will attend as the Justice League of America...if Leonard doesn't show up as Superman again.

LEONARD: Hey, I got new boots this year! Guaranteed to add three inches!

SHELDON: That's sad.

To win the costume contest, Sheldon's idea is to have Zack be Superman. Which means Leonard claims Green Lantern, and Raj is relegated to playing Aqua-Man. ("Aqua-Man sucks! Aqua-Man sucks underwater! He sucks fish pee!") Of course, one little problem: what to do about Penny? Zack already has the solution: she's Wonder Woman.

SHELDON: Complete with bullet-proof bracelets and Lasso of Truth! Invisible plane sold separately.

Penny protests, but Bernadette is in quarantine for doing jello shots out of some questionable petri dishes, and Amy refuses to dress in any kind of costume.

HOWARD: (off Raj's whisper) He says he'll wear it if you'll be Aqua-Man.

Everybody arrives late, and Sheldon (as The Flash) is pacing nervously...by jogging very quickly back and forth through the entire apartment, since that's what The Flash would do. He even runs to the Grand Canyon to scream in anger. Howard was late because he couldn't get Raj's Aqua-Man seahorse on his scooter. But look! Up in the sky!

ZACK: It's a bird! It's a plane!...I forget the rest.

And Penny arrives

SHELDON: I'm sorry, but in what universe is Wonder Woman a blonde?

HOWARD: Relax, nobody's gonna be looking at her hair.

Zack tells her there was a brunette wig with the costume, but Penny refuses to wear it.

ZACK: Uh, honey. You're kind of embarrassing me in front of my friends here.

PENNY: That's it. I'm not going.

RAJ: (happily) Looks like someone else is going to have to be Wonder Woman!

Penny refuses to talk to Zack, and Sheldon reassuring her the outfit doesn't make her look fat but "beefy," since all Amazon women are beefy to him, didn't help, either. Zack doesn't want to go without Penny, so the guys are forced to do the unthinkable...switch to Muppet Baby costumes! Howard suggests Leonard talk to Penny.

LEONARD: What makes you think I can convince her?

HOWARD: You got her to have sex with you! Obviously your superpower is brainwashing!

LEONARD: Let me see if I'm understanding this correctly. You want me to convince my ex-girlfriend to attend a costume party with her new boyfriend just so we can win a stupid prize?!?

SHELDON: Yes, and make her wear the black wig. Good luck.

Penny does let him in and Leonard wanted to know why she was reacting so negatively to his attempts to befriend Zack. It turns out Penny only dated Zack so she would have someone to go out with on New Year's Eve, which she thinks is pathetic. And she says that to a guy dressing as The Green Arrow for New Year's Eve. ("Lantern." "Like there's a difference.") She just wanted one date at a club and that was it, but now the guys were involved, especially Leonard...and she stops herself before she gets any more personal in front of Leonard. She agrees to go and even wears the wig.

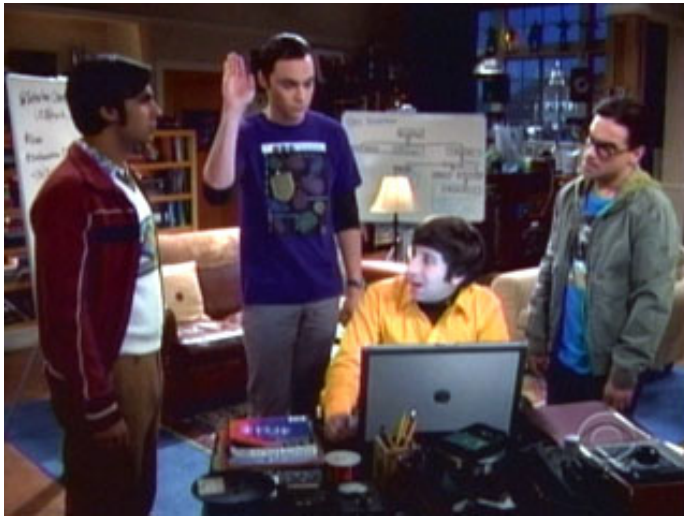
Sure enough, the gang wins the costume prize over the other two Justice League of America groups. Sheldon is ecstatic and has a speech, but everybody would rather count down the last ten seconds to New Year's. 2011 begins, and Zack and Penny kiss. And Leonard isn't happy. Truthfully, neither is Penny. But Zack sings the praises of the party on the way home. (Where Pasadena suddenly looks like Manhattan or downtown Chicago.) Right down to a car being broken into. Zack gives it some thought before deciding against helping out.

And Sheldon needs to do that Grand Canyon thing again when Leonard lowers the temperature in the house.

The Bus Pants Utilization

Season 4
Episode Number: 75
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 6, 2011
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Maria Ferrari, Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan (I), Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter)
Guest Stars: Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Production Code: 3X6662
Summary: Their friendship becomes strained when Sheldon tries to take over Leonard's creation of a smartphone application that solves differential equations.



Leonard came up with a great idea for a new smartphone app, although Raj thinks nothing will beat his 99 cent investment in a fart app. Leonard's idea is to use a smartphone's camera to take pictures of differential equations and have the app solve them. Howard and Raj thinks he's on to something, and even Sheldon compliments him about it.

LEONARD: Could you say that and not make it sound like I'm a cat who learned how to use the toilet?

SHELDON: No. The two achievements are equally surprising and equally admirable. Though if pressed, I'd have to give a slight edge to the cat.

Sheldon will be more than happy to be part of the project, and Leonard's so happy about it. But Howard and Raj like the thought of making a few extra bucks. Raj thinks they should take a picture to capture the moment. (Yes, he uses the fart app.)

If you think Sheldon is going to try and take over the team, then you've seen this show many times. He didn't even want them discussing the idea in front of Penny, drowning the guys out with "Deep in the Heart of Texas" with any mention of the app. Penny finally gives up and goes back to her apartment, since she got to mooch off of the guys' dinner. Sheldon passed out everybody's responsibilities, and Howard was his secretary...sorry, executive assistant. Which was actually a worse job than Raj, who got to be customer support to give the illusion their "company" had a huge overseas call center. ("Great idea. Still racist, dude.") Leonard is quite offended that Sheldon made himself CEO, CFO, COO, and CSO (Chief Science Officer).

SHELDON: Also, Chairman of the Board, and Head of the Secret Santa Committee.

RAJ: Oooh, Leonard is going Alpha Nerd on Sheldon!

Leonard takes back control, but Sheldon decides to act conciliatory, just like Howard and Raj are supposed to be, to appease Leonard's need for "mindless nattering of yes-men." Sheldon's suggestion of secretly naming it Project Nodlehs is soundly rejected, as it is Sheldon spelled backwards. And Sheldon decides to call for a vote of "no confidence" in Leonard's leadership,

thus interrupting their work again. You can guess how that vote went, and Leonard fires Sheldon from the group. (Shocking!)

In the morning, Sheldon was apparently under the impression that Leonard fired him from everything, including being his roommate and friend. Therefore, he had to get his "bus pants": the extra set of pants Sheldon wore when he rode the bus. Leonard tried to make peace, but Sheldon's attempts at redoing the project were to overtake the Napoleonic complex Leonard was having, according to him. And he can go put on his bus pants.

Not to be outdone, Sheldon attempts to usurp Howard and Raj with bribes of coffee mugs and keychains (with laser pointers attached!), but to no avail. He then decides to break out his electronic theremin, which apparently allows Sheldon to make annoying electronic sounds, which he calls being inspired by the theme to Star Trek. Not surprisingly, it interrupts Project Lenwolopalli. They kick him and his theremin out of the apartment.

Penny talks to Sheldon, who was wallowing away on his theremin. At first, she suggests helping her build an app that lets you take a photo of someone's shoes to search for more information on them. Sheldon thought that was way beneath him, as was Penny's offer of hot cocoa, since it didn't have marshmallows. But she suggested apologizing in a sarcastic way to make Leonard take him back. Sheldon tries it, and the guys begrudgingly let him back in. And it takes all of three seconds to throw out the entire project and start from scratch. Time to go catalog shoes with Penny.

The Love Car Displacement

Season 4
Episode Number: 76
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 20, 2011
Writer: David Goetsch, Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Lee Aronsohn (I), Steve Holland
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Rick Fox (Glenn), Ed Lieberman (Announcer)
Production Code: 3X6663
Summary: A science convention at a hotel leads to Bernadette running into an ex-boyfriend and Wolowitz worrying he can't quite compare.



It's amazing how many years the gang has eaten at The Cheesecake Factory, yet Sheldon still doesn't get the concept of not insulting the person who serves your food: Penny. Amy has a way to cover herself in this case: invite Penny as her plus-1 at a conference all of them were attending. Penny was busy, until she found out it was at a spa at Big Sur...and completely paid for. Anything for her best friend. (It says so in Amy's blog.)

The gang prepares for the trip, organized by Sheldon, of course. Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, and Amy will drive in one car, and Howard, Raj, and Bernadette will

drive in the other car. However, the first rest stop is 2 1/2 hours away, so Raj can't have a second cup of coffee, despite his Kegel exercises. Red 5 (Howard, not Luke Skywalker) has to check in every quarter-hour with Red Leader (Sheldon). However, Sheldon and Amy won't be sharing a room.

AMY: We discussed it. We decided we did not want to jeopardize our relationship by getting to know each other.

Therefore, Amy will bunk with her "bestie": Penny. ("Are we there yet?") Meanwhile, Howard was looking forward to taking a nap at the hotel with Bernadette, a point he repeats over and over again. Bernadette suggests Howard take a nap in the car, until Raj texts Leonard in the other car to radio to Bernadette that Howard means sex when he says nap.

Sheldon is being his usual self, and Penny protests that everybody lets Sheldon bully them around. And she ends up in the other car, where Howard and Bernadette serenade her with their rendition of I've Got You, Babe. (Never realized Howard was one mustache short of being an exact copy of Sonny Bono, right down to the wardrobe.)

Fortunately for Penny, who actually missed Amy, nothing ends a Sonny & Cher revival like running into Bernadette's ex, Glenn. He was her former professor and they dated for a year. Basically, he's everything Howard isn't: tall, well-dressed, handsome, and Howard assumes he also swings a big bat (yes, that's a euphemism, otherwise it'd be very ironic to describe Rick Fox that way) Howard is a bit jealous, and Bernadette can't figure out why, since she loves Howard.

HOWARD: I just never figured a guy like me going out with a girl like you would ever have to compete with a guy like that.

And while Howard continues to shove his foot further down his mouth, Bernadette asks Penny and Amy if she can sleep in their room for the night. Which interrupts Amy's grilling of Penny over penis envy ("not for sex, for convenience"). However, Amy decides she can sleep in the same bed with her bestie, despite suffering night terrors. And gently stroking her hair just isn't enough. Penny goes to sleep with Sheldon and Leonard. And since Sheldon looks like he might suck Penny's blood out of her neck in the middle of the night, she has to sleep in the same bed as Leonard, which isn't good enough for Sheldon, so he goes to sleep with Raj, who brought tissues into the bed with him. (So he can watch *Bridget Jones's Diary* on Turner Classic Movies! What did you think they were for, you pervs!) But Sheldon won't allow it, so Raj goes to sleep with Penny and Leonard, where Penny decided she could risk a one-night stand with Leonard. But Raj wanted to watch his movie, so...

The discussion panel was, to say the least, awkward. Bernadette tries to start the conference, but she admits even the tiniest of organisms can tear you a new one. Howard accuses her of also being around some serious nuclear weaponry. And Amy wants to join the apparent discussion on penis envy. Raj is feeling no pain ("these mimosas are kicking my little brown ass!"), and Leonard is still seething about being interrupted by Raj. And Penny is now upset. She wants to go home, and Glenn is happy to give her a ride. In his car, presumably.

On the way back, Amy assumes Leonard is upset that Penny is with "the most beautiful man I've ever seen in my life," as he was driving 120 mph. Amazingly, everybody is calm about it, even when the police officer stops him.

The Thespian Catalyst

Season 4
Episode Number: 77
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday February 3, 2011
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds (I), Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Production Code: 3X6664
Summary: Hoping it will make him a better teacher, Sheldon has Penny give him acting lessons. Raj has fantasies about Bernadette.



Sheldon has to teach a lecture, and he's not thrilled, even though he thinks the students should be. And the students are letting the world know what the lecture is like, even posting pictures on Flickr. ("How do you get an entire lecture hall to flip you off at the same time?") Oh, and KMN is text-speak for "kill me now." Penny is dying to tell Sheldon, but Leonard promised it to Howard. ("Picture the Hindenburg meets Chernobyl meets Three Mile Island meets Tron 2.")

SHELDON: I didn't want to teach those poopy-heads anyway!

HOWARD: FYI, I think that's what

Darth Vader said right before he started building the Death Star.

Despite Sheldon's protestations about the "poopy-heads," he was upset about the lecture. Raj compared it to accidentally walking into a gay bar and having no one hit on you. ("It...happened to a friend of mine.") Howard tells Bernadette that Raj really needs to get a girlfriend. And Bernadette thinks Raj is cute and should have no problem getting one. Raj didn't want to go for cute; he wanted to be more like a labradoodle. But Bernadette assures him he's a hottie.

Sheldon videochats with Amy, who suggests he take acting lessons because the teacher needs to take the responsibility to communicate with the students. It's a performance art, and Sheldon knows only one person schooled in the performance arts: Penny. He goes and asks her for help.

PENNY: Just to be clear, you're asking me for help because I know something that the brilliant Dr. Sheldon Cooper doesn't?

SHELDON: Are you going to help me or not?

PENNY: Probably. I'm just enjoying the foreplay.

Of course, Sheldon thinks that teaching acting is the signal for the end of the road in one's career. And Penny is out, until Sheldon offers to pay her \$40.

Howard gets an offer to work at the Weisman Institute in Israel but will be gone for two years, and Bernadette can't leave because of her studies. They ask Raj if he can step up to the plate and help Bernadette satisfy her sexual needs ("most regular, some of them kind of messed up") while he's gone. No, this is not reality. Yes, this is a fantasy of Raj's.

HOWARD: Whatcha thinking so hard about?

RAJ: Just that I'm definitely not gay.

Sheldon's lesson begins, and he tries with a desperate three knock-Penny cadence. It worked. Sheldon had studied Stanislav, Stella Adler, Uda Hagen, and Henry Winkler's Aaaaay, I'm an Actor. After that, the lesson goes a bit downhill. Moving around in the space doesn't work very well, then Sheldon can't pick up on Penny's improvisation about being at a shoe store, instead wanting a frozen yogurt. Penny's idea of pretending to be two winos under a bridge works a little better...for her...with a bottle of wine. (method acting, right?)

While Leonard wonders what all of us do...why the SciFi Channel changed its name to SyFy...Raj has another fantasy about Bernadette. This time, Howard gets hit on his scooter, and Bernadette needs to be sexually satisfied since Howard isn't going to make it. To be fair, Raj doesn't take Bernadette's word for it; he makes sure he hears it from Howard.

Penny tries a scene with Sheldon, although he doesn't think Tennessee Williams' Cat on a Hot Tin Roof is worthwhile literature. He brought a Star Trek fanfic he wrote when he was ten, where a brilliant child genius is whisked away from the dusty plains of East Texas and brought to the 23rd Century by Mr. Spock. Penny goes in kicking and screaming, but she suggests mixing it up. She'll play Mr. Spock, and Sheldon will play the child's mother. After taking a long, long, long time to set the scene, Sheldon gets into the role of his mother. (Nice work on imitating the transporter, Penny. :-D) Sheldon isn't feeling it, but Penny eggs him on and stays in character as Spock. She thinks Sheldon's mother would be sad to see him go and wants Sheldon to portray that. Then Sheldon gets in character as his mother. REALLY gets into character. And is crying...and then starts playing the role of Sheldon...and really starts crying. ("You go with the nice man; I'm late for Indian Bingo!")

PENNY: (on phone) Hi, Mrs. Cooper. It's Penny. I think I broke your son.

SHELDON: Mommy, I love you! Don't let Spock take me to the future!

And Raj has one more fantasy about Bernadette. Which, if I am correct, involves Slumdog Millionaire somehow.

RAJ: (back in reality, to himself) Other than the dance number, so not gay.

The Benefactor Factor

Season 4
Episode Number: 78
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Thursday February 10, 2011
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), David Goetsch, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan (I), Chuck Lorre
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Jessica Walter (Mrs. Latham)
Production Code: 3X6665
Summary: After meeting at a fundraising gala, an aged, but wealthy, Caltech donor makes Leonard ponder if he's willing to have sex with her to secure another donation.



Raj brings up a lunch-appropriate topic: how do zombies starve to death if they can't find any human flesh to eat, since they're already dead? Leonard refers to *28 Days*, although he probably meant *28 Days Later...*, because *28 Days* was where Sandra Bullock turned the audience into the undead. Dr. Siebert, president of the University, invites the guys to a party at his mansion, which everybody but Sheldon is excited about. He doesn't want the guys taking the candy and getting into the windowless van until he hears why. When he hears it's for a fundraiser for the

university, that was the tear-stained mattress in the back of the windowless van. But Dr. Siebert threatens to blind Sheldon with a hot spoon like they did to the little boy in *Slumdog Millionaire* if he doesn't go. (RAJ: Oooh, you don't want that.)

Penny helps Leonard with his attire, although the tie needs a little work, as does Howard's dickie. But Howard's mother picked out his attire, so... Howard, Raj, and Leonard take off without Sheldon, who refuses to go. Dr. Siebert introduces them to Mrs. Latham, who is one of the biggest benefactors to the university. Like Sheldon, she questions why Howard doesn't have a PhD, but Howard explains engineers don't usually stay in for their degrees, and he's already designed the waste disposal system on the International Space Station. ("So you're a space plumber.")

Back at home, Sheldon videochats with Amy, who points out to him the social aspects of kissing up to those who give money to the university. Even Amy was able to charm a Saudi prince into funding her lab. ("Technically, Faisal is my fiance. But I do have a state-of-the-art two-photon microscope and a place to stay in Riyadh in the winter.") Instead of millions of dollars going to the Physics Department, it might go to the Geology Department. Or worse... Liberal Arts. That's enough for Sheldon, who makes a beeline to the party. However, he asks nobody touch him and just give him the money. And Dr. Siebert decided Sheldon didn't need to attend any more parties.

It turns out Mrs. Latham likes parties such as the one they're at, since one of the fun things to do when you have a lot of money is make other people feel uncomfortable. And she takes Leonard out to dinner the following evening, where he tries to pitch his need for a cryogenic centrifugal

pump and a molecular sieve. And she wants to take it to the next level...by sticking her tongue down his throat. Just a bit uncomfortable.

Leonard comes home to Penny and Sheldon watching 28 Days, and Penny promises Sheldon Sandra Bullock will be eaten by the zombies soon. Leonard tells everybody about his evening. Raj is shocked, Howard thinks he's a lucky duck, and Sheldon is all set to prepare Leonard to go back to her tomorrow night.

SHELDON: Penny, you're an expert on trading sexual favors for material gain. Walk him through this.

Leonard refuses, but Sheldon can't believe it. ("Leonard, this may be your only chance to make a contribution to science!") Leonard will try one more above-board pitch to get the funding, but Sheldon provided him with baby oils, condoms, and something he got from the Pharmacology Department that was "to Viagra as Viagra was to a green M&M." He even found Leonard an online picture of a 25-year-old Mrs. Latham. ("Check out those saddle shoes. Rawr!") Leonard is ready to kill Sheldon but leaves instead.

SHELDON: [chasing after Leonard] Given how much time you spend engaging in self-abuse, you just might want to consider using your genitalia for once to actually accomplish something!

In the limo, Mrs. Latham assures Leonard she planned to donate the money to his department and there was no quid pro quo to it. Mrs. Latham told him he was handsome and she thought herself a fool for someone her age to think she had a shot with someone like Leonard. Although she did tell him she would have given him a night he'd never forget. Leonard is hesitant, but she asks how he thought she landed such a rich husband. ("Yup, I'm that good.") And they go the full Dustin Hoffman-Anne Bancroft on each other. It is quite the walk of shame home for Leonard, and Penny was all too happy to point out the "slut" finally made it home.

SHELDON: I'm so proud of you! You sold yourself out like a common streetwalker! Get your rest, because there's a lot more rich old ladies out there, and Daddy needs a new linear accelerator!

The Cohabitation Formulation

Season 4

Episode Number: 79

Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 17, 2011
Writer: Lee Aronsohn (I), David Goetsch, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds (I), Bill Prady
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X6666
Summary: Bernadette tells Howard that it's time to choose between moving in with her or staying with his mother. Leonard discovers Raj's sister Priya is back in town and reconnects with her, and Amy tries to comfort Penny when she finds out.



Howard and Bernadette were basking in the glow of the post-coital bedroom when she asked the question Howard hoped she wouldn't: if he wanted to move in with her. She was growing tired of Howard sleeping with her and going home, even if it was to set his mother's wig and draw in her eyebrows in the morning. ("It's a two-person job.") He reluctantly went home and got an earful from his mother, who thought Bernadette had a lot of sexual diseases. ("I watch Dr. Phil!") Howard had enough from his mother and left. Right after he retrieved his Claritin. However,

he didn't go back to Bernadette's; he went to crash with Leonard and Sheldon. To Leonard's surprise, it was about Bernadette and not which CSI was the best. To Sheldon's surprise, Leonard hadn't offered Howard a hot beverage. Or him, for that matter. Sheldon wonders why Howard didn't sleep with Raj, but Priya was staying with him. Suddenly Leonard's VERY interested in what's going on. Listening to Howard's troubles with Bernadette, not so much. And Leonard takes off to find Priya. But give Sheldon credit: in spite of being Howard's tertiary friend behind Raj and Howard, he'll still make the tea while Howard narcissistically rambles on about whatever is troubling him.

Of course, Raj forbids Leonard from talking to Priya. She ignores him, but Raj forbided it. Leonard apologizes to her because he thought he came on too strong the last time, but Priya was willing to listen. They go off in private, completely ignoring Raj, even his voicemail messages from the other room.

Leonard and Priya walked into the Cheesecake Factory, despite Raj having forboded them from having sex. ("It's forbade." "Are you sure? That doesn't sound right.") Priya told off Raj, but Sheldon defended him. (Sheldon's VERY nice to people tonight. Creepy.)

SHELDON: The Hindu Code of Manu is very clear in these manners. If a woman's father is not around, the duty of controlling her base desires falls to the closest male member of her family. In this case, Raj. The code also clearly states if she disobeys, she will be reborn in the womb of a

jackal and be tormented by diseases. If true, that's seems like an awfully large gamble given that the prize is Leonard.

And if this wasn't awkward enough, Penny comes up and says hi to everybody. Leonard introduces Priya to her.

SHELDON: Priya, if you're experiencing any tension or awkwardness, it may stem from the fact that Leonard and Penny used to, to quote Howard, 'do the dance with no pants'.

While Raj begs Penny to regail Priya with stories of how she was disenchanted by Leonard's lovemaking, Howard offers to sleep over at Bernadette's for two whole nights since his mother would be in Palm Springs...sinuses notwithstanding. It wasn't enough for Bernadette. He needed to make a choice: her or his mother. And hesitating was not an option.

Amy got to Penny's place as quickly as she could when Sheldon told her Leonard was dating Priya. She wanted to help Penny pick up the pieces of her broken heart. Which wasn't actually necessary.

AMY: You don't have to be strong for me. Now let's talk about Priya, that man-stealing bitch.

Penny assured Amy she was fine, but Amy pointed out Penny's former mate replaced her with a mate more suitable than she was. Penny wasn't happy, especially when Amy pointed out Priya was highly educated and came from the land where they wrote about neat ways to have sex. Whereas Penny is a community-college dropout whose people wrote the book on tipping cows. (The electrodes didn't help, either.)

At Bernadette's, where she has a little stepstool to look through the peephole (that was so CUTE!), Howard has brought all of his luggage and moved out of his mother's place. His mother would find out as soon as she read the email. And Howard already wanted his dinner. Short of that, they could fool around in the bedroom...then Bernadette could go shopping.

Leonard, Sheldon, Raj, Amy, and Priya are having pizza at the guys' place and Penny swoops in to nibble on a few pieces. Sheldon doesn't mind the "plover eating food from between the teeth of crocodiles." Amy invited her 'bestie' to sit next to her on the chair. Priya talks about being an international lawyer, although Leonard tried to make it sound more exciting than it really was. Then it was Penny's turn to explain she was an actress, which impressed Priya. And it was a bad time to tell about driving to Van Nuys for what she thought was a cat food commercial. It was for porn.

SHELDON: Did you get the part?

PENNY: (ticked) I didn't take the audition

SHELDON: Given the state of your career, are you sure you can afford to be picky?

Priya told about taking acting classes at Cambridge and was even in *Taming of the Shrew*, much to Leonard's (and Amy's) delight.

Howard and Bernadette's living arrangement was working quite well so far. That is, until Howard asked for a snack. Cord ain't that cut, is it. Especially when Howard added things to the list of items Bernadette would shop for, including non hypo-allergenic detergent for washing his underwear. Finally Bernadette figured out she was doing all of the things Howard's mother used to do for him...and sex on top of it! Bernadette finally told him she wasn't going to be his mother. And Howard heads back to his mother's. But at least she made him some brisket.

Amy checks on Penny again, since she was replaced by a "smart, beautiful woman with the smouldering sexuality of a crouched Bengal tiger." But once again, Penny assured Amy she was OK. In fact, she said she was happy for Leonard...and broke down crying. Amy gave her a hug and whipped out the electrodes.

Penny went to Sheldon's when she smelled Chinese food. ("It's Thai. You're slipping.") But Sheldon let the three of them eat, including Amy on videoconference. On the good side, Amy was able to analyze the patterns in Penny's brain to make a rhesus monkey cry like a disgraced televangelist. And Amy sent Sheldon for the tea, since Penny was still upset. ("I don't want tea." "Sorry, it's not optional.")

The Toast Derivation

Season 4

Episode Number: 80

Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday February 24, 2011
Writer: Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Brian Smith (XXXVI) (Zack), Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Kevin Sussman (Stuart), LeVar Burton (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6667
Summary: Told Leonard is the center of the gang and miffed that they've started hanging out at Raj's, Sheldon seeks to form a new group of friends of which he can be the center.



It's time to order pizza from Luigi's, although Sheldon does wonder why they can't speak Italian. But Leonard wasn't staying for dinner, much to Sheldon's surprise. He's having dinner with Raj and Priya. And Howard was expected to be there as well. Sheldon is flabbergasted, as they were supposed to eat pizza from Luigi's, although he admits Luigi sounds a lot like Jackie Chan. Sheldon refuses to go based on their Thursday tradition of pizza. Raj might be serving haggis and blood pudding, which really are the same thing. Plus, Raj's plasma screen has a few dead pixels in the corner. And Raj's Tex-

Mex doesn't meet with Sheldon's approval. (SHOCKING!) And watching Hofstadter "suck the saliva out of your sister's mouth" doesn't add to Raj's night. Sitting anywhere you want is like "hippies at a love-in" to Sheldon, even though Priya is trying her best to be a gracious host. But the margaritas are just a bit too much for him.

Heading to The Cheesecake Factory, Sheldon drowns his sorrows in a...water. And Sheldon demands Penny absentmindedly wipe down the bar and try to coax the weary patron (him) to divulging his troubles. Of course, telling Penny that hanging out at Raj's house for dinner was a problem didn't sit well, even when Raj put on Reggae music and Priya took off her shoes. ("It was like the last days of Caligula.") But Amy calls him (she was concerned he hadn't gone home and checked in at The Cheesecake Factory on Facebook) and tells him to get accustomed to Leonard being the social nucleus of the group, not him. Of course, Sheldon is in full denial. And he won't take it lying down. He sets out snacks at his apartment for the people Sheldon's having over. Stuart, Barry Kripke, Zack, Penny's ex-boyfriend, and LeVar Burton. ("I tweeted him.") But now Leonard had to leave, as Sheldon's guests were coming. Almost two minutes of awkward goodbyes later, Leonard leaves.

SHELDON: He'll be back.

LEONARD: Of course, I'll be back! I live here!!!

If you think the night between Zack, Stuart, and Barry would be awkward...seriously, did you really expect it to go differently? But give Sheldon credit: he did prepare goody bags. Sheldon starts with introductions. Stuart was living in the comic book store now and hoped to get a hot shower out of the deal, Barry thought there would be a whaffle (sorry, must be present to win), and Zack will think of something to say about himself.

Amy and Bernadette (Melissa Rauch) decide to 'kidnap' Penny and take her out dancing. Although Amy didn't really need the pillowcase or the chloroform; she just needed to stop pestering Penny about the "sweet loving her ex is currently receiving from the jewel of Mumbai."

Give Zack credit; he recovered with an enthralling story about getting into a hot tub naked at a ski lodge with a drunk girl. Except Sheldon wanted to know if it was a hot tub or a Jacuzzi. ("Wheally? That was your qwestion?") As the drunk girl got in, Sheldon felt it was time for his story of how Archimedes learned about water displacement from taking a bath. After all his story had a gold crown, where Zack's simply had wet breasts. But long story short, Zack nailed her.

SHELDON: But when he finished, he shouted Eureka!

ZACK: Nope, I shouted Holy Moly. Don't know why. Just do.

Sheldon wants to warm up the vintage videogames, but Kripke went to get his karaoke machine, Zack made a beer run, and Stuart went to take a shower.

At Raj's, they enjoyed chili cooked by Priya, who had a Texas roommate in England, while the guys regaled her with stories about Leonard's Texas roommate, who was punched by Bill Gates once for telling him "maybe if you weren't so distracted by sick children in Africa, you could have put a little more thought into Windows Vista." They toasted a Sheldon-free evening, and they find out it's not as fun without Sheldon telling them the Romans used to put spiced toast in their punch bowls. They admit to missing him.

The ladies are preparing to go out (once Penny gives them a place to go), and Penny picks a dress Amy feels show enough bosom to attract a new mate or a hungry infant. They want Penny to get a guy tonight.

BERNADETTE: Pick out the hottest guy in the room, take him home, do unspeakable things to him, then kick him to the curb with a smile on his face and teeth marks on his hiney?

PENNY: More or less.

AMY: What's that like?

Penny thinks she's OK with not being in a relationship, but Amy has some advice for stress management for people in Penny's predicament, such as herself. One involves an electric toothbrush. And none involve Bernadette finding the snowflake from the North Pole Leonard brought home for Penny a year ago.

PENNY: Screw it, let's go find me a hiney to bite.

AMY: And if we fail, we can always go to CVS and pick out an electric toothbrush for you. Mine's called Gerald.

BERNADETTE: (to Penny) That's a little creepy.

Actually, Zack and Kripke singing Don't Go Breaking My Heart by Elton John and Kiki Dee, now THAT'S creepy!

STUART: (in only a towel) Anybody do Walking on Sunshine yet? Dibs!

Sheldon finally gives in and goes back to all his friends. His new buddies "were having fun wrong." But the gang still welcomes him back, even though real chili doesn't have beans in it.

As it happens, LeVar Burton did show up, only to see Stuart, Kripke, and Zack singing Walking on Sunshine.

LEVAR: I am SO done with Twitter!

The Prestidigitation Approximation

Season 4
Episode Number: 81
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday March 10, 2011
Writer: Steve Holland, Bill Prady, Eddie Gorodetsky, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I), Chuck Lorre
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X6668
Summary: Sheldon is baffled by Wolowitz's magic trick. Meanwhile, Priya disapproves of Leonard continuing to be friends with Penny.



Leonard is hopeful it isn't racist that he practiced a few moves from the Kama Sutra on Priya, which she finds completely silly. But to his credit, there is no such book as *Weird Sex With White Boys*, so when in Rome... Then Priya makes the only mistake women can make in *Relationships 101*: change the guy too much. She starts with Leonard's glasses, which he happily converts to contacts and goes on to a lifetime (or an episode) of crashing into things. Although Penny does approve of Priya taking Leonard shopping for a whole new wardrobe, since she could never get him to stop wearing the hoodie.

At work, Howard tries a new magic trick with Raj. He gets a card out of the deck, and Howard correctly guesses it. Sheldon is not at all impressed, since he thinks magic is just all about misdirection and manipulation. Howard dares him to explain it.

HOWARD: Have you ever noticed when he thinks real hard, it smells like bacon?

Sheldon can't come up with the solution and is even more dumbfounded when Penny whispers to Howard how she thinks the trick will go...and gets it right.

PENNY: Big deal! Not knowing's part of the fun.

SHELDON. (mocking) 'not knowing's part of the fun'. Was that the motto of your community college?

Leonard and Priya have another lovely night in bed, following Penny's reassurances she's perfectly fine with Leonard dating Priya...reassuring herself, natch. However, Priya isn't too thrilled with Penny hanging out in the guys' apartment so much and wants Leonard to stop seeing her. (Yes, they did this on *Friends*, just wait it out.) Priya got Leonard to admit he wouldn't be happy if she hung out with her ex. He doesn't sound confident he can do it (shocking!), but he will try to. And he will also try to get Priya into a Lt. Uhura Star Trek uniform, except the one he knows of belongs to Raj.

The next day, Leonard tries to explain it to Penny in the laundry, but Penny preventing him from ruining the shirt Priya just got him didn't help, nor did his story about Darwin's observations of finches on the Galapagos Islands changing beaks to adapt to eating in the environment

with other finches. But 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush' sounds like Penny got it, so Leonard figures he has it covered.

Sheldon spends the entire night trying to figure out the card trick, even interrupting Leonard and Priya and hacking into the military's Cray supercomputer at Oak Ridge (which prompted Homeland Security to call his mother). Perhaps Howard used a radioactive tracer, in which case Sheldon needs to find some uranium-235...on Craigslist. The next day, he improves on Howard's trick with a magic wand, which also doubled as a barcode scanner to read the barcode on the back of the card and have it texted to him. Howard does the trick one more time with Raj, and Raj is convinced again...as far as Sheldon knows.

RAJ: Are you ever going to tell him?

HOWARD: Maybe. When it stops being fun.

Leonard takes Priya to an Indian restaurant (still not racist), where she tells him she may be getting a transfer to Los Angeles. Of course, that would make it a very bad time for Penny to stop by and hang out with them. In spite of Penny saving the silk shirt from being washed with Leonard's Spider Man underwear, Priya is definitely not a fan of hers, even though Penny really likes her. Leonard finally gives in and talks to Penny. Actually, he wants Penny to move out of the building. She correctly guesses Priya wants her to stop hanging out with Leonard. She promises to keep her distance from him, but Leonard doesn't want that. (kind of the reverse of what happened on Friends). She gets he's in a relationship, but he wants to hang out on the down-low with her.

PENNY: Are you really that kind of guy?

LEONARD: No. I actually felt silly saying 'on the down-low'.

Penny leaves, but Leonard chases after her...before crashing into the door. ("Damn contacts!")

Sheldon is still upset and wants to see the card trick again. This time, he picks the card. Which is a problem...until Raj sees Sheldon's card and signals to Howard what card it is.

HOWARD: Two of hearts.

SHELDON: I hate you.

The Zarnecki Incursion

Season 4

Episode Number: 82

Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday March 31, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Peter Chakos
Show Stars: Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Recurring Role: Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Christopher Douglas Reed (Todd Zarnecki), Lanny Joon (Officer Shin)
Production Code: 3X6669
Summary: When Sheldon has his World of Warcraft account hacked and his character stolen from, the guys team up to discover out who did it. Meanwhile, Bernadette and Amy try to help Penny deal with Leonard's continuing relationship with Priya.



Sheldon has been robbed! He is at the apartment after having called the police. Leonard arrives home to ask what was stolen.

SHELDON: They got my enchanted weapons, my vicious gladiator armor, my wand of untainted power, and all my gold!

LEONARD: (ticked off) You called the police because someone hacked your World of Warcraft account?

SHELDON: What choice did I have? The mighty Sheldor, Level 85 Blood Elf, Hero of the Eastern Kingdom, has been picked clean like a carcass in the desert sun! Plus, the FBI hung up on me!

Naturally, Sheldon can't believe the Pasadena Police Department can't help him with this ("How are you allowed to carry a gun?") But Leonard will rally the troops. Sheldon wants to let slip the dogs of war on the perpetrator, but Dog #1's mother said he was taking a bath, and Dog #2 was at his pilates class.

Howard and Raj join them, and Howard thinks a pro did it. Raj tells them a member of the Nigerian royal family will help Sheldon get his stuff back for a fee (although the prince MIGHT be a fraud), and even a day-old cheesecake from Penny wasn't much help. She departed as Priya got there, and Penny explained why she was in the apartment.

PENNY: I was helping Sheldon. He was robbed of a bunch of imaginary crap that's useful in a make-believe place.

PRIYA: I don't know what that means.

PENNY: Sadly, I do.

Fortunately, Penny has a few gal pals now to talk about her former relationship with Leonard, such as Priya taking Leonard to the beach for rollerblading when Penny had to carry Leonard to the water because he was afraid of stepping on medical waste. Bernadette, however, still hasn't gotten the hang of when to say "That bitch!" at the appropriate moment. Amy does, but she defers

to Bernadette. (It sounds so much cuter when she says it.) They need some liquer to go on the ice cream, as Penny continued to complain about having to break in Leonard, only to have to tiptoe around Priya now. (In her defense, Leonard saying "Oooh, my breast friends" when Penny took off her bra is just sad.) Bernadette is uncomfortable with hating Priya, but Amy says she has no choice.

AMY: Primates, such as ourselves, have a natural instinct to ostracize ill-mannered members of the troupe. Bernadette's urge to shun, scowl, or fling her waste at Priya is hardwired into our DNA.

BERNADETTE: (shocked) I don't have an urge to fling my waste!

AMY: It's there, we all have it. Hit me with some more booze and I'll show you.

Howard found the tavern in WoW where black market deals were made, although Raj is afraid of his character being there and everybody undressing her with their eyes. Priya is none too happy Leonard is helping Sheldon, but they found the fence for the stolen goods. But Raj volunteering his character to have sex with the fence is the last straw for Priya. She leaves, only to run into Penny, Bernadette, and a drunk Amy in the hallway. Penny plays nice and invites Priya for a drink, but she declines. Good thing, as Amy wondered how many of the four women would reach the lobby.

Leonard asks Raj if he's in trouble with Priya, and Priya Skyping with her ex-boyfriend Sanjay might be the answer. But Howard did locate Sheldon's thief. A Todd Zarnecki. (LEONARD: I'll bet he's some loser who lives with his parents.) Howard very begrudgingly agrees. Sheldon wants to drive two hours to Carlsbad to torture Zarnecki, although he promised to stay within the Geneva Convention. Everybody waffles a bit.

SHELDON: Ask yourself this: in the course of our lives, how much money has been taken from us? How many kites? How many Scooby-Doo Trapper Keepers? The bullies took them from us. Tonight, we take back our dignity, our birthright, and our pride! Who's with me?!?

If they can go after the Sabbath and Raj's hip-hop aerobics class, great. Leonard doesn't want to ditch Priya two nights in a row, but Raj points out, bro's before...my sister. Worse, sitar music for a ringtone is not cool.

The team heads down to San Diego to confront Zarnecki, although Raj hopes to hit LegoLand the next day. Sheldon prefers SeaWorld, but whatevs. Raj even had a heroic CD mix to play...after he erased his Beyonce Bootylicious Mix. (Well, she does have curves and owns them.) Several hours later, they make it to the house, and Sheldon was armed with a Klingon bat'leth. They finally knock on the door, and a VERY large man answers. So much for heroics. Todd even takes Sheldon's bat'leth.

As if the drive home wasn't humiliating enough, Leonard's car stalls out, and Penny had to pick the guys up. Sheldon actually says 'thank you'. Penny questions why Leonard called her instead of Priya. Apparently, Penny would understand the reason why they went to Carlsbad in the first place where Priya wouldn't.

HOWARD: This one's funny, Leonard. Why couldn't you make it work?

Sheldon told Penny they couldn't get their stuff back, so Penny turns the car around to show them how they finish a quest in Nebraska. Penny demands Todd give Sheldon his stuff back and he refuses.

PENNY: Good news! Today's the day a girl's gonna finally touch you in your special place.

One swift kick to the groin later, and Sheldon had his stuff back.

Penny's reward for taking on a bully? A very uncomfortable walk up the stairs with Priya. Very, very quiet and uncomfortable.

PENNY: Amy's right. I do want to fling my poop at her.

The Herb Garden Germination

Season 4

Episode Number: 83

Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 7, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan (I), Eddie Gorodetsky, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali), Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali), Brian Greene (I) (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6670
Summary: Sheldon and Amy decide to start rumors about themselves as a social test. Meanwhile, Howard takes his relationship with Bernadette to an even higher level.



Sheldon and Amy are out on a date. (according to Chandler Bing anyway: two people going out and not having sex) They're attending the lecture of Brian Greene, who wrote a book on The Hidden Reality, which is a book explaining the theory of multiple universes for the masses to understand. And yes, Sheldon and Amy think they're at a comedy club. Sheldon even tries a little heckling...

SHELDON: You've dedicated your life to educating the general populace about complex scientific ideas. Have you ever considered trying to do something useful? Perhaps reading to the elderly? But

not your books; something they might enjoy...I kid of course. Big fan.

Amy also gives Sheldon a little bit of gossip. Sheldon rebukes her, but she insists gossip is a theoretical mainstay of maintaining social groups, without which we may denigrate into feral packs of tattooed motorcycle riders fighting to the death over the last few cans of tuna fish. Amy tells him the big news: Bernadette might be breaking up with Howard. Sheldon thinks the nation's tuna cans are safe, but he passes said knowledge onto Leonard while they take part in archery. (Yes, on the Nintendo Wii.) Although it brings back the smell of K-Mart bourbon to Sheldon, he was more interested Amy shared that information with him. Leonard was far more interested about Bernadette potentially breaking up with Howard. And since this is gossip, Leonard must spread it to Priya...right after he coaches her on not flossing too close to the mirror. (Sheldon's rule, natch. The toilet won't be a problem, though.) Priya is quite fascinated, as she knows Raj has a big crush on Bernadette. Raj has even been writing poems.

PRIYA: They're very disturbing. "Oh Bernadette, please play my clarinet." And for years, everyone in my family thought HE was the clarinet enthusiast.

Later we find out the source of the rumor: Penny. (oh, like you're shocked) Leonard and she talk on the way up the stairs, and she's upset because she told Amy in the strictest confidence. ("Some people are such blabbermouths!") But Penny thinks Bernadette can do better.

LEONARD: Do you think a sexually ambivalent Indian astrophysicist with selective mutism and alcohol issues is better than a 100-pound Jewish guy who lives with his Mom?

Penny is shocked about Raj and even more shocked Priya told Leonard about him. Apparently Penny feels she can keep a secret better than Amy or Priya.

LEONARD: You're the one who told Amy in the first place.

PENNY: In confidence!

It's not over yet. Priya and Raj talk to their parents over videoconference, where apparently Priya gets more crap about getting married than Raj does. And Priya not wanting Raj to tell their parents about her sleeping with Leonard doesn't help at all. They'd actually prefer she would date Howard over Leonard. ("He's Jewish; those chaps are very successful. And they don't drink a lot.") But Priya lets slip Bernadette might be on the market soon. Raj is, to say the least, very happy about a potential clarinet player on the market.

Of course, nobody has said a thing to Howard about this, which is good since he's actually going in the other direction: getting a ring so he could propose to Bernadette. He even got a half-carat ring.

HOWARD: Her freakishly small hands make anything look big. It's one of the reasons I love her.

(I laughed my head off at that line. The audience didn't. I'm a bad person.)

Speaking of bad people, Raj thinks it's 'awful' Bernadette might be ready to crush Howard. But it was a 'smile of sadness' he had on. ("India is a goofy place.")

Amy and Sheldon are again enjoying some time together. (No, not in bed.) Sheldon tells her about Howard's impending proposal, where the group consensus is a soul-crushing rejection. ("Everyone was sent a-twitter. Strangely, no one Tweeted.") Amy felt Meme Theory was at work, where items are gossip are like living things that seek to reproduce using humans as their host. Sheldon agrees, as "Sheldon Cooper is a smelly pooper" spread like wildfire at his elementary school. (AMY: That's gold.) Amy thought a little social experiment was in order that may not be completely above-board. Amy proposes two false pieces of gossip be spread through the group: one juicy and one mundane as a control.

SHELDON: Look at you, getting me to engage in the social sciences. You're a vixen, Amy Farrah Fowler.

Amy goes right to Penny to lay them out: she's starting an herb garden and got it on with Sheldon. Penny was still looking for the license of the truck that hit her.

Raj goes to The Cheesecake Factory and gets a shot of confidence so he can talk to Bernadette. They talk for about a minute, mostly about Howard puking Red Vines and Cherry Coke at the movie theatre, so the romantic tension was clearly palpable. Penny sees the drink in Raj's drink and puts the pieces together. She's mad at Raj for stabbing Howard in the back, but Raj explains he knows about Bernadette planning to break up with Howard. And Penny discovers he got that from Priya.

PENNY: That gossipy bitch! (to Raj) No offense.

RAJ: None taken. You should hear how she talks about you.

Raj admits not being able to stop thinking about her, so Penny tells him about Sheldon and Amy having sex to give him something else to think about.

RAJ: I can't believe ol' Smelly Pooper finally got laid!

Leonard apparently found out from Raj, since he carefully questioned Sheldon about it. And Sheldon cleverly deflected it to the herb garden rumor. Leonard leaves the 'lucky dog', who secretly had a beaming Amy on videochat.

SHELDON: I must say, Amy, pretending to have sexual intercourse with you has given me great satisfaction.

AMY: Slow down, Sheldon. I'm not quite there yet.

The meme reaches full penetration (yes, they said that) when Bernadette quizzes Amy on her encounter with Sheldon. One tiny problem: Bernadette wants details. A blow-by-blow description...as it were. ("Pun intended?" "I'm sorry, What pun?") Amy covered by saying Sheldon was aloof but effective.

SHELDON: You shouldn't have done that. That'll make me a chick magnet!

And Howard has a question for Bernadette. He thought with his friends around was a good time, but Leonard didn't. Although Raj did. He gets on one knee and asks Bernadette Maryann

Rostenkowski...but she stops him. And says YES! Leonard congratulates them. Priya and Raj are crying...for different reasons, yes. Amy and Sheldon are confused.

AMY: I wonder what changed her mind.

SHELDON: Perhaps your talk of my sexual prowess renewed her faith in love.

AMY: (mulls it over) As good of an explanation as any.

Amy tries one more time with Penny: Amy's getting orthotics and carrying Sheldon's baby. Amy didn't even make it down the stairwell before Leonard got her in the hall.

AMY: Does that text say anything about orthotics?

The Agreement Dissection

Season 4
Episode Number: 84
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 28, 2011
Writer: Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Eddie Gorodetsky, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Arnold Chun (Ho-Jun), Jeff Blum (Waiter), Tom Yi (Dispatcher (V.O.))
Production Code: 3X6671
Summary: Miffed over Priya breaking down the Roommate Agreement using legal theory, Sheldon joins Penny, Bernadette, and Amy on their girls' night.



Sheldon needs to go to the bathroom badly, even though Leonard is taking a shower. The Roommate Agreement clearly states private time in the shower is banned in case of emergency. ("A 32 oz. banana smoothie, a 16 oz. bladder. You do the math.") However, Sheldon might want to do other math, as in count the number of people actually in the shower. Priya has joined Leonard in there. She might be sympathetic to Sheldon's force majeure, but Sheldon can't pee in front of her. So he settles for the next best thing. Knock-knock-knock-PENNY-knock-knock-knock-PENNY!

Sheldon is pissed off (although he avoided being pissed on), and he accuses Leonard of two violations of the Roommate Agreement. But clearly Sheldon forgot what Priya did for a living, and she demands to know the charges. ("Cool, I've got a lawyer. And I've seen her naked!") Sheldon accused Leonard of denying him access to the toilet in a time of need and for exceeding his occupancy in the shower, as they were not under attack by water-soluble aliens. Priya wants to see the agreement, as Leonard is quite proud of her degree from Cambridge. Sure enough, since Sheldon left the definition of 'an emergency' vague, the law sides on the party who didn't draft the agreement. And on the second count, Leonard and Priya merely had to leave adequate hot water for Sheldon when he showered second. Both charges dismissed.

LEONARD: No offense, but shower sex with you is now the second-best thing that's happened today!

And they weren't done yet. Greek food on Pizza Night would really mess with Sheldon, according to Raj. ("It's the most delightfully cruel thing we've done since leaving that fake message for from Stephen Hawking on his voicemail.") Sure enough, Sheldon protests, and Howard goes to his lawyer (Priya), who pointed out Pizza Night was specific to the non-defunct Franconi's Pizza and Sheldon didn't allow public hearings on the selection of a new restaurant.

PRIYA: Were those criteria met, Sheldon?

SHELDON: (meek) No.

THE GUYS: OPAA!!

SHELDON: But Leonard, you hate Greek food.

LEONARD: (big smile) Not as much as you.

But the guys were nice enough to get Sheldon a lamb kabob. He tried. And failed.

Sheldon tries to go to Penny's and make it Pizza Night there, but she was going out to dinner with Amy and Bernadette. She invites Sheldon, who was not enthused. ("You'll probably be talking about rainbows and unicorns and menstrual cramps.") But Penny says they might trash Priya in the process. ("SHOTGUN!") Amy is up for it. ("Fair warning: we can get ka-razy!") And Penny explains to everyone Priya was giving Sheldon a hard time and she felt sorry for him. So the Priya-bashing starts early, and Bernadette opens up with her pantsuits.

AMY: I need some context here.

PENNY: Pantsuits suck.

AMY: And that opens up to justifiable ridicule for wearing them. Nice one, Bernadette. (to Sheldon) See? Ka-razy!

As the party continues, Amy and Bernadette are feeling no pain, and Sheldon is.

AMY: Are you wearing baby powder?

SHELDON: It's talc. But since that's the primary ingredient of baby powder, I understand your confusion.

AMY: Oh, I'm not confused at all. You're like a sexy toddler.

And a lesson to learn: never be the designated driver to friends of the opposite sex. A hammered Penny demands to know if Sheldon ever kissed a girl, and Sheldon answered no. (rather quickly, too)

SHELDON: In the interest of full disclosure, I was once on a bus and had to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to an elderly nun who passed out from heat exhaustion. Every year I get a Christmas card from her, signed with far too many X's and O's.

Penny and Bernadette wonder where Sheldon's scientific curiosity is at regarding kissing a woman, and Amy offers up her lips to science. But Sheldon claims he knows all there is to know about kissing, as it takes 34 facial muscles and 112 postural muscles.

AMY: Oh, blah, blah, blah! Give me some sugar, Bestie! (and she kisses Penny)

They decide to see if Sheldon can dance, which he declines but claims he excels at the waltz, rumba, and the cha-cha, having learned as a child at a cotillion. And for the third time that day, a loophole screws over Sheldon, as a gentleman can't turn down three ladies who ask him to dance. While Amy belts out some Katy Perry, they find a place to dance. Even being the youngest people there by about 30 years (and the only non-Koreans, as their Korean cab driver knew only one place where they waltz), Sheldon and Amy cut up a rug while Penny gets hit on by the older guys, who are just as eager to put their hands on her ass as the younger guys.

Going back to Amy's, she wonders why they don't have fun every night if they're supposedly the smart people.

SHELDON: What's 16 times 14?

AMY: (pause) My burps taste like cranberry juice.

SHELDON: And there's your answer.

Amy entices Sheldon into her apartment with promises of Yoo-Hoo. ("You own a smoking monkey? What's he doing here?" "I'm giving him emphysema; the least I could do is let him hang out and watch cable.") Sheldon confesses Priya all but ripping up the roommate agreement is making his life in his apartment very uncomfortable. ("And you want me to kill her? Done!") But Sheldon needed to talk to Smart Amy, not Ka-razy Amy. But she gives him some reality and says his intelligence might be causing his dilemma. He is so determined to play by the rules, she thought he should "play dirty". Which she demonstrates by kissing him. And then going to the bathroom to throw up, although first assured Sheldon one had nothing to do with the other.

Sheldon, however, took Amy's words to heart. He told Leonard to sign a new roommate agreement that greatly benefitted him. Naturally, Leonard refused, so Sheldon set the Auto-Destruct sequence on his computer, just like in the Star Trek episode Let That Be Your Last Battlefield. (even got the destruct code right, although his computer showed a graphic from Star Trek: The Next Generation). Is Sheldon going to blow up the apartment?

SHELDON: That was my first thought, but all my cool stuff is here. Unless Leonard signs this agreement in the next 41 seconds, this computer will send an email to your parents in

India, saying you're in a secret relationship with the whiter-than-Marshmallow-Fluff Leonard Hofstadter.

Leonard doesn't think it's a big deal, but Priya threatens to dump him if he doesn't give Sheldon what he wants.

SHELDON: You may have gone to Cambridge, but I am an honorary graduate of Starfleet Academy!

Amy calls on videoconference, and she was feeling the effects of the prior evening. ("Ah, the free prize at the bottom of every vodka bottle.") But Sheldon figured Amy finding a Korean man's business card in her cleavage was enough punishment. He thanked her for the excellent advice she gave him. But given what happened the prior night, Sheldon suggested treating it like a crashed computer: restore it to the last point where they agreed it worked. Which was fine with Amy, as her cigarette-smoking chimp was giving her grief.

AMY: Not easy living with a tempermental primate.

LEONARD: (from the bedroom) Come on, Priya! Just admit I embarrass you!

SHELDON: (to Amy) You're preaching to the choir, sister.

The Wildebeest Implementation

Season 4
Episode Number: 85
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday May 5, 2011
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I), Chuck Lorre, Eddie Gorodetsky, Maria Ferrari, Bill Prady
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Whitney Avalon (Elsie), Tiffany DuPont (Angela)
Production Code: 3X6672
Summary: Amy recognizes a dinner invitation to be a chance for Bernadette to spy on Leonard and Priya for Penny. Meanwhile, a lonely Raj considers taking experimental medication to cure himself of his inability to talk to women while sober, and Sheldon devises three- person chess.



The advantage of having female friends, according to Amy, is being able to engage in light chitchat while going to the bathroom. Unless you have a shy bladder, like Penny. Still, less awkward than talking to complete strangers while evacuating. Bernadette tells the ladies Priya invited Howard and her to have a couples' dinner with Leonard. Penny has no problem with it, but Amy very much has a problem (and a problem with it).

AMY: Priya is testing Bernadette's loyalty to you and the group. That bitch is crafty.

Amy theorizes Bernadette, because of her trusting nature, strawberry-smelling hair, and teeny, tiny body, is the weakest wildebeest, and Priya is the cheetah who will attack her. Amy's solution: be a double-agent. Gather intel about Leonard and Priya and feed them misinformation. Bernadette isn't good at lying, but Amy will teach her. ("I did Cub Scouts for two years until they found out I was a girl.") She even goes so far as suggesting Bernadette hide a listening device in her ample bosom.

BERNADETTE: I don't want anything in my ample bosom!

AMY: Come on, Strawberries. Take one for the team.

At the apartment, Leonard was heading out but was actually impressed by Sheldon crunching the numbers to make a three-person chess game. ("Five words: transitional quadrilateral to triangular tessellation.") And now there will be two additional chess pieces: a serpent to poison other pieces, and the old woman to suck out the poison. Leonard will look forward to playing with Sheldon.

SHELDON: (surprised) ...and a third person! I must say, Leonard, ever since you started having regular intercourse, your mind has lost its keen edge. You should reflect on that.

LEONARD: Excuse me, but Einstein had a pretty busy sex life.

SHELDON: Yes, and he never unified gravity with the other forces! If he hadn't been such a hound dog, we'd all have time machines!

Leonard thought Sheldon was getting worse...until Amy came up the stairs in new high-heel shoes, as they were designed to make the buttocks and breasts more prominent. (which Amy demonstrates...sort of) She wishes Leonard good luck on his dinner with Priya, Howard, and Bernadette. Raj (Kunal Nayyar) won't be tagging along, as he didn't have a date, or any life to speak of. (Holy crap, the guy is starting to sound like me...although he has a job that pays well.) Bernadette texts from the date that they arrived, and Amy texts back that Operation Priya-Wouldn't Wanna Be Ya is underway. Penny, still annoyed by Amy's work, is wondering why Amy didn't have enough of that clique crap in high school. Amy didn't have any friends and always ate lunch with the janitor...until the janitor's wife called her a puta and made her stop. Bernadette texts that Priya made a snide comment about Penny's acting career ("that bitch!"), and now Penny goes on offense, having Amy text Bernadette to tell Priya she's shooting a movie in Prague with Angelina Jolie. Even Leonard is surprised Penny didn't tell him, which prompts Priya to wonder why Leonard is surprised Penny didn't tell him. And a follow-up text that Penny was dating an astronaut didn't make Leonard feel any less awkward. That was a LOT of spaghetti Priya had twirled on her fork.

Raj, having been kicked out of his own apartment for the dinner party, asks Sheldon for a hug, but he has company...the two people playing three-person chess with him. (Nowhere to be found, natch.) But Raj was feeling blue because he was lonely. Only blue is for depression, so they settle on orange for loneliness. Raj was upset because he was turning 30 and had no one in his life. A friend of his in the Sociology department gave him experimental pills for Social Anxiety Disorder.

RAJ: I'm afraid if I take this, I'll lose that unique, special something that makes me so successful in my field.

SHELDON: (thoughtful pause) Rajesh, I've had the privilege of working alongside you for many years. My advice to you is to gobble these up like Tic-Tacs.

Over a rousing game of Jenga, Howard asks Bernadette about Penny meeting an astronaut, as the majority of them are found in Texas. BUt Bernadette wants him to ixnay on the estionsquay. Her cover is being blown quickly. And then Leonard asking about Penny's movie taking place in 18th century Vienna with an astronaut as a consultant throws our very Catholic Bernadette over the edge. She ducks into the bathroom to consult with Amy and Penny. Amy suggested changing the subject, and Bernadette thinks they can talk about Leonard going to India to meet Priya's parents. Whoah! Penny was going crazy, and Bernadette was too busy talking about the astronaut...which was supposed to be architect. ("AutoCorrect must have changed it.") Penny demanded Bernadette get more info on Leonard going to India, and Bernadette was freaking out.

Raj and Sheldon walked to a nearby coffee shop to test the effects of the drug. Raj walks up to a woman...and is able to tell her she is very beautiful. Raj sits down with her, and she thinks he's cute. That is, until he takes off his shirt. Suddenly, not so cute. ("I'm just getting comfortable.") And he gets even more comfortable by taking off his pants. Angela runs. ("Where is she going? She never got to see my penis!") Although the rest of the coffee shop did.

Bernadette was a bit more successful finding out Priya isn't even contemplating getting engaged to Leonard at this point, and Bernadette must use the bathroom again to text. Priya asks what's going on, and Bernadette can't take the lying anymore and runs out. On the good side, Sheldon has his chess game figured out...and promptly loses to Leonard.

The Engagement Reaction

Season 4
Episode Number: 86
Season Episode: 23

Originally aired:	Thursday May 12, 2011
Writer:	Jim Reynolds (I), Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan (I), Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre
Director:	Howard Murray
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Recurring Role:	Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars:	Phil Abrams (Dr. Bernstein), Sharon Omi (Nurse in Biohazard Suit)
Production Code:	3X6673
Summary:	Mrs. Wolowitz ends up in the hospital after Howard tells her he's marrying Bernadette. While there, Leonard stresses over Penny and Priya warming up to one another.



Everybody is gathered at The Cheesecake Factory, although Penny would prefer Bernadette wait on the guys, as Priya is with them. Bernadette offers to spill hot soup on her, but Penny doesn't want her to become that kind of person. Although she has the green light to make any low-fat orders from Priya as artery-clogging as she wants. And Sheldon accidentally drinks Leonard's water. You can imagine the reaction, as every potential pathogen from Leonard is now in Sheldon's mouth, to say nothing about the

fact his tongue has been in contact with Priya's on more than a few pleasant occasions. And somehow, Sheldon even managed to insult India somewhere in there, too. As Sheldon goes to the bar to gargle with alcohol, Priya asks Bernadette and Howard if they told Howard's mother about their engagement yet. Howard thought to wait for a more appropriate time...like her eulogy. Priya thinks he should do it, and Howard asks the pot if she told her parents about the "short glass of skim milk" next to her. But Indian parents are VERY protective, whereas Jewish mothers have a "la ti da" approach to raising their sons.

Bernadette is having a get-to-know-you lunch with Howard's mother. Howard is afraid his mother will swallow her whole and spit out the bones like an owl. And having gotten home to find his mother on the toilet, he probably wishes it went that way. But his mother did think she was lovely, so Howard breaks the news...and there's a LOOONG uncomfortable silence, followed by someone falling down. And it wasn't Howard.

In the laundry, Penny was happy to talk with Sheldon, as she had to keep her distance from the guys because of Priya. However, Sheldon explaining the effects of time on String Theory wasn't what she had in mind. But she didn't mind hearing the jibber-jabber...until Sheldon was ready to explain the origins of the phrase jibber-jabber. ("You're going to jibber-jabber about jibber-jabber?") Fortunately, Leonard rushes in to tell them about Howard's mother being in the hospital. They head out...except for Sheldon, who is frozen in panic about it. ("To the hospital? Full of sick people? I don't think so!") Sheldon isn't afraid of germs; only the ones that will kill him. Penny points out Sheldon wears all of these superhero t-shirts yet won't step up to the plate

when his friend is in trouble. That worked. Although he warned them his aunt caught something in the hospital visiting his uncle and died a week later. ("They share a coffee can on my mother's mantle.")

At the hospital, Howard talks about finally breaking down the door (his first attempt landed him a broken arm) and carrying his mother to the car (with a broken arm) and to the hospital. The doctors think she had a heart attack and were running tests, although Sheldon thinks she's more likely to die from one of the "antibiotic-resistant super-bugs infesting every nook and cranny of the hospital." Bernadette asked him what made her have a heart attack, and she correctly guessed it was telling his mother about the engagement.

HOWARD: You can't take that personally. Ever since my dad left, I've been the whole world to my mother. She'd be threatened by any woman who could give me what she can't.

BERNADETTE: (shocked) You mean sexual intercourse?

HOWARD: Well, when you say it like that, you make it sound creepy.

And Bernadette was freaking out. And speaking of freaking out, Priya and Penny were actually talking. Priya thought it was very nice of Penny to come down to the hospital, and Penny said it's what she'd do for a friend. Yeah, she just called Howard a friend. Given she broke his nose once for sticking his tongue down her throat, it is a bit weird. But it's much less weird than Raj, who apparently had a similar group of friends in India that dressed up in leotards and goggles and called themselves the New Delhi Power Rangers.

PENNY: You mean when he was little.

PRIYA: Not as little as you'd want him to be.

They headed for the cafeteria, and Leonard was certain it was fine, even though Raj put the thought into his head of his ex-girlfriend sharing with his current girlfriend why they broke up. Between that and sending Sheldon off in a panic for drinking his water while hiding the mouthwash, Raj is "a mean little man" today. But fortunately, Penny's only advice to Priya was not to doze off during sex and appreciate the incredible amount of foreplay Leonard goes through. (He never got praise from his mother; it's very Freudian.)

Bernadette was having doubts about being with Howard if the thought of it would kill his mother. ("It's the circle of life. One day, our son will marry someone and it will kill you.") Fortunately, the doctor said Howard's mother didn't have a heart attack. Howard wanted to visit her, but his mother said she wanted to see "the little Catholic girl" first. While the doctor prescribed Xanax for Howard's mother for bringing home a Catholic girl, Sheldon had to hide from a coughing patient...and ended up in a patient's room with a highly infectious disease. And Sheldon was in for the evening.

Bernadette returns, and Howard is a putz. It turns out Howard's mother got food poisoning from her lunch with Bernadette and wanted to make sure she was OK. Howard apparently made up the story about a heart attack caused by him telling his mother the news about the engagement. Howard's mother thought he was lucky to have such a lovely girl. Bernadette was not happy and walked out.

HOWARD: Where are you going?

BERNADETTE: (sounding VERY MUCH like Howard's mother) To the toilet! Is that OK with you?!?

HOWARD: Is it me, or does she sound sexy when she's angry?

But give Howard and the guys credit: they stood right by Sheldon...in Hazmat suits while he works off his two-week quarantine after being exposed to a deadly disease.

The Roommate Transmogrification

Season 4
Episode Number: 87
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 19, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eddie Gorodetsky, Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan (I), Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali), Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X6674
Summary: Hearing Star Trek sex games between Leonard and Priya sends Raj to live with Sheldon. Bernadette's earning her Ph.D makes the guys mock Wolowitz for not having one even more.



For those of you who did not know, The Cheesecake Factory offers shepherd's pie. Priya wouldn't mind splitting it with Leonard, but as Penny warns her, "milk in the 'taters, milk in the gravy, parmesan crust, your lactose-intolerant boyfriend will turn into a Macy's Day balloon." Which gets a laugh from the entire gang. And Sheldon pointing out Leonard would actually be filled with methane instead of helium gets a laugh, too. Much to his surprise. Howard thinks it's great, Leonard's girlfriend and ex-girlfriend bonding over "his rooty-tooty stinky booty."

LEONARD: Oh, just kill me.

SHELDON: Wouldn't help. The human body is capable of being flatulent for hours after death.

Sheldon's on a roll tonight! Bernadette turned in her dissertation and got her PhD and got a job offer from a pharmaceutical company, where she'll make a "buttload of money." As opposed to Leonard, who has a buttload of something else. And according to Penny, everybody sitting at the table has a doctorate...except Howard.

LEONARD: At least when I roll down the window in the car, everything's peachy. You roll down the window, you're still not a doctor.

PENNY: (to Priya) Trust me, even when he rolls down the window, everything is not "peachy."

Raj is kicking it at his apartment with some Vanilla Ice. (Shocking.) And it appears Priya changed her name to Lt. Uhura...at Leonard's request. Seriously, four nerds like this and two of them now have real girlfriends, a Star Trek sex fantasy is inevitable. Leonard tells her to prepare for "inspection." Priya's worried because Raj is right outside, but Leonard reminds her he has headphones on (not right now), and she should open the shuttle bay doors and prepare for landing. Raj runs for the hills and lands at Howard's place, where even Howard's mother is giving him crap about not being a doctor. Raj explains his situation and asks if he can stay the night. Howard has a date, so it'd be just Raj and Howard's mother. Howard asks, and his mother is excited to play Doctor with Raj.

RAJ: She's kidding, right?

HOWARD: I'm not sure. She's been acting a bit fiesty since they put her on hormonal replacement therapy.

And off to Sheldon's it is, where Amy talks about the difference between her Neurobiology doctorate and Bernadette's Microbiology doctorate. ("I study the brain, which produced Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Bernadette studies yeast, which produces Miller Lite. On the good side, Amy gives Sheldon some instructions on how to work out the twinge in his neck. He finds the myofascial point on the shoulder and bears down on it "like the seventh grade noogies we know all too well." And it works. In fact, it was like donating at the sperm bank for Sheldon, minus the contribution to society. Raj explains Leonard is having "astronomically-incorrect Star Trek sex" in his bed, and Sheldon whips out the release form for using Leonard's bed without Leonard's permission. Plus the safety briefing about the emergency exits, complete with luminous arrows should the power go out.

In the morning, Leonard was surprised Raj was in his bed, but Raj retorted that his bed was "being used to bring shame to my family...and the memory of Gene Roddenberry." Raj's reward for all of this? A CPR refresher course using a dummy. "Mouth-to-mouth Mona"...whom Howard used to date. Leonard sympathizes but Priya didn't get along with Sheldon. (RAJ: Sheldon doesn't get along with Sheldon!) Leonard proposes they switch apartments until Priya gets her own place.

RAJ: Can I bring girls here?

LEONARD: (amused) Bring as many as you want. Just...not against their will.

As Leonard and Raj tease Howard about watching his weight since he'll be a trophy husband, Sheldon brings all of the paperwork to sign, which includes a living will where Sheldon can make all of Raj's decisions in a case of life-threatening circumstances. (LEONARD: There's a reciprocity clause: you get to pull the plug on him, too.) Raj also gets his tasks of driving Sheldon everywhere, picking up takeout dinners (tonight's menu was in appendix B or downloadable from Sheldon's server), and he received an FAQ sheet. Although Sheldon does have a live webchat on Tuesday nights about the apartment for when Raj desires a more "human approach" to living there. But give Raj credit: he really threw himself into the first dinner, complete with candles, a bottle of good wine, and what sounded like Kenny G in the background.

SHELDON: Remarkable! I'm just realizing how much Leonard's been skating by all these years!

RAJ: Just think of me as a brown Martha Stewart.

Penny came by because Sheldon changed the wi-fi password again and wondered what happened to Leonard. Like homo erectus, Leonard was replaced by a superior species. (RAJ: I'm the new homo in town!)

Howard asked Bernadette what she'd be doing at her new job, and she decided to volunteer for the premature ejaculation project. Like you didn't see that coming. (boooo!!!) But Howard put that to the side, as Bernadette bought Howard a Rolex watch. Howard was flabbergasted and wondered how much it cost, but Bernadette told him to let her worry about the money, because she wants Howard to have pretty things.

Penny has joined Sheldon and Raj for dinner, and is well into the wine, thanks to Sheldon's dinner conversations. Apparently, there's another species besides humans who ferment fruit to make alcohol and get drunk. Hint: they have trunks.

PENNY: Monkeys

SHELDON: (ticked) When would a monkey have a trunk?

PENNY: When a suitcase just won't do.

Penny and Raj liked that one. Sheldon? Not so much. And as alcohol was playing keep-away with their intelligence, he went to bed. Penny took advantage of Raj talking to her because of the booze. Penny wants to know what would make Raj snap so badly that he'd willingly move in with Sheldon. The noise-cancelling headphones he had weren't enough, to which Penny was sympathetic. (PENNY: Leonard's a noisy little dude in the sack.) Raj wanted to change topics, since his sister was the other party involved. Penny confides in Raj she screwed up when she broke up with Leonard.

RAJ: To paraphrase Shakespeare, 'tis better to have loved and lost than to stay home and download increasingly shameful pornography. (true that)

Raj is depressed, but Penny thinks he's a cute guy.

PENNY: If we weren't friends...and you hadn't brought up that creepy pornography story...I'd be on you like the speed of light squared on matter to make energy.

RAJ: Hey, you got that right! E equals M C squared!

PENNY: See? I listened. Don't know what it means, but I listened.

At Raj's, Priya was discovering just how much of a noisy little dude Leonard was...and they were only kissing. They were interrupted by Priya's parents calling on videochat. Leonard insisted they tell her parents they're dating, but Priya had five brothers and sisters and was waiting for one of them to make a bigger screw-up before breaking the news. Leonard reluctantly goes but overhears her parents being happy when Priya moves back to India in a month. He's shocked, and Priya's parents can hear him. And Priya's parents knew she was lying a blue streak when she said Raj had many friends. He was upset she didn't tell him about this and she gets upset for telling her parents they were dating, even though it was apparently irrelevant. She walks out, and Leonard gets to deal with the online version of Meet the Parents.

Oh, you may recall Penny gets a bit on the flirty side when she has some alcohol in her, as Leonard can attest to. And now...RAJ! They wake up in bed together. She vehemently says this never happened, and he nods in agreement. (PENNY: Really?!? Still can't talk to me?!?) Sheldon wakes up Leonard on the couch for poaching on the apartment, since he and Raj have a good thing going. Howard drops by, confessing he had a fight with Bernadette for giving him a beautiful watch.

SHELDON: Leonard, do you understand this?

LEONARD: Yes.

SHELDON: (to Howard) Talk to him.

Leonard doesn't want to, particularly when Penny and Raj emerge from his bedroom. Penny assures everybody it wasn't what it looked like and did the Run of Shame. (Walk of Shame ain't good enough in this case)

SHELDON: (confused) What DOES it look like?

Season Five

The Skank Reflex Analysis

Season 5
Episode Number: 88
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Thursday September 22, 2011
Writer: Eric Kaplan (I), Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Stacey Travis (Sandy), Christine Baranski (Beverly Hofstadter)
Production Code: 3X6851
Summary: After spending the night with Raj, Penny is worried that her friendship with the guys is in jeopardy, while Sheldon becomes the paintball team leader.



When we last left the gang, Priya was moving back to India and Penny slept with Raj. Facing the music in the morning, Penny told the guys, "this isn't what it looks like." And Sheldon was perplexed throughout lunch. Since it looked to him like Raj and Penny engaged in coitus, he had put on his thinking cap (strapping it tightly) to figure out what they were really doing. He theorized Raj was infested with pinworms, which would require they wait until Raj was asleep when the pinworms would come crawling out of his rectum for air. Oh, and did I mention Leonard was having spaghetti for lunch during this?

(Wild guess what happened there.) Sheldon concluded Penny was checking Raj for pinworms. ("That's a true blue friend!") Finally, Leonard told Sheldon she was lying. And Sheldon took off his thinking cap in disgust.

Howard and Raj join Sheldon and Leonard at the cafeteria for one very awkward lunch. Not awkward enough, apparently.

SHELDON: Leonard, is it awkward for you knowing one of your dear friends had sexual intercourse with the woman you used to love in the place you lay your head?

This was apparently a segue into the paintball tournament this weekend in which the guys were entered. Sheldon wants to set up a chain of command. He's in charge, of course, but he wants to make sure you get the rank right. The other three ignore Sheldon and get to arguing. Howard is mad at Raj because he thought he could have slept with Penny were he not engaged to Bernadette. (LEONARD: Sheldon would have been before you, and he might not even have genitals!) Raj wants to know why Leonard cares, especially since he's dating Priya and Raj is in love for Priya. ("The god Kamadeva has shot us with his flowery arrows of love! He's the Hindu version of Cupid, only way cooler because he rides a giant parrot.") Leonard argues Raj will fall in love with anybody; he was writing poems about Bernadette. Which Howard, actually, didn't know about before now. Oh, by the way, Sheldon decided to be a captain and does have genitals. According to him, they're functional and aesthetically pleasing. Of course, now Raj gets both

barrels from Bernadette because Howard freaked out on her. Raj thought she liked him because she was always nice to him. (BERNADETTE: (livid) I'M NICE TO EVERYONE!!!)

Penny, meanwhile, was picking up where she left off the prior night with a bottle of wine when Amy stops by. She heard what Penny did. More to the point, who Penny did. Penny is beside herself for hurting both Leonard and Raj. ("I feel like Dr. Jekyll and Mrs. Whore!") Amy told her about Russian ruler Catherine the Great, who actually had sexual intercourse with a horse.

AMY: She engaged in interspecies hanky-panky and people still called her 'great'. I'm sure your reputation will survive shagging a little Indian boy.

When Penny admitted something similar happened in kindergarten (she was supposed to marry a boy at recess, but he was already engaged, so she hung upside down on the monkey bars and let all the boys see her underpants) Amy figured it out. Since Penny's prefrontal cortex failed to make her happy, promiscuity floods her with the needed amount of dopamine. Or what neurobiologists call the "skank reflex." That didn't really help, so Penny wanted Amy to go with her to find a place where people haven't seen her naked. ("We may have to drive a while.") Unfortunately, she opens the door to her apartment and Leonard is right outside. Maybe she can sleep over at Amy's for a while.

Sheldon finds Leonard (it took him a moment, since Leonard was wearing camouflage), so he got someone to help: Leonard's mother (Christine Baranski). Leonard begrudgingly explains Priya is moving to India, Penny slept with Raj, and he feels confused and alone. Her advice: buck up.

LEONARD: You're a world-renowned expert in parenting and child development, and all you've got is 'buck up'?

BEVERLY HOFSTADTER: Oh, sorry. Buck up, sissy pants.

If Leonard needs anything else, she can buy one of her books on Amazon.

At Amy's place as Penny and Amy brushed each other's hair, Penny lamented her failure as an actress in L.A. Her best shot recently was for a hemorrhoid commercial. ("I can so see you being the face of hemorrhoids." "I know, right?") Penny wanted to move back to Nebraska, but Amy had a social life right now that basically relied on Penny. Raj arrives (properly liquored to talk to them) and Raj tries to ask her on a date. But Penny admits she was really drunk and made a huge mistake. She wants to go back to being friends with Raj and was afraid they ruined it by having sex.

RAJ: You can't ruin a friendship with sex. That's like saying you can ruin ice cream with chocolate sprinkles!

But she wants to just be friends, no sprinkles. Raj agrees and admits they didn't have sex in the "conventional" sense. ("Oh, God! Did you pull some weird Indian crap on me, did you?") It turns out Penny had asked Raj if he brought protection, which he had (he's always packing), and he tried to put it on to no avail. She tried to help him, and...

PENNY: So, we didn't actually...

RAJ: I did, it was beautiful!

Penny was relieved. She even said Raj could tell people the passion burned out too quickly, like a candle in the wind. Penny desperate for babies, and Raj ruining her for white men? Not so much. They agree to be friends and hug it out. ("Penny? It's getting beautiful again.")

Sheldon is all excited about paintball, even using Google Earth on his iPad to show the enemy's location. (He even has that protective shell you can buy; those are so nice) But Leonard, Howard, and Raj are still mad at each other and want to pack it in for the day.

SHELDON: You think this is a game? Was the Battle of Antietam a game? Was the sack of Rome a game??

LEONARD: Yes, no, and no.

Sheldon apologizes for them mutinying on him. He's upset he wasn't a proper captain. His plan was to follow in the footsteps of Kirk, Crunch, and Kangaroo. He goes out unarmed.

SHELDON: (to their opponents) Geology isn't a real science!

He gets paint-blasted to hell, which motivates the other three to victory. ("If there was ever a Church of Sheldon, this is where they'll build it.") They toasted Captain Sheldon Cooper that night. (Actually, now it was Major, as he awarded himself a battlefield promotion with his last breath.) Penny came by to apologize to everybody. She also told them she was moving back to Nebraska because she sucked at acting. ("Maybe I'll teach acting.") But she gets a phone call. She

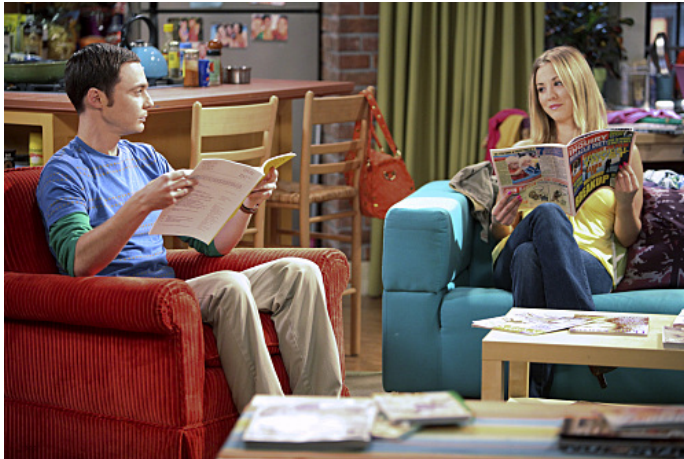
got the hemorrhoid commercial! She'll be promoting Preparation-H! (rose-scented: the H stands for "her")

SHELDON: (to Leonard) Have you ever thought of teaching physics?

The Infestation Hypothesis

Season 5
Episode Number: 89
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday September 22, 2011
Writer: Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds (I), Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali), Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali)
Production Code: 3X6852
Summary: Sheldon is aghast to learn the new chair in Penny's apartment was someone else's garbage. Leonard and Priya try a long-distance relationship.



Leonard prepares for his long-distance dinner date with Priya over Skype, and naturally Sheldon has to point out everything that was wrong with it, such as Priya would be having breakfast, Leonard's paraffin candles had carcinogens, and Leonard could very well spend his time better by developing a hobby, like giving the guy in Kansas with the ball of twine a run for his money. Leonard wants to know what the difference was between him talking to Priya and Sheldon videochatting with Amy.

SHELDON: Do you like Amy?

LEONARD: Of course.

SHELDON: Well, there's the difference.

Sheldon heads over to Penny's apartment for some reading. It felt like an old married couple to Penny, although Sheldon thinks to have that, the wife would have to serve iced tea and snickerdoodles. Sheldon is enjoying Penny's new chair. Penny couldn't get over the fact it was just sitting on the street. And suddenly Sheldon hated the chair. (I do have to take Sheldon's side on this one; furniture is always thrown out for a reason.) Despite Penny's claims she had it cleaned, he still bolts for her shower. And discovers a Band-Aid on the tub floor. And bolts for his shower.

At the university, Leonard, Howard, and Raj try out the university's new hydraulic thermoforming press. (Great panini!) Howard asks about Leonard's long-distance love affair. Specifically, the cyber-nasty...the virtual pickle tickle...the digital bow-chick-a-bow-wow! No, he didn't forget Raj was right there hearing about his sister. Leonard says they haven't, and Howard warns him if he doesn't step up to the webcam he'll lose her to "some guy in a turban who grew up with Kama Sutra coloring books." Ending lunch, Sheldon comes in and wants Leonard to check his head for chair lice, which he won't do...again.

HOWARD: Just his head, right?

LEONARD: (sheepish) I don't want to talk about it.

Sheldon goes to Penny and demands she get rid of the chair. But she claimed she had the slipcovers dry-cleaned and the cushions fumigated. The strong, toxic, chemical smell is reassuring to him. He sits down...and the bugs start crawling all over him!

Yes, it was a dream. Now he really does go over to Penny's and demand she get rid of the chair. She closes the door in his face. He knocks again and advises her to vacate the apartment while he calls the authorities to remove the chair. (another door closed in his face) CDC Street team? Nope. Pretend to have a sense of fashion? Uh-uh. Sheldon pounds on the door a fifth time, and Penny puts a cushion from the chair in his face. Sheldon screams and runs for his life.

Leonard apparently took Howard's advice, if the sexy little negligee Priya was wearing was any indication. How is Leonard with the hot talk? I'll give you three guesses and the first two don't count. (Charlie Sheen giving Jim Parsons the Emmy was less awkward.) She decides to take charge. She tells Leonard to take off his clothes, then she starts taking hers off. And of course, we get a case of webcam freeze.

LEONARD: Dammit.

PRIYA: (annoyed) Oh, Leonard. Already?

Leonard explains the image needs to buffer first. And Priya really doesn't want to talk about her parents right now. Sheldon shouts out from the other room to reset the TCP/IP stack to fix it.

SHELDON: (from the other room) Please let me know when you're done hogging the bandwidth for your self-abuse. I'm trying to stream a movie from NetFlix here!

Sheldon heads over to Amy's apartment, and she finally calls him on his OCD-style knocking. Sheldon asks her to talk to Penny about the chair she has, since they're friends now. (BFFs, besties, two peas in a pod, sisters who would share a pair of traveling pants, etc.).

AMY: Sheldon, just because you have a focus on cleanliness that borders on the psychotic does not mean I have to participate.

Howard has a solution for Leonard. A pair of simulated mouth and tongue apparati for Priya and her. Whatever he does into his gets translated across the Internet to her device, so it's like they're kissing. Howard demonstrates, and Leonard is far from impressed. But Raj wants to try it. (shoulda seen that one coming)

HOWARD: You just bit my tongue!

RAJ: I nibbled! I was being playful.

And they keep going. And going. And going.

Amy asks Penny about the chair (and somehow reveals her bra and panties are a secret she shares only with Victoria) Penny figures it out quickly that Sheldon sent her over. She's upset with Amy for letting Sheldon talk her into this, and Amy backtracks quickly and apologizes, afraid she'll lose Penny as a friend. Penny is still upset, but Amy demonstrates by sitting in the chair...and promptly gets bitten by something underneath the chair. She gets up, and both of them see something crawling around in the cushion. They run screaming from the building. The chair finds its way to the street. Until Howard and Raj find it. And Raj thinks if it was in Sheldon and Leonard's apartment, he wouldn't have to sit on the floor.

Leonard decides to give it one more try with Priya. He has everything written down and starts reading. Of course, she tries to stop him because her parents are there.

The Pulled Groin Extrapolation

Season 5

Episode Number: 90

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday September 29, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds (I), Eric Kaplan (I), Bill Prady, David Goetsch, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3X6853
Summary: Leonard escorts Amy to a wedding. Meanwhile, Howard convinces Bernadette to spend the weekend with him at his mother's house as a trial run, and Sheldon gets involved in model trains.



The entire gang (all seven of them) are enjoying Thai food, and Penny goes in for the final dumpling. Sheldon stops her and says the last morsel of food, the greng jie, goes to the most important person in the room, according to Thai tradition. Penny takes it and thanks everybody for the honor. (SHELDON: I've seen pictures of your mother. Keep eating.) Howard tells his Honey (Bernadette, not Raj) they have to head to the movies. Since Penny has to go to work, they get the "honor" of driving Sheldon to a talk at a model train store. Probably not a good idea to discuss future living plans with Bernadette, as she

was not thrilled about the concept of moving in with Sheldon's mother and even less thrilled with Howard just springing it on her. However, Bernadette comes back later and is sorry for snapping at Howard. He apologizes and suggests a tryout. He asks his mother if Bernadette can stay for the weekend.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: HEY, IF SHE'S WILLING TO GIVE YOU THE MILK FOR FREE, WHO AM I TO SAY NO?!?!?! FRANKLY, AFTER ALL OF YOUR SLEEPOVERS WITH THE LITTLE BROWN BOY, A GIRL IS A BIG RELIEF!!

Meanwhile, Leonard has work to do. However, Amy hasn't cleared out of the apartment, as she "is not interested in model trains, stores that sell them, or their heartbreaking clientèle." Since Leonard is too nice to tell her to go home, they share a rather awkward few hours together, made even more awkward as she just stares out into space and thinks about what she was reading earlier. But Leonard should take heart: she's having as wonderful of a time as she did at her gynecologist's office. She admits she sometimes overstays her welcome, like at her gynecologist's office. It turns out Amy is up all night ("like a possum!"), but she sympathizes with Leonard for having everybody write nasty things in his yearbook. That still beat her mother being the only to sign hers. ("Self-respect and a hymen are more important than friends and fun. Love, Mom.") It turns out Amy had ulterior motives. She wanted Leonard to accompany her to the wedding of Dr. Moranelli and Dr. Gustafson. ("They're the Brad and Angelina of the Primatology Department.") Sheldon acted like a baby the last time they tried to go to a wedding. Leonard agrees.

AMY: No dates to prom, two to a wedding. My, how things have changed.

Penny is curious to know why a brilliant scientist like Sheldon is going ga-ga over his new starter model train set. (Apparently, H-scale is better than O-scale, he happily discovered.) Amy would prefer not to answer without cutting Sheldon's head open. Penny figures she's better off just preparing Amy for the wedding, working on her makeup and hair. They figure they don't really need to make Amy's eyes look like Cleopatra, as "my cheekbones and pelvis already have a 'Hello, Sailor' quality to them." Amy bought a corsage for Leonard to give her and he puts it on. ("When you're done copping a feel, that goes on my wrist.")

The first night is not going well. (FYI, brisket, Mrs. Wolowitz, and a WaterPik are three things that should never be discussed in the same sentence.) Howard asks his mother for some privacy. ("I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS! HUBBA-HUBBA!")

At the wedding, Leonard isn't much for dancing or conversation. Amy isn't particularly thrilled, although she acknowledges the bride and groom are having a good time, mainly because "they have a feverish night of socially-approved copulation ahead of them." Amy wants him to stop being a mope, but Leonard's depressed because the wedding reminds him he has a sorta-kinda girlfriend 9,000 miles away.

AMY: I have a sorta kinda boyfriend at home playing with a model train, but you don't hear me bitching about it. A word of advice: moody self-obsession is only attractive in men who can play guitar and are considerably taller than you.

Leonard wants to prove he can have fun, so Amy wants him to go on the dance floor. She takes him out for the Chicken Dance, and they start to relax.

Oh, was Bernadette's night going bad? She can't brush her teeth because Howard's mother is on the toilet...and won't get off. She tells Bernadette she can come in; she won't be embarrassed. And Howard thinks that's a good compromise, since he does it all the time. Despite his assurances she won't see anything, Bernadette's reached her limit. Although on the good side, "THE EAGLE HAS LANDED!"

Amy has to help Leonard back up to the apartment. Apparently, Leonard put his left leg in, he took his left leg out, he put his left leg in, and it did not shake all about. Kind of snapped, actually. Amy thanks him for giving it the ol' college try, but Leonard thanks her for taking him out and using the neck of the wedding's ice swan to put on his pulled groin. They say their goodnights (Leonard even kisses her on the cheek), and Amy makes a beeline to Penny's. The wedding went great...until, according to Amy, she made Leonard accidentally fall in love with her. (Yeah, I did a double-take on that one, too.) Penny thinks she a bit cuckoo for Coco-Puffs, but Amy will talk to him in the morning, because she wants to let him have the night. Leonard "just doesn't get my motor runnin'")

AMY: (to Penny) Frankly, you have a better shot than he does.

In the morning, Leonard tells Sheldon he had a lot of fun with Amy. Although he had to admit his groin was a little worse for the wear. Sheldon's reaction? He judo chops him!

SHELDON: She is not for you!

Bernadette, sporting the greatest amount of patience since Job, brought Howard breakfast in bed. Although accidentally calling her Mom didn't help much. Bernadette was trying her best to communicate with his mother.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: DID HE LIKE THE PANCAKES?!?!?

BERNADETTE: (paging Dr. Freud) HE DIDN'T TRY THEM YET!!

HOWARD'S MOTHER: (Howard wanted butter) IT'S BUTTER FLAVORED SYRUP!!!

BERNADETTE: I JUST TOLD HIM THAT!!!

The Wiggly Finger Catalyst

Season 5
Episode Number: 91
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday October 6, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, David Goetsch, Anthony Del Broccolo, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali), Katie LeClerc (Emily)
Production Code: 3X6854
Summary: Penny finds the perfect girl for Raj to date. Meanwhile, Sheldon uses Dungeons & Dragons dice to make life's trivial decisions.



A friendly game of Dungeons & Dragons brings the boys together. Howard encounters a hideous, foul-smelling, moss-covered ogre. His reaction: "Hey, Mom. What's for dinner?" Of course, he's in the middle of planning for a wedding, whereas Leonard's girlfriend is 9,000 miles away, so he could do whatever he wanted. (HOWARD: Like play nerd games with us and taking a suspiciously long shower?) Sheldon is trying to keep the guys on task, but Raj is depressed...and eating an entire pie...because he doesn't have the blonde girlfriend with the big bazongas all those American TV shows

and movies promised. (HOWARD: Eat another pie; you'll have your own bazongas.) Raj gives up on D&D because he's too depressed about not having a girlfriend.

SHELDON: Because you don't have a girlfriend? Good Lord, if that becomes a reason people don't play Dungeons & Dragons, this game is in serious trouble.

Apparently, Raj's loneliness isn't a secret to the guys. Penny, Amy, and Bernadette noticed it too, if Raj crying at Bernadette's cake tasting and eating all the samples was any indication. They decide to set him up with someone, but there is the obvious problem of Raj being able to talk to women without alcohol. Bernadette has one candidate, who's husband has congestive heart failure and is in the placebo group for an experimental drug. However, Penny found someone from her spin class, Emily. Obviously, Raj starts having problems talking to her, until Penny tells Raj that Emily is deaf. That garners a smile and a wave from Raj. (Cue the theme from Love Story).

RAJ: (to Emily) Hi.

Howard sticks around to translate in sign language. Of course, between Raj trying to play it cool and Emily having to meet up with her family, Howard tells Emily Raj will text her.

RAJ: Look at that, I have a date! I love America again!

On the date (coincidentally, at the same place Sheldon and Amy met for their first date) Raj decides that he'll break the ice with a deaf joke. Howard nixes that in a hurry. (You know you're in trouble when even HOWARD is cooler than you.) Emily shows up.

RAJ: Tell her, her eyes shimmer like opalescent lilies in the lake of the palace of the celestial maidens.

HOWARD: Really? That's the first thing you want to say?

RAJ: I worked on it all night! Use it!

HOWARD: (signing to Emily) He says he likes your eyes.

RAJ: You're making me sound like a caveman.

This is how the night pretty much goes. Raj wants to ask how many children she wants and what her favorite music is. Fortunately, Howard refuses to, nor will he tell Emily Raj has a sexy voice like James Earl Jones. Emily wanted to know if Raj played an instrument, and, well, signing the band name "Frankie Goes to Bollywood" takes a bit of effort.

The date was going well, thanks to Howard filtering Raj's more bizarre questions and stories. But Emily signs a story about Christmas and getting a puppy, but Howard has to text Bernadette he'll be late. Then the puppy died from choking on a doll's head, and Howard didn't get Raj to a sad face quickly enough.

The date ends, and Emily looks in her purse to get a pen and paper to give Raj her number. Raj asks Howard if he should kiss her, but Howard didn't know what she would want. Well, the gentle but sweet kiss Emily gave Raj was the answer. Of course, Howard wants a partial-credit for the kiss because he stopped Raj from sounding like an idiot on the date. Raj reluctantly agrees.

Sheldon, in the meantime, was using his D&D dice to make all of his decisions, such as having creamed succotash at The Cheesecake Factory and washing it down with a pitcher of margaritas. (But the dice did give him a hot fudge sundae for dessert!) Now he was rocking a mustache, based on the percentage of his face the dice told him to shave.

SHELDON: In the past few weeks, unburdened by trivial decisions, I've co-authored two papers in notable peer review journals and I'm close to figuring out why the Large Hadron Collider has yet to isolate the Higgs boson particle.

LEONARD: You forgot to mention chafed testicles because you stopped wearing underpants.

SHELDON: The dice giveth and the dice taketh away.

A bigger shock is that Raj has dated Emily every day for a month. He even bought her diamond earrings and leased her a car. Leonard thinks Emily might be taking advantage of Raj but Penny denies it. ("Handicapped people are always nice.") Sheldon has some information, but the dice won't let him divulge it. But Penny pointed out he rolled doubles, so he had to re-roll. The information was the Koothrappalis had a ridiculous amount of wealth, so gifts weren't a big deal to Raj. Sheldon had to notarize several bank documents for Raj. ("The Koothrappalis aren't just rich. They're Richie Rich rich. About halfway between Bruce Wayne and Scrooge McDuck.") While Leonard goes and tells Priya just how much he loves her, Howard reveals Raj even paid off all of Emily's credit cards. (PENNY: I could have dated Raj for a few months!)

Penny takes Howard down to her gym so she could talk to Emily. She starts telling Emily Raj is naive and might not get the concept of how dating works. Unfortunately, Howard doesn't get the concept of concentrating on signing and not looking at all the hot women in spandex walking by.

PENNY: Howard, tell her what I'm saying!

HOWARD: (signing) Are you a gold digger or not?

Emily wasn't thrilled about that. She told Penny to mind her own...something...business and they could go...something...themselves. Back at home, Raj gives Penny both barrels.

PENNY: Wait! Why are you so chatty?

RAJ: I'm hammered.

PENNY: What kind of relationship is it where you buy her gifts and she gives you sex?

RAJ: THE BEST ONE I'VE EVER HAD!!!

Raj assumes Penny is warning him off of Emily because she still has lingering feelings for him and walks out. ("Well, he is cuter now that I know he's rich.")

Raj meets up with Emily and gives her a ruby necklace because you can't put a price on love. ("Although the people at Cartier took a good shot at it.") Emily loves it, but Raj's parents call over videoconference. Penny contacted them, and they weren't happy Raj was spending his money like that. Raj protests that Emily gives her things, too. ("I'm a gynecologist. I know EXACTLY what she gives you.") But they give Raj an ultimatum: marry an Indian girl or be cut off. Raj chooses love and tells Emily his parents cut him off. Yeah, it's going the way you think. Penny has to comfort him. (RAJ: Sometimes I put the TV on mute and pretend she's still with me. But then I

read the closed captioning and I start to cry!) To make things worse, Raj thinks Penny hitting on her and tells her to back off. ("If I date an Indian girl, I'll get a Maserati.")

On the good side, everybody knows who's paying for dinner now. (PENNY: And don't cheap out on the tip. We all know you're loaded.)

The Russian Rocket Reaction

Season 5
Episode Number: 92
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday October 13, 2011
Writer: Bill Prady, Jim Reynolds (I), Steven Molaro, Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan (I), Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Wil Wheaton (Himself), Brent Spiner (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6855
Summary: Sheldon is miffed that Leonard plans to attend a party hosted by his nemesis, Wil Wheaton. Meanwhile, Howard is offered a chance to be a payload specialist on the International Space Station.



Leonard and Sheldon encounter quite a find at Stuart's comic book store: a sword from Game of Thrones. Sheldon thinks they should hold out for Excalibur if they were going to start a sword collection, but Leonard buys it, haggling Stuart down to \$210 from \$250. Sheldon, on the other hand, really needed to work on his negotiating skills. However, when Evil Wil Wheaton arrives at the store to pick up a rare Batman comic, Sheldon finds the sword quite handy. Wil invites everybody to his house for a party, and Stuart hopes and prays it isn't another 'Wil Wheaton Sausage Fest' again. Leonard is happy to

go, but Sheldon thinks it's the perfect opportunity to show up Wil and walk out on him. Leonard wasn't exactly planning that.

As the gang (all seven) meet for dinner, Sheldon compares his friendship with Leonard to Schrodinger's Cat: either he hates Leonard or likes him, depending on whether Leonard is going to Wil's party. Penny impresses Sheldon by remembering the concept of Schrodinger's Cat without any hints. Although Penny remembers a cat getting stuck in her brother's truck "and we didn't need to open it to know there was all kinds of dead cat in there." Amy was quite smitten.

AMY: Homespun stories, knowledge of physics, and a bosom that defies it. You're the whole package, aren't you.

Howard comes in with some big news: his team's project was picked by NASA to be included on the deep-field telescope heading for the International Space Station. Even better, Howard gets to go up to the space station as a payload specialist. However, as Bernadette accurately pointed out, without a NASA shuttle to take him there, Howard would have to train in Russia to fly with them. Everybody is ecstatic, except for Bernadette, who has some concerns about how safe the Russian space vehicles are. Not to mention all of the time involved with training.

HOWARD: There's a saying we have at NASA: what makes the right stuff so right is that it always comes home.

BERNADETTE: Just stop talking, Howard.

She's not happy he didn't talk to her about it first, so he apologizes and tries again. And she rejects him. She admitted her father was a cop and she had a hard time wondering if he would come home every night. Howard was sympathetic and told her his father left when he was eleven and never came back.

BERNADETTE: Oh, boo-hoo! You're not going into space!

Back at the apartment, Amy is getting annoyed with Sheldon alternating being nice and being mean to Leonard, so she asks him how Wil Wheaton got on his list of mortal enemies. (61 of them.) And everybody groaned as Sheldon explained how Wil blew off a convention Sheldon rode 600 miles by bus to see, "because apparently he thought it was cooler to be the lower-left corner on The Hollywood Squares. And since the disk where Sheldon kept his list of 61 mortal enemies failed, the quality-control expert at Verbatim Corporation back in 1989 was #62.

Back at Howard's, Bernadette apologizes for her behavior earlier and told Howard she didn't want to be the one to get in the way of his dreams. They make-up and Bernadette goes to brush her teeth. Well...

HOWARD'S MOM: OVER MY DEAD BODY MY SON GOES INTO OUTER SPACE!!!!

The guys side with Howard for Bernadette betraying him like that, although Sheldon finds it interesting Leonard is agreeing, as evil always thinks it's doing right. ("Hey Stormtrooper, these ARE the droids you're looking for.") Penny and Amy have to agree, even though Bernadette was worried about Howard going into space, as "he once got an asthma attack from reading an old library book." (PENNY: I was there. Sheldon threw his back out handing him that book.)

BERNADETTE: Oh God, you're right. I took our love and threw it under his bus-sized mother!

Penny thinks Bernadette needs to fix this, but she tells her to make 100% certain she loves and wants to marry Howard. She does, and Penny and Amy bite their tongues on anything else they had to say. She goes to Howard and apologizes, saying she only did what she did because she loved him and was worried about him. He said not to say it if she wasn't willing to accept he wanted to go to Mars and pilot a one-man sub to the deepest depths of the ocean. (BERNADETTE: You got seasick on Pirates of the Caribbean.) But they make-up and make out.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: MAKE UP ALL YOU WANT! YOUR TUCHIS IS NOT LEAVING THIS PLANET!!!

Leonard gives Sheldon his last chance to join Raj and him at the party, and Sheldon refuses to have anything to do with "the one kid from Stand by Me no one remembers." But then Leonard got a text saying Brent Spiner would also be there. Sheldon tries to fake a lack of interest, and Leonard leaves. However, Sheldon decides Leonard, "his little buddy", is worth fighting for and he goes to Wil's house. Wil surprises Sheldon with his last Ensign Crusher figurine...and signed it, too. Wil was officially off of Sheldon's mortal enemies' list. Brent Spiner, on the other hand...

BRENT: (rips open the figurine) Remember when we used to take these things and made them look like they were masturbating?

And guess who replaced Wil on Sheldon's list? On the good side, Leonard haggled two signed Mr. Data figurines from Brent and a birthday invite.

The Rhinitis Revelation

Season 5

Episode Number: 93

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday October 20, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan (I), Steve Holland, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds (I)
Director: Howard Murray
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper)
Production Code: 3X6857
Summary: When his mother comes for another visit, Sheldon is disappointed that she's stopped being the mother he wants her to be.



Sheldon's mom has come for a visit. Mary Cooper Laurie Metcalf is going on a cruise with her church group, the "Born Again Boat Ride," where they have the Jonah and The Whale-watching, Last Supper Buffet (all you can eat, natch), and Gunning With God, where you write your sins on a clay pigeon and blast them with a 12-gauge shotgun full of forgiveness. You can guess how Sheldon feels about it.

SHELDON: Frankly Mom, I'm encouraged to see how advanced your group has become. Willing to sail on the ocean without fear of falling off the edge?

Mary was none too happy with that,

and she was less thrilled that Sheldon got the fixings for fried chicken...and assumed she would make it. However Leonard, sensitive to the fact she just had a long flight, proposed a sushi restaurant nearby. Sheldon voted that down in favor of the chicken, but Mary didn't feel like cooking and there was no harm in trying something new.

SHELDON: There could be harm in trying something new! That's why we test out drugs and cosmetics on bunny rabbits!

Leonard thinks Sheldon's talking crazy, but Mary did say she had him tested. Although perhaps she should have followed up with that specialist in Houston.

Mary wanted to see sushi that wasn't at a road stop "written in Kung-Fu letters", although Leonard said that may not have been politically correct to say. (Mary needs to be updated, clearly.) Sheldon tells her about Amy's experiments and how she's studying the neurology of addiction in lower animals. ("She's THIS close to getting a starfish hooked on cocaine.") Mary isn't sure of the relationship, but Leonard says it's like the Loch Ness monster: "maybe there's something there, maybe there isn't, we'll never really know. Although sometimes it's fun creeping yourself out thinking about it." Leonard tells Mary about his long-distance relationship with Priya and how her parents don't like him because he's white. (MARY: Well, that's a funny turn. You never think about it going the other way.) But Mary advises Leonard to take his time and not force it.

MARY: A cat can have kittens in the oven, but that don't make them biscuits.

SHELDON: (ticked) There's another old saying: you can lead a chicken to Crisco, but you can't make your mother fry it.

MARY: Sheldon, you pester me one more about chicken one more time and I'll put you over my knee right here in this restaurant.

LEONARD: (to Sheldon) Please pester her. Please? For me?

Back at the apartment, Raj was waiting for them with a three-pack of beer. Formerly a six-pack because he was depressed about being alone. (MARY: I thought it was our Indians that had the occasional alcohol problem.) Mary comforts him and tells how the clerk at her Wal-Mart wasn't going to find a man because she was too tall. ("Woman could hunt geese with a rake.") One Harlem Globetrotters tour later, and she has two kids. And Sheldon won't get a pecan pie from his mother, either.

LEONARD: Have some Oreos.

SHELDON: Double-stuff? (No.) Oh, good. Kick a man while he's down.

Sheldon did find an activity to do with his mother the next day: his laundry. That is, until Penny arrived and the two ladies got to talking about her love life. Mary told her if she's going to let a man ride the roller coaster, he should at least buy a ticket. (PENNY: Well, they all don't get to ride the roller coaster. Sometimes, they just get to spin the teacups.) But Penny asked Mary to help her pick an outfit out for clubbing that night, and off the ladies went to her apartment. ("When I was your age, you could have me for a car ride and a bottle of strawberry wine!") And Sheldon was left doing his own laundry.

Later that day, as Sheldon and the gang finally enjoyed Mom-made fried chicken, Howard tells Mary about his impending trip to the International Space Station, and Sheldon tells Mary about taking her the next day to see Saul Perlmutter, a Nobel laureate in Cosmology. Sheldon was going to take the Q&A session to ask a few Q's certain to kick Saul's A. But everybody else offered to take her sightseeing around L.A. to the Hollywood Sign, the Wax Museum, the Walk of Fame, even Rodeo Drive. ("Well, I can't afford a \$12,000 handbag, but it's free to look on those who do with righteous condemnation.")

SHELDON: Stop ruining my mom's visit, with your sushi and your sadness and your slutty shirts. Stop it! (storms out)

HOWARD: (Raj whispers to him) He's not talking about your shirt. Your shirt is fine!

The next morning, Sheldon apologizes to his mother and makes plans for the lecture with Saul Perlmutter. ("When he gets to the part about saying the universe is older than 6,000 years, I figured you could just put your fingers in your ears and hum Amazing Grace during those parts.") Mary was still going out with the gang, which surprised Sheldon because he apologized when he thought he had done nothing wrong. But Mary hung out in enough lecture halls with Sheldon in her life.

MARY: I am going to Hollywood and thank a wax Ronald Reagan for his service to our country. Sheldon refuses to move an inch until she changes her mind, which she won't do. Sheldon thinks they're at a crossroads in their relationship.

SHELDON: When you're at the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, if you see an exhibit about a mother who threw away the chance to spend the day with the World's Most Wonderful Son, believe it because it's true!

Sheldon goes to the lecture with Amy (Mayim Bialik) and returned totally disappointed. Amy thinks Sheldon is cranky because his mother isn't making him a priority anymore. Sheldon denies it, of course, despite the infant-mother dynamic being the building block of primate psychology. And Sheldon is upset because Amy pointed out that people who don't overthink things are more capable of handling emotions. Not to mention the cold he's catching. ("Oh, the common cold. You would just love for me to catch that, wouldn't you.")

It turns out Mary's tour of L.A. was to see churches. Lots of them. Although Raj was impressed at the image of Jesus on the crucifix. None of the Hindu gods had abs like Him.

HOWARD: Yup, the last Jew to do sit-ups. Look where it got Him.

Mary gathers everybody together to do some praying, which nobody really wanted to do. But she really needed it in the middle of a "rosary rattler" church (her term for Catholic) in Gomorrah, California. ("Thank you for the blessings of my Shelly and the strength not to coldcock him with my Bible.") Then it was Penny's turn, who asks God to stop her brother from cooking crystal meth. ("But no cops. Be cool.") Mary also asks God to send Penny that little "talk" He had with Mary Magdalene. Leonard asks for some help with Priya. (MARY: Hear that? Girl trouble. We were both wrong on that front.") Howard hoped he was exempt because he was Jewish; he was just hoping not to burst into flames. Raj was next, and he asked (through Howard) to help with

dropping those last five pounds. Mary thought he should have gone with that talking-to-girls thing, but it was too late.

On a park bench at night, Sheldon lamented he was just the same as the "common man" sitting next to him on the bench. ("Two peas in a pod. A common pea, and a pea that comes along once or twice in a generation.") Only the common pea was smart enough to have an umbrella when it started raining. Everybody else was back at the apartment enjoying Mary's cooking. Sheldon comes home with a nasty cold, and Mary takes him to his bed and cares for him. Sheldon thanks her for taking care of only him...and sticks his tongue out at everybody else. While putting Vap-O-Rub on his chest, she insisted there had to be a different relationship because Sheldon wasn't eight anymore. Although she would still sing "Soft Kitty" to him.

The Good Guy Fluctuation

Season 5
Episode Number: 94
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired:	Thursday October 27, 2011
Writer:	David Goetsch, Chuck Lorre, Maria Ferrari, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars:	Aarti Mann (Priya Koothrappali), Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Courtney Ford (Alice)
Production Code:	3X6856
Summary:	Leonard finds himself drawn towards a comely comic book illustrator. Meanwhile, Sheldon tries to scare the gang for Halloween.



Sheldon crunches the numbers, makes some changes to the formulae, and he got it. "Conclusive proof I'm absolutely worthless after 9 o'clock." But as it is Halloween, some pranking is to happen. The screams in the hallway are cute, as is the sudden blackout. Sheldon's not even impressed with the "blood" dripping down the wall spelling 'see you in hell Sheldon.' (SHELDON: The most frightening thing about that is the missing comma.) But the phosphorus-covered skeleton on a zip line thrown at him gives him a mild scare. (He thinks it's a minor scare.) Howard and Raj come out and admit they didn't scare him as much as they thought, and

Sheldon knows fright depends on the element of surprise. Until Leonard is suddenly behind him in a Balok mask from Star Trek: The Corbomite Maneuver (#1.10). Which REALLY does the trick. Howard thought Sheldon would faint, and Raj thought he'd pee in his pants.

LEONARD: Looks like everyone's a winner.

At the comic book store, while Sheldon used his Texas background to plot his revenge, Leonard managed to go where no nerd has gone before: he talked up a hot woman who was interested in his Next Men comic ("Issue 21, first edition of Hellboy.") Alice Courtney Ford decided to give Leonard her phone number in order to continue to wear Leonard down and get his comic. Howard and Stuart were impressed, but Leonard claimed he wasn't interested because he had Priya. But Leonard still did enough to be put up on the "Wall of Heroes" display in the store. (He was the first to pick up a hot girl in the store.)

Sheldon was ready for his first bit of payback: boobytrapping the mailbox on Leonard. Despite Sheldon's feeble attempts to convince him to get the mail, Leonard does it anyway and...nothing happens. Then Sheldon opens it...and an airbag of Leonard pops out complete with airhorn sound. And Sheldon is gotten once again.

LEONARD: You might be from Texas, but I'm from New Jersey.

Leonard has a "date" with Alice, where he showed a drawing Jim Lee drew of him at Comic Con. Leonard is a bit on the buff side, mainly because he went there as Lion-O from Thunder-

cats. Alice shows him a comic she drew...containing a drawing of her having sex with half of a Chewbacca.

LEONARD: Comic Con?

ALICE: You'd think, but no. (They start making out) So, can I trade you my comic for the Hellboy?

LEONARD: You can have my car.

Sheldon's next target: Raj. Sheldon hides a snake in Raj's desk and tries to get him to open the desk drawer. Raj opens it and sees the cute snake in there. He takes it down to the biology lab to get it some mice.

SHELDON: I tried to scare an Indian with a snake. Come on, Cooper! You're better than this.

Leonard goes over to Penny's apartment to talk to her. She's out of Halloween candy once again. (PENNY: It's a rough month when Halloween and PMS hit at the same time.) Leonard awkwardly asks her about Alice, since Penny might be his ex but her knowledge of relationships is considerably greater than the rest of the group...combined. Leonard doesn't want to screw things up with Priya, but he also wants to continue seeing Alice, perhaps even go to bed with her.

LEONARD: I'm not one of those guys who goes sneaks around and sleeps with more than one woman.

PENNY: Good for you.

LEONARD: The problem is I want to be one of those guys.

Leonard doesn't want to stop seeing Alice, but he admitted being in love with Priya and thought they could get married.

PENNY: Leonard, you're looking for a way to sleep with both women and have everybody be happy about it.

LEONARD: NOW we're getting somewhere.

Time for Sheldon to go all Texas on Howard. He fashions a joy buzzer on steroids. It works quite well...based on the hellacious shock he gave himself. He goes over to Howard's house...where Bernadette is practicing her imitation of Howard's mother...and somehow gets Howard to shake hands with him. Howard collapses and Bernadette freaks out, saying Howard has a heart condition. Now Sheldon is freaking out because Bernadette hands him a needle of adrenaline and Sheldon has to go all Pulp Fiction on him. Of course, Howard and Bernadette set up the gag as well. Sheldon can't believe he got duped and facepalms himself. Yes, with the joy buzzer on steroids.

After consulting with Sheldon about his dilemma, Sheldon actually had good advice. According to Nietzsche, morality is the fiction created by the weak masses to hold back the strongest in society. Leonard goes and tries to have sex with Alice. Only his conscience is holding him back and he admits to having a girlfriend. That did not sit well with Alice, and Leonard claiming he was being the good guy by stopping himself didn't win him any points. Of course, you know what's going to happen now. Leonard confesses the kiss to Priya over videoconference, and she instantly forgives him. Mainly because she slept with her ex on Leonard. And that ends their relationship. And then Leonard gets the bejeezus scared out of him by Sheldon hiding inside the couch.

SHELDON: Bazinga, punk! Now we're even!

The Isolation Permutation

Season 5
Episode Number: 95
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 3, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan (I), Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Production Code: 3X6858
Summary: When it is revealed that Penny and Bernadette went wedding dress shopping without her, Amy becomes heartbroken and pressures Sheldon for sex.



Bernadette, Amy, and Penny discuss bridesmaids dresses for the wedding. Unfortunately, Bernadette's not having much luck, unless traffic cone orange is en vogue. Amy's cousin has some bridesmaids dresses that weren't used...as the wedding party all died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Apparently, Cousin Irene was a big fan of discount dresses...and space heaters.

AMY: (shows them) Check it out, still in their plastic. The gowns...not the bridesmaids.

BERNADETTE: I don't know, dead people's dresses?

PENNY: Yeah, and cap sleeves?

Sheldon lodges a formal protest that the dinner conversation had lost some of its intellectual stimulation through no fault of anyone (Penny). So he had a list of topics to bring things back to "normal". At which point the ladies decide to eat at Penny's to look at bridal magazines through no fault of anyone (Sheldon). Even Amy went, as she was a lady, "and with that comes an estrogen-fueled need to page through glossy magazines that make me hate my body."

SHELDON: New topic. Women: delightfully mysterious and bat-crap crazy?

At the university, Amy joins the boys, having borrowed a culture of prions for her research on bovine spongiform encephalopathy...which she places right on the cafeteria table. (AMY: The real fun is picking the beady little rat who's been eyeing you all week to feed it to.) Howard begs someone to change the topic, and it appears Sheldon has alphabetized a whole list of topics from "Artichoke-it's just a giant thistle, people" to "ZZZ-the onamona-poetry of sleep."

LEONARD: Amy, how long would it take for that mad cow disease to kill me.

AMY: About four or five years.

LEONARD: Nah, that's not gonna do it.

Howard gets some pictures of Penny in a bridesmaid's dresses and asking for an opinion on them. Which means Bernadette and Penny are shopping for bridesmaids' dresses without Amy. Uh-oh.

BTW, did you know you can ride horses with the Kinect on X-Box? Leonard knows this, and now we know how he gets his exercise. It's Sheldon's turn, but Amy can't be reached. Texting,

videoconferencing, and tweeting don't work. (LEONARD: Try the phone.) Sheldon didn't think of that, but Amy's number goes straight to voicemail. Leonard offers to drive Sheldon over to her apartment. She's there, playing Everybody Hurts by REM on her harp. (Yes, she's crying.) Sheldon doesn't want to go in there, but Leonard gives Amy the three-knock cadence Sheldon gives and takes off. ("I'm single, I don't need this crap.") Sheldon asks her begrudgingly what is wrong (well, after trying to figure out if he should offer her a hot beverage or she should offer him one since it's her apartment). Amy is upset Penny and Bernadette went dress shopping without her. She asks Sheldon to do something and keep an open mind: she's craving human intimacy and physical contact. ("Oh, boy.") Let the negotiating begin.

AMY: One wild night of torrid lovemaking that soothes my soul and inflames my loins.

SHELDON: Counterproposal. I will gently stroke your head and keep repeating "awww, who's a good Amy?"

AMY: French kissing, seven minutes in heaven, culminating in second base.

SHELDON: Neck massage...then you get me that beverage.

AMY: We cuddle. Final offer.

And cuddle it is. Yes, it's as awkward as you think. (both arms around, Sheldon. No cheating.)

AMY: (lying on top of Sheldon's chest) I'm just saying, second base is right there.

Sheldon acquiesced, but the next day he took it out on Howard and Leonard for Penny and Bernadette going shopping without her. ("You get your women in line!") Sheldon had to miss solving the space-time geometry in higher-spin gravity and building his Lego Death Star. ("I am a man of science, not someone's snuggle bunny!") Leonard wonders why he has to talk to Penny, but Sheldon points out he invited Penny to lunch four years ago, so everything since is Leonard's fault. The guys (minus Sheldon) talk to Penny and Bernadette over dinner about them shopping without Amy. The ladies felt bad, but Amy was overdoing being a bridesmaid for the first time by telling them stories about bridesmaids in other cultures.

BERNADETTE: They're all about getting naked and washing each other.

PENNY: And she keeps seeing if our cycles have all synced up so we can call ourselves "The Three Menstra-teers."

They promise to talk to her. Although they may have picked a better time than Amy slicing through a human brain to look for a tumor, which she was happy to find. They apologize, but Amy understands why, as she had been shunned by girls before. ("Elementary school, junior high, high school...undergrad, grad school, and that semester abroad in Norway all over again.") Bernadette tries to assure Amy they should be together, but Amy takes the brain she's cutting and demonstrates Bernadette is the analytical left side and Penny is the creative right side. And Amy is the sad little tumor no one wants to go dress shopping with. Bernadette tells her she's not a tumor. And Penny will agree right after she's done throwing up.

Back at home, Sheldon is halfway done with his Lego Death Star. (or completely done if he was going for the Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi look) Amy calls, who is half in the bag at a liquor store parking lot.

SHELDON: Leonard, be glad you can't keep a woman, because they're a handful.

They find Amy drinking a bottle of wine. She's in the parking lot because that's where all the cool kids hung out in high school. Leonard wants to get her to the car, but Amy wants Sheldon to get a bottle of hooch, take her to the motel across the street and have his way with her. Leonard finally pulls a drunk Amy up. (AMY: Woo! Someone finally got to second base.)

Penny and Bernadette visit a hungover Amy the next day and ask for a second chance. Amy doesn't want to until Bernadette asks Amy to be her maid of honor at the wedding. She is ecstatic, to say the least.

AMY: What are we going to do for the bachelorette party? Oh, I know! We can find a Native American sweat lodge, we'll take peyote, we'll roll around in the mud, and paint fertility symbols on Bernadette's naked body!

PENNY: Yeah, well Vegas is fun, too.

Then, Amy decided to record everything, including them trying on dresses. Bernadette was having a few second thoughts. Amy did say she looked beautiful in her wedding dress. ("Not Penny beautiful, but beautiful.") And that might explain why Amy went into Penny's dressing room with the camera while she was changing. And didn't exactly leave quickly.

The Ornithophobia Diffusion

Season 5
Episode Number: 96
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 10, 2011
Writer: Chuck Lorre, David Goetsch, Anthony Del Broccolo, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan (I)
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Blake Berris (Kevin), Ashley Austin Morris (Laura)
Production Code: 3X6859
Summary: Sheldon tries to cure his phobia of birds, while Leonard and Penny experiment with hanging out alone.



Penny works the lunch shift today but at least gets eight pounds of about-to-go-bad salmon for her efforts. If only she knew how to cook it. Probably should have gone for the iffy chicken. As Leonard and Sheldon were going to watch Star Wars tonight, since Leonard had only seen it on Blu-Ray twice ("I know, it's high-resolution sadness."), Penny invites him to go to the movies with her. He's hesitant, as they never spent time together by themselves since the breakup. But Penny doesn't see it as a date, just a man and a woman hanging out and not having sex at the end of the night.

("Sounds like most of my dates.") They hear screaming from Sheldon, who is trying to shoo a bluejay off of his window ledge. Apparently, Sheldon has Ornithophobia, a fear of birds. Which he is certain will be recognized as a true disability, requiring the building management to put up a net around the whole structure. (BTW, he's afraid of nets, too.) Although it certainly makes up Leonard's mind as to going out with Penny to the movies. Animal Control's advice of making cat sounds doesn't seem to work, and Sheldon tried a drawing of a cat...that he may have drawn when he was six. ("What am I thinking? Whiskers!")

Since Leonard and Penny aren't dating, there's something of a debate on which movie to watch. Penny wants to watch the latest Jennifer Aniston movie, but Leonard wants to watch a documentary regarding a dam being built in South America. Of course, Leonard realizes he always let Penny pick the movies while they were dating since it was how he got to have sex with her, and since they weren't going to have sex, it was his turn. ("To this day, I can't see a Sandra Bullock movie poster without getting both bored and aroused.")

PENNY: We were going out. You would have gotten sex anyway.

LEONARD: Really? You would have slept with me after a three-hour documentary on dams?

PENNY: No. No woman would.

Penny finally caves...and Leonard wants \$11 for her ticket. ("Not a date.")

The movie is delayed, much to the consternation of Howard and Raj, because the bluejay just won't leave. (HOWARD: If we don't start soon, George Lucas is going to change it again.) But

Sheldon wants Howard to help him set up a high-frequency tone generator to frighten off the bird. They try it out...and shatter the window. (No, the bluejay doesn't fly off.) Sheldon has spent a lifetime being harassed by birds, from a hummingbird who tried to get at the apple juice in his sippy cup as a baby to a parrot in a pet store who called him a fat ass. He finally decides to try something more drastic: he dons his Boba Fett helmet and shoo the bird off with a broom. And the bird flies off...into the apartment. And sits on Sheldon's spot.

Penny and Leonard's non-date is going great...for Leonard. He decides to order some fries and insists Penny orders her own instead of picking at his. While he's gone, she accidentally bumps the person next to her and starts talking to him. He's a playwright writing a screenplay about a guy who has sex and tells his roommate to go to a bar to write his screenplay. Not that high on the Hollywood pecking order, but Penny decides to talk to him anyway. Kevin, however, wants to get Penny get back to her date, which she says this wasn't, which Leonard reluctantly agrees to. Penny moves over to Kevin's table while Leonard looks on. As it turns out, Penny seeing that documentary was quite an "in" with Kevin. Leonard pulls her aside and thinks she's talking to Kevin on purpose. However, Penny thinks Kevin is cute with "his dorky t-shirt and hipster glasses." (click)

PENNY: But when you're tall and have high cheekbones, you're doing it ironically.

Leonard threatens to go talk to some girls in the bar, and Penny tells him to go do that. If only they weren't in a group...

Sheldon calls in some biology experts to deal with the bird. Of course, Bernadette deals in microorganisms and Amy studies brains, so they weren't sure how Sheldon thought they were experts on bird-shooing. Bernadette thinks the bluejay is cute, and the bluejay feels likewise about her. Sheldon still wants them to flush the bird down the toilet. Amy points out the only way to get over his fear is to interact with the bird...just like he did with the mailman.

SHELDON: Every year, tens of people are killed by birds. I don't want to become a statistic.

Bernadette insisted Sheldon interact with the bluejay. (Her exact words were, "just pet the bird, you big baby!") Sheldon does, and he is enthralled. ("OK, now flush him down the toilet.")

Leonard finally finds a woman to talk to, telling her his interests included hiking, singing karaoke in Korea Town, and Jennifer Aniston movies. Of course, those were Penny's interests, but they seemed to work. Penny returns and wants to hang out with Leonard since Kevin took off, but obviously now the tables are turned. Leonard encourages her to go talk to some guys. Penny will not take this lying down, so she tells Laura (the woman Leonard was chatting up), that Leonard owns two Star Trek uniforms and wears them. ("Not just for Halloween.") Leonard protests, saying he didn't tell Kevin that Penny thought cold wars were only fought in winter. Penny concedes that, so she promised not to tell Laura that half the porn Leonard owned was animated. Leonard reminded her he didn't tell Kevin about her long acting role as a waitress at the Cheesecake Factory.

PENNY: (ticked off) What about your lucky asthma inhaler?

LEONARD: (equally ticked) Spell asthma.

Penny demands Leonard take her home, but he wants to hang out with...never mind, Laura took off. They do apologize to each other after a very uncomfortable walk up the stairs.

Sheldon did a complete 180 with the bird, saying how magnificent it was and even asked Bernadette to take a picture of him and the bluejay that could go on a mug, a mousepad, and a calendar. Sheldon is all lovey-dovey with the bird.

AMY: (jealous) Guess you gotta have hollow bones to get some sugar around here.

Sheldon goes to open the window to get Lovey-Dovey (yes, he named it that) a nest for him to sleep in, and the bird flew out of the apartment. Sheldon was devastated; he already ordered 20 pounds of bird feed off of Amazon. But there was some good news: based on the egg in the nest, Sheldon was going to be a mommy.

The Flaming Spittoon Acquisition

Season 5
Episode Number: 97
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired:	Thursday November 17, 2011
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, David Goetsch, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds (I)
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role:	Kevin Sussman (Stuart)
Production Code:	3X6860
Summary:	When Stuart from the comic book store asks Amy on a date, Sheldon considers having a more serious relationship with her.



The guys plus Amy head to the comic book store. Amy isn't all that impressed, thinking with Sheldon's intellectual capacity, he could have a better hobbies, such as frequenting an opium den or hunting fellow humans for sport. But Sheldon points out storytelling through sequential art goes back 17,000 years, "and you play the harp...like that's cool." But since Stuart can't help Amy find a comic not depicting a woman whose bosom can be used as a flotation device (since they don't exist), she's out of luck. However, since Amy didn't look through Stuart with soul-sucking, ball-shriveling

hatred and contempt, he wants to ask her out. He asks Leonard to get permission from Sheldon to ask Amy out. Although Leonard's in a bit of an argument with Howard and Raj right now over who would win in a battle between the White Wizard of the North from the Mystic Realm of Ka'a and Billy the Kid, as stupid of a discussion they all agree it is.

RAJ: Totally. I mean a six-shooter totally beats an old man with a wand.

Leonard goes home to ask Sheldon a question, which for some reason always comes back to Sheldon thinking Leonard should abandon his research and focus on his teaching. But after several minutes of rather condescending talk, Sheldon admits he doesn't own Amy so he has no objections. After all, he couldn't see a peddler of comic books drawing the interests of a noted neurobiologist like Amy. Over in Penny's apartment, the discussion goes much more smoothly...about Stuart. The conversation about Amy wanting to play Twister with Penny and Bernadette is another story. But to be fair, Amy considered herself quite the expert at Twister and she wanted to see how well she'd do playing with others.

AMY: What do you say, Bestie? We can do shirts and skins. I'm shirts! Called it!

The three discuss Stuart's text. Bernadette thinks Amy is stepping out on Sheldon, but Penny thinks since she's been with Sheldon for a year and it hasn't gone anywhere, Amy should be free to check out her other options. Which she apparently does, as evidenced by the fact Stuart wasn't at the comic book store (and someone even scarier than Leonard's and Sheldon's love child was in charge). Leonard asks Sheldon if he is OK.

SHELDON: Leonard, I am on a lifelong trajectory that includes a Nobel prize and cities named after me. All four wisdom teeth fit comfortably in my mouth without need of extraction, and my bowel movements run like a German train schedule. Am I OK?

The guys kick back with a game of Wild West and Witches, and Sheldon even wore a hat, boots, and brought a spittoon for the occasion. Which the other guys find ridiculous, but Leonard tells them to ease up since Sheldon has to deal with Amy being on a date with Stuart. (HOWARD: Are you telling me that Sheldon's patented combination of condescension and no sex isn't enough to hold onto a woman?) Sheldon isn't jealous and actually thinks it's the guys who are obsessed. That could be, as Raj has now bought the deluxe signed edition of Wild West and Witches...just after Leonard, Howard, and he laid out \$25 each for the regular pack. (But the deluxe set comes with a sheriff's badge that doubles as a magic wand.) Sheldon, meanwhile, checks Stuart's Facebook page to see how the date went, still denying he has any interest in how "sharing a pumpkin latte with a dynamite lady" went. And the guys trying to convince him he does have feelings for Amy just gets them unfriended by Sheldon on Facebook.

Sheldon goes to knock on Penny's door. (Funny one tonight.) Sheldon asks her to go on a date. ("Dining, dancing, maybe taking in a prize fight?") Of course, Penny realized Sheldon was trying to make Amy jealous to get her back, which Sheldon denies. ("I am not trying to get her back. But out of curiosity, what is a way?") Penny tells Sheldon to strap on a pair and talk to Amy. ("Strap on a pair of what? Skates?")

Sheldon finally straps a pair on and attends the movie Amy and Stuart are seeing. Sheldon admits he finds the thought of Amy sitting in a darkened theatre with a character like Stuart is repellent.

SHELDON: No offense, Stuart

STUART: None taken, but repellent is sort of a strong word.

AMY: Based on the currently-established parameters of our relationship, I can put myself in any repellent relationship I want.

STUART: (offended) Um...

SHELDON: Stuart, please. You're being rude.

Sheldon agrees to alter the paradigm of their relationship, provided nothing changes whatsoever, physical or otherwise, so Amy was no longer characterized as "not his girlfriend."

SHELDON: (painfully) Amy will you be my girlfriend?

AMY: Yes

SHELDON: (quickly) Well, that's enough of that.

Sheldon takes off to let Amy complete her date. She later comes home to find Sheldon there and wonders how he got in. (SHELDON: Really, is that the kind of nagging I should expect now that you're my girlfriend?) It turns out he arrived to have Amy sign a "relationship agreement." (31 pages in the span of 2 hours...impressive) It's an agreement between Sheldon (herin referred to as the boyfriend) and Amy (herein referred to as the girlfriend).

AMY: (touched) It's romantic

SHELDON: Mutual indemnification always is.

Oh, in case you're wondering how Twister would work between Penny, Amy, and Bernadette would work? Well, let's just say Penny's definition of "right hand-red" involves booze. But Sheldon needs Amy to take out a splinter under Section 4: Boo-boos and Ouchies.

AMY: I should have retained a lawyer.

The Speckerman Recurrence

Season 5
Episode Number: 98
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday December 8, 2011
Writer: Bill Prady, Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Anthony Del Broccolo, Eric Kaplan (I), Steven Molaro
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Lance Barber (Jimmy Speckerman)
Production Code: 3X6861
Summary: Leonard is hesitant when a bully from high school wants to meet for a drink. Meanwhile, Penny comes to realize she was a bully herself.



Penny headed to the guys' apartment to get their wi-fi password, which was changed to "pennyalreedyeatsourfood-shecanpayforwifi." (No spaces) Yes, Sheldon set the password. Leonard asks if she wanted to hear something weird, and Sheldon tells how Pope John Paul II was made an honorary Harlem Globetrotter in the year 2000. Which Penny had to admit was more interesting to hear about than Leonard's actual news. A guy named Jimmy Speckerman messaged him on Facebook and asked to meet with him. Jimmy was a bully to Leonard in school. Sheldon wanted to know if it was the guy

who peed in Leonard's Hawaiian Punch (no), or the one who wedged him so hard his testicle got trapped and he waited through all of Christmas for it to come back down (no), or used his head to open a nut (no), or made him eat his arm hair (that was Jimmy's sister.) Leonard honestly didn't know why Jimmy wanted to see him.

SHELDON: Maybe he wants to see if he can get the other testicle wedged up there.

LEONARD: I told you, that was another guy.

PENNY: It's too bad. We could have spent New Year's Eve waiting for the ball to drop.

Leonard decides he's going to confront Jimmy about all of the things he did to him in school. He decided to take Sheldon, Howard, and Raj with him, although Howard and Raj just wanted to see Leonard get his underwear pulled over his head. Penny, Bernadette, and Amy have their own discussion about it. Bernadette was the victim of some bullying in school, such as when Tammy Bodnick stole all of her clothes out of her gym locker and left her with an elf costume...which was too big. Although that was nothing compared to Amy having her hand lotion replaced with Rogaine and had to endure the inevitable taunting. (AMY: The one that hurt the most was Gorilla Fingers Fowler) Penny was surprised her school didn't succumb to that, although once a group of kids took the smartest student in class and tied her up in a cornfield overnight. Suddenly, Amy's proud to be best friends with a bully. Penny denied it.

BERNADETTE: It kind of sounds like you were. Maybe even a felon.

AMY: (whispers) Shhh, that's how you end up in a cornfield. (Bernadette's look was so funny!)

Jimmy arrives at the bar and sounds just like someone who would have bullied Leonard in school (and actually looks a bit like me, which is seriously ironic) It turns out Jimmy read about a medal Leonard got, the Newcomb Medal. Which Sheldon interprets as Jimmy insulting Leonard, the equivalent of a smiley-face sticker on homework.

RAJ: I won a Newcomb Medal, too.

SHELDON: My point.

Jimmy told the guys Leonard was so small back then, he could be stuffed into anything. They were quite the comedy team. (HOWARD: Like black death and Europe.) Jimmy wanted to ask Leonard about a money-making idea he had that needed a gear head to work on it.

SHELDON: Technically, Howard's the gear head. Leonard's just a dime-store laser jockey.

Jimmy's idea was to make a pair of glasses that could turn any movie into 3D. Raj likes the idea so he could watch Annie, but Leonard tells him it isn't possible. Jimmy went to him because he was the smartest person he knows. And even though Leonard is trying to keep him quiet, Sheldon has had enough.

SHELDON: What my spineless friend lacks the courage to say is you're a terrible person who took advantage of his tiny size, his uncoordinated nature, and his congenital lack of masculinity!

LEONARD: Sheldon...

SHELDON: Leonard, I platonically love you, man. But face it: you're a mess!

Jimmy asks if it's true, and Leonard admits Jimmy picked on him a little bit in high school. And Sheldon grabs Leonard's list of the things he planned to make Jimmy apologize for, such as gluing Hershey's Kisses to his nipples, and something so dire, it directly resulted in Leonard wetting his bed well into his teens. Jimmy is humbled and Leonard is devastated at what Sheldon did. They leave Jimmy at the bar.

LEONARD: Just for the record, Jimmy wasn't the reason I wet the bed. That has my mother written all over it.

As Bernadette and Amy tried to guide Penny through Step 8...calling all of the people she bullied and apologizing...Jimmy shows up at the apartment in a drunken state with the list Leonard made. He wanted to apologize for stapling Leonard's balls, throwing him in the girls' locker room, stuffing a parrot down his pants, and something involving Junior Prom and a laxative. Leonard forgives him, but Jimmy is way too drunk to drive. Although Sheldon would rather Leonard not give him some coffee and have him just wander the streets with the other drunks. Jimmy admitted the roles were reversed and Leonard was the winner now. The guys think it says something for humanity that Leonard's bully finally apologized.

SHELDON: As a symbolic gesture to all the bullies who tormented us for years, we should open our home to Jimmy. And once he's asleep, we kill him. (the guys are shocked) I said it would be nice. I didn't say we should do it.

Penny found a way to make amends: donate all the clothes she didn't wear anymore to the poor. Of course, it would help if she didn't go through the bin and discover a nice pair of boot cut jeans she could exchange for them. And the sweater. And...well, now Amy is involved. Bernadette's Catholic guilt holds her out...until she sees the cute suede boots in her size. They give up and put everything back. Although Bernadette comes back for the boots. ("It's OK! I serve soup to poor people!")

In the morning, Jimmy wakes up (and wonders when he had tacos, based on his big belch) and slips right back into old habits. Such as taking Leonard's French toast and calling him Nancy. Despite Sheldon's "I told you so," Leonard grows a pair (or the ones that were wedged finally dropped) and kicks Jimmy out of the apartment. Jimmy defies him, and Leonard gives him a shove. He stood up to his bully. Now he just has to outrun him.

The Shiny Trinket Maneuver

Season 5
Episode Number: 99
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 12, 2012 Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Bill Prady, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Jonathan Schmock (Jonathan), Jadon Sand (Aaron)
Production Code: 3X6862
Summary: Sheldon finds himself in hot water when he doesn't appreciate Amy's recent accomplishment. Howard discovers Bernadette doesn't interact well with children.



Howard is practicing magic tricks for his little cousin's birthday party, and Leonard and Raj were kind enough to play his audience. The bad news was, so was Sheldon. Besides the fact that Howard was effectively lying to kids ("this is an ordinary box, this is an ordinary hat, your card was chosen completely at random, I don't have a set of lock keys up my keyster."), Sheldon was afraid letting kids believe in magic would lead them to believe in astrology, homeopathy, and that Ryan Reynolds was a better choice to play Green Lantern than Nathan Fillion. Howard thinks Sheldon is being cranky

because he had a quarter in his ear. In fact, Sheldon had a peso stuck up his nose, and it was still there. Finally, he takes off.

HOWARD: Look at that, I made Sheldon disappear. Ta-da!

LEONARD: Next time, you should lead with that.

For Pasadena's new power couple, Shamy, it's date night at The Cheesecake Factory. The relationship agreement stipulated the second Thursday in a month (third if the month has five Thursdays) is date night. (Clearly the producers thought this would air next week.) Amy told Sheldon she got a paper published in Neuron Magazine, but Sheldon pretty much blew it off in favor of announcing he reached his 100th Twitter follower. Amy wanted more of a reaction from Sheldon, but he was more excited about his 101st follower. She goes to the washroom, and Penny tells Sheldon he has to learn to be more excited at Amy's big accomplishment. He wasn't, since it was about biology and all those "yucky, squishy things." Penny told him he had to at least pretend to be excited since he was her boyfriend. Penny recommended he think about koalas, since those make him happy, but Sheldon thinks Amy would see right through his koala face. (yes, he demonstrates it and, yes, it's hysterical)

At Howard's, he shows Bernadette his huge supply of magic tricks. It was something he tried to do as a kid to impress girls, but sadly, the only wand that got any action was the one that made the bunny appear. He shows her the sequined vests they would wear to his cousin's birthday,

which his mother made by cutting up one bathing suit. (and made 12 napkins with what was left) Bernadette wasn't sure she wanted to be Howard's assistant because she wasn't comfortable around kids. He thought she just needed some practice, since she would be a mom herself one day. And now Bernadette was really uncomfortable. At the birthday party, the kids aren't too impressed with The Great Howdini and demand cake. Bernadette tells the kids in no uncertain terms they weren't getting cake until they were amazed by the Great Howdini. And when one of the kids Googled a magic trick and heckled Howard about it, Bernadette went off on him.

Sheldon decided to go for a walk after having a fight with Amy, although he thought she was fighting and he was being reasonable. (Oh, and the walk was a walk through Red Dead Redemption on X-Box.) Leonard tells him that Sheldon has to listen to what's upsetting Amy and show you can grow and change. Sheldon resoundly rejects that notion, so Leonard tried for Option B: skip the emotional entanglements and buy Amy something pretty. It was a more Sheldon-like solution, so he decided to go that route.

On the drive home, Howard tried to convince Bernadette she would be good with her own child. But Bernadette had to help raise her brothers and sisters since her mother worked full-time and she got an earful from all of them. Those kids sounded strangely like Sheldon in the jewelry store as he tried to shop with Penny for a gift for Amy. He thinks they should go back at get her the humidifier they saw at Sears.

PENNY: Oh, my God. Now I know what I sound like to you when I say stupid stuff.

The salesman shows them a lovely diamond bracelet, but of course, Sheldon compares it to the bags of charcoal briquettes people buy in the grocery store all the time, only the carbon atoms of the diamonds are much more neatly stacked. But it was a reasonable price, so Sheldon figured a pocket watch for him wasn't too far out of his range.

Howard laments with the guys over Bernadette not wanting kids (and I TOTALLY want that Donkey Kong version of Jenga they're playing!), and he worries that might be a deal breaker for getting married.

LEONARD: You know, there's no guarantee that even if you have kids you're going to like them.

RAJ: Wow, that's rough. Where did you get that?

LEONARD: Off the dust jacket of my mom's new book.

HOWARD: Maybe me and Bernadette aren't right for each other.

LEONARD: Look, Howard, I'd say there's plenty of fish in the sea, but I've watched you dangle your hook in the water for years. Do NOT throw her back.

Amy comes over to Penny's, thinking they would hang out together. However, Sheldon was there to apologize. Amy was mad at Penny, although she admitted it wouldn't last. Sheldon told Amy he was proud of her paper and smiled. The koala smile, and she saw right through it. Penny hands her the bag from the jewelry store.

AMY: Jewelry? Seriously? Sheldon, you are the most shallow, self-centered person I have ever met. Do you really think another transparently manip...OH, IT'S A TIARA!! IT'S A TIARA!

Amy basically goes crazy, much like Sheldon did when he got the Leonard Nimoy napkin. Penny couldn't put it on her fast enough and Amy kissed Sheldon!

SHELDON: (to Penny) You were right. The tiara was a bit too much.

Bernadette visited Howard with a possible solution: she work and he stay at home with the kids. ("You'll watch Barney and pull Cheerios out of their noses and go on playdates, and I'll work and have conversations with people my own age and I'll enjoy my life!") Howard agrees. Sort of. Not a lot of fish, after all.

The Recombination Hypothesis

Season 5
Episode Number: 100
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 19, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Jim Turner (I) (Reverend White)
Production Code: 3X6863
Summary: Leonard and Penny contemplate reviving their romantic relationship. Sheldon's attempt to order Star Trek memorabilia doesn't go as planned.



Leonard and Sheldon have different ideas regarding shaking things up. For Leonard, it means trying Tex-Mex for dinner; for Sheldon, it's contemplating what would have happened if humans evolved from lizards instead of apes. So Leonard tries for another dinner idea. Seeing Penny in her apartment and a pleasant exchange of smiles gives him the impetus to ask her out for dinner. She thinks it's with everybody but Leonard meant just her. Which elicited a WOOOO! from Amy, Bernadette, and the live studio audience. She says yes, which elicited an even bigger WOOOO! from Amy, Bernadette, and

the live studio audience. Sheldon was equally excited, although his was about his cardboard cutout of Mr. Spock. Only, as it turns out, two people played Mr. Spock.

SHELDON: Live long and suck it, Zachary Quinto!

Bernadette was excited about Leonard and Penny possibly getting together because they could double-date, even though they could have done that with Amy and Sheldon...and Bernadette wishes she hadn't said anything. Penny asks Amy and Bernadette for advice on her attire for the date. A revealing green dress gets approval from Amy but a thumbs-down from Bernadette. Penny rejects it, leaving Amy to declare Bernadette can't handle Penny's raw sexuality. A loose-fitting outfit gets a pass from Bernadette and an "Oh, come on!" from Amy. Penny has no plans to sleep with Leonard, but Amy wonders if she would if he was dying. If he was "she could throw him in bed and ride him until he flatlines." Penny finally decides to wear what she wants and not worry about anything; it's just dinner. Amy isn't worried; if things don't work out, Bernadette can always double-date with her. (**BERNADETTE:** Change your clothes; we've got a lot riding on this.)

At the guys' apartment, Sheldon wants to build a road for their board game and asks Howard and Raj if they have wood. (cue Beavis and Butt-Head) Sheldon can't understand why they were laughing; he needed wood to build his bridge and he only had sheep. "Do either of you have wood for my sheep?" (Seriously, did Mike Judge stop by the set that week?) Leonard comes in all dressed up for the date and Howard is quick to ask him why he was doing it. Raj reminded

Leonard it took "two years and defiling my sister" for Leonard to get over Penny. Sheldon thinks Penny is the complete opposite to Leonard's first attraction: to his mother. (Says so in her book *Needy Baby, Greedy Baby*.) He leaves, and Sheldon keeps pestering the guys for more wood. (SHELDON: I just want wood! Why are you making it so hard?)

On the date, Leonard wonders if there was something they call going on a date with someone you used to have a relationship with. 'Awkward' is Penny's guess. Leonard suggests they pretend they're on a blind date, which Penny likes. She tells him she was from Nebraska and moved to L.A. to become an actress. After four years, she had done a hemorrhoid commercial and a production of *Anne Frank* above a bowling alley, "so dreams do come true!" Leonard says he's an experimental physicist who works with high-powered lasers and just got a government grant to see if they can be used to knock out ballistic missiles...which they can't. ("But I use the equipment to make my own Bat-signal.")

PENNY: (laughing) You are so funny.

LEONARD: Good, remember that when I take my shirt off.

Penny is liking the concept of the blind date...until Leonard turns it into something more serious by asking if they were going to get back together. And the date left some skidmarks in the pavement. Penny said she would always have feelings for him, and Leonard says that what people always say when they don't want a relationship with someone.

LEONARD: This isn't working out, but I'll always have feelings for you. I'm sorry I slept with your best friend, but I'll always have feelings for you. Here's the thing, Lisa: I'm into dudes now, but I'll always have feelings for you.

Penny tells him he's always overthinking it and Leonard says Penny makes it worse by saying 'always' about things. But this is when everything goes wrong: when they talk.

LEONARD: I don't know how you have a relationship without talking.

PENNY: I went out with this one guy, T.J., for eight months, we never talked. To this day, I don't even know what T.J. stands for.

LEONARD: Wait, if you guys didn't talk, then...never mind, stupid question.

Back home, Sheldon found his wood and began the erection of his settlement. (RAJ: He's got to be doing this on purpose.) Leonard comes home none-too-thrilled, even giving a stinging repost to Howard's mild barb. ("You're 30-years-old and still live with your mother.") But later that night, Leonard gets a text from Penny to go over. "Do not overthink this," she tells him as she lays the mother of all kisses on him and takes him to her bedroom. He tries to say something but gets cut off.

PENNY: Not a word.

LEONARD: But sometimes I have questions...

It works very, very well, but it had to end sometime, and Leonard had the questions at the ready, specifically how a bad date ends up with sex. Penny thinks it's complicated, and at the dinner it felt a bit too real when he asked to get back together.

PENNY: What if I do something stupid and dump you again?

LEONARD: What if I dump you?

PENNY: (gives him a look) Come on, be serious.

Leonard suggests they look at it like an upgraded version of their software. 'Penny and Leonard 2.0', as it were. Test it internally, shake out the bugs, and not let the public know until they're certain they're ready. They agree, and Penny even give him one of his old inhalers that she couldn't throw away.

LEONARD: (takes some) In 25 to 30 minutes, I'm going to show you how much this means to me.

Leonard tries to sneak back into the apartment, but Sheldon catches him. Sheldon grills him about it, and Leonard tries to cover by saying he went to the bathroom...but used another one when Sheldon was in theirs. ("The gas station...across the street.") Without shoes? On a cold night? But he did bring his inhaler, so Sheldon thinks it's plausible. But then, Sheldon found out Leonard didn't make the customary purchase at a gas station for using their bathroom...so he gives Leonard \$2 and tells him to go buy some beef jerky. Leonard doesn't want to.

SHELDON: It's not about you! It's about a poor immigrant from Pakistan trying to make his way in America by working the graveyard shift at the Colorado Boulevard Chevron!

Howard, Bernadette, Amy, and Sheldon, and Raj meet at the Cheesecake Factory and wait for Leonard, agreeing to not flaunt their happy relationships (according to Amy) in front of him. Of

course, Howard doesn't exactly let it go when Penny comes to wait on their table. BUt Leonard admits even though it didn't work out, they'll always have feelings for each other. Penny takes offense to that and walks away from the group. And texts Leonard again later that night. She reams him out for acting like a total jerk and not telling everybody they're just friends. He thinks he doesn't have to take that and storms into her bedroom.

LEONARD: Isn't having sex after fighting kind of what we do now?

PENNY: Yeah, kind of, yeah.

Leonard tries to figure out why every scenario with Penny ends badly. It's because he over-thinks things...like EVERYTHING THAT JUST HAPPENED. The episode from the time they got up the stairs was all in his mind. And Sheldon still needs to know why he'd feel safer with Zachary Quinto at the foot of his bed. (LEONARD: He was pretty bad-ass in Heroes.) Sheldon concedes the point, and Leonard goes to ask Penny out on a date.

PENNY: Have you thought this through?

LEONARD: Yes, and I think we should still go anyway.

It turns out, Penny can overthink things as well. And ends up at the altar about ten months pregnant. So a stop at the drugstore sounded like a good idea.

The Beta Test Initiation

Season 5
Episode Number: 101
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday January 26, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Bill Prady, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke)
Guest Stars: Becky O'Donohue (Becky)
Production Code: 3X6864
Summary: Leonard and Penny develop a system to insure their dates go smoothly. Raj finally finds a woman he can talk to — the virtual assistant on his mobile phone.



It's time for Sheldon Cooper Presents Fun With Flags! It's his idea for a new video podcast where Amy and he talk about vexillology, which is the study of flags. (AMY: Cool! I think I just learned something!) And if this sounds like every public-access show on local cable you've ever seen, you're giving it far too much credit. That's why Amy is already waving the white flag. ("I'm surrendering...to fun!") But Leonard interrupts the shot on his way out the door for his date with Penny, so they have to start again. Only this time, Amy painted a face on her white flag.

AMY: It's Ferdinand T. Flag. I thought it might bring in some younger viewers.

SHELDON: Confoundit! That's brilliant, let's take it from the top.

Penny and Leonard return from their date, and Penny thought it went very well. Leonard certainly missed her, although she thinks he missed having sex with her more.

LEONARD: Well, sex with you is pretty great. Have you tried it?

PENNY: I have...and you are not wrong.

Penny likes the idea of taking things slowly, although faster than Leonard went with his high school girlfriend, who didn't even know she was dating him. Leonard comes up the idea of doing an Alpha Test, like they do in software programs where they try it out and report any bugs. Which Penny thought was a beta test, and Leonard started explaining the differences instead of giving her credit for being almost right and...there's the first bug! They agree, and she kisses him goodnight...on the cheek. (LEONARD: Attaboy, Hofstadter. Nothing gets the ladies hotter than software development analogies.) And he interrupts take 47 of Fun With Flags.

Howard enters Sheldon's and Raj's office...where Sheldon has apparently made his peace with Raj's huge desk...and Raj invites him to peel the plastic off of his new iPhone. (Cue the nerdgasm!) Howard wants to try out the voice-recognition assistant, Siri. But Raj tries first. He asks Siri if she's married, which she isn't. Chiding himself for asking the poor virtual assistant

such a personal question, he asks Siri if she wants to get a cup of coffee. There are six coffee shops she found, three of which were close by. And Raj is off on a date.

HOWARD: That woman is going to break his heart.

Penny and Leonard's second date was much quieter, certainly on Penny's end. Hanging out with Amy and Sheldon to watch Dr. Who wasn't exactly what she'd call thrilling. Leonard so noted this in his bug report and handed her one. A rather extensive one. And color-coded, too. Red are fix right away, yellow are when she gets a chance, green are ones he can live with. Handing her the list would definitely be a bug. Although Amy is wondering what Leonard could have put on his list. Hair too golden? Laugh too melodic? The world not enough of a better place because of her presence? (Yeah, I see that slight obsession Amy has on Penny that some people complain about, can't deny it.)

Raj and Siri are getting Sirious. (Lame, I know, but it's late and I have a headache. Deal with it.) Raj tells her she has a nice voice, and she thanks him. Then...

RAJ: Why don't women like me?

SIRI: Let me check on that. How about a Web search for "Why don't women like me"?

RAJ: Nah, I've already done that.

Raj asks Siri to call him Raj, and she agrees. Raj wishes Siri would call him sexy, and she agrees to call him sexy.

SHELDON: Well done, Dr. Koothrappali! You've taken a great evolutionary leap by abandoning human interaction and allowing yourself to romantically bond with a soulless machine. Kudos.

Kripke stops by to let the guys know about a retirement party for someone, which got moved up because they urinated in the Particle Physics lab. He thinks Siri is crap. He asked Siri to recommend a westawant, but Siri didn't understand him. (KRIPKE: See? Total cwap! You suck, Siwi!)

Sure enough, Leonard's bug list to Penny came back to bite him in the ass. She didn't want to go on their next date because she was reading and thus fix that item on the list. Leonard reminded her they agreed to do this so they wouldn't get mad at each other, and he had a full and fun date planned for her just like she requested. She agreed to go just as soon as she found shoes that didn't make Leonard feel he was on a date with his mommy. In the meantime, he could study her new list for him.

Raj invited Howard and Bernadette over for dinner, courtesy of Siri's recommendations. He had to take a guess on the wine, as he didn't want to get into an argument with Siri in the middle of Trader Joe's. (BERNADETTE: Is this cute or creepy?) Well, when Raj had a quick debate over what face cover to put on the phone and gushed when Siri started playing Kenny G, cute pretty much left the building. (RAJ: This woman can read me like a book! I can't believe I bought my soulmate at Glendale Galleria.)

Leonard definitely made up for earlier with the date they were on. Consulting Penny's father, and since he couldn't get a cow out there so she could tip it, the shooting range it was. Penny loves it and asks him if he needs a few lessons. But enough Grand Theft Auto, and Leonard knew how to handle a gat. She loves him getting all gangsta and kisses him hard. And he shoots himself in the foot.

They make it home, and Leonard thinks he's more bad-ass now that he has been shot. Actually, his Reeboks were shot; he had a band-aid on his pinky toe. But despite all of that, Penny thanked him for the date and thinks things are looking pretty good with their beta test. She gives him a longer kiss goodnight this time, and Leonard interrupts the Bavarian version of Fun With Flags. (complete with pretzel costume and lederhosen)

As for Raj, he decided to go to Siri's office. He met the sexy redhead, who wanted him to make love to her. He just had to say so. Um...yes, Raj was having a nightmare.

The Friendship Contraction

Season 5
Episode Number: 102
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Thursday February 2, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Bill Prady, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz (voice)), Kevin Sussman (Stuart)
Production Code: 3X6865
Summary: Leonard can't take Sheldon's continued selfishness. Howard wants to have a cool nickname for when he's an astronaut.



"Rise and shine, sleepyhead! Half the town is probably dead!"

Yup, it's time for Sheldon's quarterly Emergency Preparedness Test, complete with orange construction helmets and an alarm on his mobile phone. But Sheldon's making this one fun: Leonard can pick any random disaster card from wildfires to a surprise invasion from Candada.

LEONARD: Sheldon, Canada is not going to invade California.

SHELDON: Really? You think those hippies in Washington and Oregon can stop them?

Leonard gives up and picks a card.

Oooh, an 8.2 earthquake, which gives Leonard a chance to stand in front of his building like one of the Village People. (a joke Sheldon doesn't get to this day) Leonard drags himself out until he gets knocked down by a theoretical aftershock. (three guesses as to how he ended up on the ground)

Howard is stoked because NASA issued the press release of his mission. The astronauts going with him have nicknames, which Raj says he needs. Despite Howard insisting the other astronauts have to choose it for him, Raj thinks "Brown Dynamite" works for him. Leonard is barely there, and the guys correctly guessed it was Emergency Preparedness Test time. How did he do?

SHELDON: Not only would he die in a fiery inferno, his incessant whining would most certainly spoil everyone else's day.

Leonard is too tired to even work, so he tells Sheldon to take the bus to the dentist. But Sheldon can't get home on the bus due to the effects of the anesthesia. (He's a biter.) But Sheldon invokes the Roommate Agreement, section 37. (Just under providing a confirmatory sniff on questionable dairy products.) Leonard doesn't care and wants the agreement thrown out. Which is invoking Clause 209. If it means getting sleep, Leonard was on-board. It would revoke their friendship and they'd be only liable for rent, utilities and a perfunctory 'sup in the hallway. Leonard can't sign fast enough.

Howard tells the gang he's heading to NASA in Houston next week to work on zero-G elimination drills...or how to poop in space. (RAJ: Maybe your nickname should be Brown Dynamite.)

So far, the altered Roommate Agreement is working well for Leonard. Amy? (Mayim Bialik) Not so much. Now she has to take Sheldon to the dentist. But she's in the middle of an addiction study with monkeys and they're switching to O'Doul's.

PENNY: Sheldon, that's not what girlfriends are for. Although, you don't use them for what they're for, so what do I know.

So Sheldon opens it up to everyone, with a note in his memoirs, You're Welcome, Mankind as the reward. No takers, nor for helping him with his dress shoes, dermatologist, allergist, podiatrist, not even Supercuts. Hang on, Swedish meatballs at Ikea? Nope. OK, now it was time to butter up Stuart at the comic book store. He's moved all the way up to ninth on Sheldon's favorites list. (Pen pal in Somalia was kidnapped by pirates.) And if Stuart takes him to the dentist, he would definitely be on the short list to move up to the eighth spot. But he has to work. (STUART: And, I can't stress this enough, I don't want to take you to the dentist.)

Raj was insisting on helping Howard with his nickname. Howard couldn't use "Buzz," because of Buzz Lightyear, of course. (That was Raj, not me.) Crash didn't sound particularly good for the nickname of an astronaut, but then 'Rocket Man' had potential. Raj told Howard to get that song as his ringtone and he would call him in front of the other astronauts. Sheldon returns home, exchanges 'sup's with Leonard, and told everybody he found a dentist with a van, provided also cleaning the teeth of dogs didn't bother him much. Leonard felt guilty and offered to take him. Sheldon asks if he's ready to reinstate the friendship aspects of the Roommate Agreement, but Leonard wants him to admit he's a 30-year-old man who can't function on his own. Sheldon refuses and makes an appointment to get his nails clipped and his hair shampooed.

The power goes out in the apartment, although Penny is relieved, since she was afraid a Starbucks gift card and some pics of herself in just a bra weren't enough for ConEd. Sheldon breaks out his emergency kit, including glow sticks. But Leonard has his own glow stick, courtesy of Luke Skywalker. Penny offers to take Leonard over to her place for wine and bubble wrap, which trumps Sheldon's offer of a marine-level backup generator and all 61 episodes of Red Dwarf. And Fiddle-Faddle. I'd be tempted to go with Sheldon on this, but I'm assuming bubble wrap wouldn't be the only thing Leonard gets to pop in Penny's apartment.)

SHELDON: Wine and a girl in the dark? He'll be bored out of his mind.

Leonard is sad to miss Sheldon's reverse osmosis machine that converts urine into drinking water. Penny wants to make out, only they get interrupted by Sheldon...WHO DIDN'T EVEN KNOCK! (It's a state of emergency; social niceties are out the window.) Sheldon tries to tempt them over with s'mores in exchange of reinstating the Roommate Agreement. Penny's sympathetic to Sheldon, and Leonard caves...provided the bogus teenage makeout session is not over. Leonard goes over there and tells Sheldon he wants to be friends and has no problem driving him places, but he doesn't want to do it because of some agreement they made. Leonard just wants Sheldon to show some appreciation, like saying 'thank you'. Sheldon proposes reinstating the agreement but adding one day a year to celebrate all of Leonard's efforts in Sheldon's life. Like Mother's Day...only no breakfast in bed, he can't sit in Sheldon's spot, and no touching the thermostat. Leonard is ready to agree...until Penny tells them the super found the building's breaker switch turned off.

Oh, as for Howard's nickname. The plan is set. Dr. Mike "Mass" Massimino calls Howard over Skype, and Raj accidentally plays Elton John's Rocket Man. (RAJ: They don't make you a knight for writing "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go.") And Howard's mother interrupts them by saying Howard's Fruit Loops were getting soggy. And guess what Howard's astronaut nickname is?

The Vacation Solution

Season 5
Episode Number: 103
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 9, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Anthony Del Broccolo, Tara Hernandez, Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Joshua Malina (President Seibert)
Guest Stars: Nick Clifford (Phil), Nick Clifford (Phil)
Production Code: 3X6866
Summary: When the university forces Sheldon to use vacation days, he decides to hang out in Amy's lab. Bernadette wants Howard to sign a prenuptial agreement.



Sheldon has a new idea for getting kids excited about science: Physics Mad-Libs. I'm going to skip them playing, it'd take too long. Besides, Sheldon laughs so much, we don't get to hear it anyway. President Siebert comes by in a bad mood, so he must be looking for Sheldon. Sure enough, he's there to tell Sheldon he has to take his required vacation days, which coincidentally, is the most popular suggestion in the suggestion boxes...that Sheldon put up. Siebert suggests Afghanistan, since it's so nice

there this time of year.

SHELDON: Sarcasm?

HOWARD: (thinks about it) No, you should go.

Leonard enjoys the Sheldon-free ride to work (although he'll never become a member of the Black-Eyed Peas). But Sheldon was hiding in his car and insisted Leonard sneak him into work. He even had a wig and hat to fool the guard. (If the guard was Stevie Wonder, he had a 50/50 shot.) But Leonard drives him right back home.

Penny and Amy gave Bernadette a hand with her wedding invitations. Penny was grateful they weren't written in Klingon, although a little note on the back was written that way. Bernadette hopes her relatives think it's Hebrew. But she has a bigger problem: her father is pressuring her to have Howard sign a prenuptial agreement since she makes so much more money than him. Both Penny and Amy can sympathize with her plight.

AMY: Parental pressure can be daunting. I remember the battle with my mother about shaving my legs. Last year, I finally gave in and just let her do it.

Penny suggests breaking it to Howard in bed, as that's how she broke it to one guy she was sleeping with his brother. (and broke it to his brother the same way)

BERNADETTE: I don't want to manipulate him with sex.

PENNY: Oh sweetie, that's what sex is for.

Amy comforts her by saying the term wedding can be traced back to the dowry the husband used to pay the bride's father, and Bernadette would easily go for two oxen and a goose. (to Penny) "You'd fetch a unicorn."

The guys huddle to come up with ideas for Sheldon to take a vacation. Hawaii? A former leper colony built on a volcano where the disappointing ending to *Lost* was filmed. "Mahalo for nothing, Hawaii." Florida? Sheldon one went there and got his hot dog taken by a seagull. He took the hint. Finally, he figured he'll do what Richard Feynman did on vacation: work in his friend's lab. He explains to Howard that Feynman was a brilliant physicist who worked on the Manhattan Project.

HOWARD: Every person in the world of science knows who Richard Feynman is.

SHELDON: And now you do, too.

In the hallway, Penny tells Leonard about Bernadette wanting a pre-nup. He wasn't happy Penny told her that secret, but she admits she thinks about marriage sometimes and wonders if he would want a pre-nup if she became a famous actress.

LEONARD: Absolutely not. I'm going to be stuck at home with the kids while you're on location cheating on me with Ryan Gosling? The Leonard's got to get paid!

Sheldon is excited to be working in Amy's lab, and Amy's glad to have her boyfriend with her. She thinks it's romantic. (SHELDON: Way to kill the mood.) But Amy thinks of it like Marie Curie and her husband working together under the glow of the radium that eventually killed her. (AMY: Screw Beauty and the Beast! THAT'S the story Disney should tell!) Sheldon's first assignment is to clean some beakers for her. Sheldon, you might suspect, thinks it is beneath him. But Amy says he has no experience in the field of biology. But he bought a Tomagotchi in 1998 and it's still alive. (virtual pet)

Leonard talks to Raj about breaking the news about the pre-nup to Howard. Despite Raj's *The Bachelor*-inspired advice of "follow your heart," he tells Howard. Howard is sort of cool with it. Certainly he understands Bernadette's motivation for doing it, and he has some assets to protect, such as his Vespa, some vintage comics, and the double-plot at Mt. Sinai he and his mom have right next to the guy who played Mr. Roper on *Three's Company*. (RAJ: Mr. Roper's dead?!?!? You can't just spring that on a guy!)

Sheldon cleans the beakers, only they have soap spots. He does them over again, which was his alternative to testing one that once contained the spinal fluid of an elephant that died of syphilis. His next task of counting spores seemed much more up his alley, until Amy asked him how he was doing and lost track. Finally he's had enough and challenges her. She accepts the challenge and tells him to cut the hair-thin locus coeruleus from a brain sample. He cuts, and is surprised there's blood. The blood was coming from his finger. Yes, he faints.

Howard and Sheldon go to drown their sorrows at the Cheesecake Factory, but Penny decides to set both of them straight.

PENNY: All right, Howard wolowitz. Listen up. You will sign anything she puts in front of you because you are the luckiest man alive. If you let her go, there is no way you'll find anyone else. Speaking on behalf of all women, it's not going to happen. We had a meeting. And you (Sheldon), fainting at the sight of a little blood?

SHELDON: (takes off his bandage) This is a fairly substantial wound. I...(faints)

They got straightened out. Sheldon apologized to Amy...after several rather arrogant tries at it. And Howard decided he would talk to Bernadette's dad. Although she did warn him he was a retired cop who still wore a gun. (just as a fashion statement) And avoid topics like Jimmy Carter, gardeners, homosexuals, foreigners, Sean Penn, Vatican II, the designated hitter rule, organic food, or that he's Jewish.

HOWARD: Why don't I talk to him about it in May?

BERNADETTE: In May, you're going to be on the International Space Station.

HOWARD: They've got a phone.

The Rothman Disintegration

Season 5
Episode Number: 104
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday February 16, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Joshua Malina (President Seibert)
Guest Stars: Lynn Phillip Seibel (Professor Rothman)
Production Code: 3X6867
Summary: When a new office space is made available, Sheldon goes head to head with his nemesis, Kripke. Also, Penny is unsettled by a gift from Amy.



The guys conclude their evening at a retirement party for Professor Rothman, who was forced to retire because he snapped. It happens to theoretical physicists all the time. And they wonder how long it'll take for Sheldon to snap. Judging by the way he threw out his shrimp because they were all the same size and therefore he didn't know in what order to eat them, not very long. They pass by Dr. Rothman's office, and Sheldon calls dibs on it. Although they go inside to find Barry Kripke already measuring for curtains. He called dibs on it last Christmas thinking Rothman's days were lim-

ited when he tried to have intercourse with the Toys for Tots collection box. Rothman walking into his old office naked would seem to indicate that story wasn't a complete exaggeration. Sheldon claimed seniority over Kripke and both went to President Siebert to settle it...while he was trying to go to the bathroom. He tells them to decide it for themselves, mainly because he "couldn't give the furry crack of a rat's behind." Sheldon suggests to be diplomatic, although he did lace Kripke's tea just to be on the safe side. Raj suggests Rock-Paper-Scissors-Lizard-Spock, the Internet meme invented Sam Kass (all hail Sam Kass! HAIL!) Sheldon explains the moves to Kripke (look it up, I'm not writing all of it), then Kripke asks him to explain it again, which Sheldon does. Then Kripke asks him to explain a third time, but thankfully Howard stops him because Kripke is messing with him. Sheldon then suggests trivia: anything in the Star Trek universe will do, but Kripke declines it. Since there's so many things both of them are good at, Raj asks them what is one thing both of them are bad at? Sports.

Amy brings a present over to Penny as a thank you for elevating her social status.

AMY: Before I met you, I was a mousy wallflower. But look at me now! I'm like some kind of downtown hipster party girl! With a posse, a boyfriend, and a new lace bra that hooks in the front of all things!

Penny opens her present and REALLY wishes she hadn't. It was a painting of Amy and Penny that wouldn't sell for \$19 at a starving artists' sale. In fact, Penny may want to make sure Amy

isn't wearing stilettos any time she's around Leonard. Penny really can't bring herself to tell the truth and hopes to hang it up later, except Amy thought of that and brought a hammer and a couple of hooks. Later, Penny looks at the painting with Bernadette, who agrees it is big...and ugly...and Penny looks a bit like a man in it. (To say nothing of her scared expression in the painting.) Penny thinks she can take it down and tell Amy that it made Bernadette jealous.

BERNADETTE: Nuh-uh. What if she gets me one? I already have a picture of me and Howard's mother getting cornrows in Venice Beach. I've suffered enough.

Penny wants to take it down and put it up when Amy was by, but she thinks it was too heavy. (BERNADETTE: Maybe if you were as strong as the man in the picture...)

(As an aside, the person doing the closed-captioning has NO sense of humor. They don't type out Barry's lisped words in the subtitles. Man, live a little, willya?)

Sheldon and Kripke try basketball. You know those little third-graders who play just for fun and everybody gets a participation trophy? Those kids would wipe the floor Sheldon and Kripke. They are just awful.

LEONARD: (watching the disaster) You know all those terrible things bullies used to do to us? I get it.

Leonard finally stops the disaster and decides the first one to hit a free throw wins. (SHELDON: Use the Force, Sheldon. Use the Force. I gotta use more force.) 45 painful minutes later, they decide whoever bounces the ball highest gets the office. Sheldon is successful and gets the office. (SHELDON: Who's unsatisfactory in P.E. now!)

Penny, Amy, and Bernadette sit at the apartment and enjoy Grease, which Amy never saw because her mother thought it would encourage her to join a gang. Bernadette has to leave because her department is testing a new steroid in the morning that doesn't shrink testicles and the last one there has to measure. Amy has to go, too.

AMY: Good night, painting Penny. Good night, real Penny.

PENNY: Good night, real Amy.

AMY: You never have to say goodnight to painting Amy because she's never leaving.

BERNADETTE: (after Amy leaves) Good night, real Penny. Good night, transvestite Penny.

Naturally, Penny tries to take down the painting, and Amy comes back and catches her. Penny tries to play it off, but Amy is heartbroken and takes it with her. ("I'm just glad I didn't go for the sculpture!") Penny goes to Amy's to apologize, but Amy is upset their friendship is clearly symmetrical...not to mention the painting cost her \$3,000. To salvage things, Penny tells her the painting made Bernadette very jealous.

AMY: (dismayed) Oh, my God. Why didn't I see this? The painting is a constant reminder that of the three of us, she is the least cool!

That's good enough for Penny, and Amy goes to put the painting back in her apartment. ("Screw it, she's lucky we let her hang out with us!") She puts it up on the wall behind the TV (so the audience will have a tough time seeing the show). Originally, they were nude in the painting, but Amy thought clothes would be better to not challenge their heterosexuality. ("But if you change your mind, all we need is some warm soapy water and some sponges.")

Sheldon goes to enjoy the new trappings of his office, which includes Professor Rothman. Yes, he's still naked and doesn't care. Also, the air conditioning is cranked up to max due to Professor Davenport's hot flashes. And the hole in the wall, and the windchimes, and the mockingbird who is out of tune with the windchimes. And the vibrations from the geology lab sieve shaking machines. And Sheldon gets his head stuck in the hole trying to figure out what creature was in there. He asks Leonard to get some help. And Leonard will, after he takes a picture of Sheldon and posts it to Facebook.

The Werewolf Transformation

Season 5

Episode Number: 105

Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday February 23, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Vernee Watson-Johnson (Althea), Peter Onorati (Angelo)
Production Code: 3X6867
Summary: Sheldon is forced into altering his precious schedule after his barber falls ill. Meanwhile, the training required to be an astronaut has Wolowitz wondering if he has the right stuff.



It's time for Sheldon's haircut, so it's off to see Mr. D'Onofrio at the barber shop. Only Mr. D'Onofrio is very sick and is unable to cut his hair. However, his nephew will be more than happy to do it. And as we all know that's not good enough for Sheldon, as his mother sent Mr. D'Onofrio all of his haircut records from his barber in Texas. That's what his mother promised, but obviously we know better. Leonard finally talks him into it, given Sheldon's hairstyle is the same as #3 on the wall poster...from 1946. Sheldon gives it a try, Mr. D'Onofrio's nephew starts telling a story, and Sheldon bolts.

LEONARD: When you tell this story later, the word we usually use is quirky.

Sheldon is driving everybody nuts trying to keep his hair out of his eyes (if it actually was) and he's lamenting he feels like a teen heartthrob. On the good side, Howard got his orders to report to NASA for astronaut training. And back to 'Sheldon's hair. Penny offers to cut it, but while Sheldon appreciates Penny's offer of the "skills of the hill folk," in town, they don't churn their own butter or make dresses out of gunny sacks. ("Sorry, it's the bad-boy attitude that comes with this hair.") Raj offers his barber in Beverly Hills, which costs \$200, but you might be sitting next to Tony Danza!

Speaking of bad to the bone, Amy is rockin' Bon Jovi on her harp, but Sheldon isn't up for boyfriend/girlfriend sing-a-long night because he needs to find a barber fast. Supercuts is out, as it's "Sodom and Gomorrah with mousse." Amy thinks it might be nice if Sheldon grew his hair long.

AMY: I think you might look sexy with long hair. The kind that (getting worked up) flows down to your shoulders and blows back while riding on a horse. Barebacked and bare-chested. (long pause) Um, I'm going to go brush my teeth. It might take a while.

(N.B. If you remember The Toast Derivation and "Gerald" last year, you're probably laughing your @\$\$ off at that.)

Howard talks to Bernadette over videochat about his first day of astronaut training. He got to experience zero gravity. They take you up in a plane really fast then dive as if you're going to crash and do this over and over again. And when you throw up, the throw up just sits out there in a little ball, unless it lands back in your mouth because you're screaming. Bernadette doesn't exactly consider this pillow talk, but Howard asks her to overnight some underwear to him, as tomorrow was the centrifuge and he was afraid he packed a little light.

How far would Sheldon go to get Mr. D'Onofrio back? Yup, went to his hospital room. (He did buy him a bear, though.) Even though Mr. D'Onofrio was in a coma, Sheldon figured he could hear him, so he told Mr. D'Onofrio to move away from the light and towards the sound of the scissors Sheldon was snapping.

Penny and Leonard enjoy a game of chess. Penny is a rank amateur, so naturally she won. Penny apologizes for being in Sheldon's spot, but he doesn't care. WHAT?!? ("Between you playing chess better than Bobby Fischer and Sheldon not caring if you're in his spot, I'd say someone went back in time, stepped on a bug, and changed the course of human events.") Actually, it's far worse than that. Sheldon has so carefully planned his life (even has a bowel movement spreadsheet), but nothing horrible has happened since missing his hair appointment, so he feels he has been wasting his time. But Penny tells him the unknown might be more fun and Sheldon should embrace the chaos. He agrees...and sets forth to wear his Tuesday pajamas that night.

Howard is looking like he forgot to put on his underwear before stepping into that centrifuge (and had some of his mother's brisket beforehand, too). On the good side, he passed overnight survival training. It's like camping...only with no food, water, a hole he dug for shelter, and an armadillo that spooned him the whole night.

BERNADETTE: I'm so proud of you.

HOWARD: (not completely there) I ate a butterfly? It was so small...and beautiful. I was so hungry.

Bernadette wants him to come home, but Howard couldn't give up trying to be an astronaut. Although it would be very sweet of her to send him more underwear. She decides to do one better and goes down to Houston to help Howard get through his training. Only...guess who beat her to it?

HOOOOWWWAAAAHHHHHHDDDD, YOUR BATH IS GETTING COLD!!!!

(On the bright side, once Howard's mother falls asleep, he'll spoon Bernadette like an armadillo.

Leonard gets awakened in the middle of the night, and he prayed it wasn't Sheldon playing bongos. Of course it was. And Sheldon kept playing, even waking up Penny. Sheldon was playing the bongos because Richard Feynman played them.

LEONARD: (explaining) Richard Feynman was a famous physicist...

PENNY: Leonard, it's 3 o'clock in the morning. I don't care if Richard Feynman was a purple leprechaun who lived in my butt!!

SHELDON: (singing and playing) Penny meant if he WERE a purple leprechaun. Penny forgot to use the subjunctive...

Leonard tries to enforce the Roommate Agreement, but Sheldon thinks that's invalid now since we're living in a world of chaos. He gets up and leaves.

PENNY: Where are you going?

SHELDON: Wherever the music takes me, kitten.

The music takes him down the stairs...falling down, actually. And he ends up on Amy's couch. ("I foolishly thought it was some sort of musical booty call.") Leonard and Penny come over to bring him back, and Penny all but begs to cut his hair.

PENNY: You've known me for a long time now. I've taken you to Disneyland, kicked a bully in the nuts for you, sing you Soft Kitty when you're sick. You've even seen me naked once.

Sheldon asks Amy for her opinion, and Amy says there isn't a single hair on her body she wouldn't let Penny trim.

He agrees and thanks Amy for letting him sleep on her couch. (AMY: There's only so many times a woman can say "how about the bed?")

It turns out Penny does a decent job, and Sheldon thanks her. She has to use clippers to take care of his neck, and they can be a bit ticklish. Yup, he's sporting a reverse Mr. T look now. Well, just the back of the head.

The Weekend Vortex

Season 5
Episode Number: 106
Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday March 8, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: 3X6869
Summary: The guys decide to spend the weekend playing video games like they used to. The women in their life have other ideas however, especially Amy who is counting on Sheldon accompanying her to a family event.



Raj wants to have a weekend marathon playing the new Star Wars online game, but Leonard thinks he needs to unplug and get some exercise. Howard simply reminds him he just walked up three flights of stairs. And it's on like Alderaan! They tell Sheldon, who is beyond ecstatic. Amy, however, informed him he already agreed to attend her aunt's 93rd birthday party at her nursing home, even following the Relationship Agreement of 72 hours notice, checking the tire pressure on her car, and calling the CDC to see what kind of inoculations are required for Orange County. (there aren't any) Amy tells him

her aunt will be disappointed. (SHELDON: She's 93. She won't be disappointed for long.) Amy is upset, but Sheldon reminds her the Relationship Agreement was not designed so either of them got their way.

AMY: You use it to get your way.

SHELDON: I use it to get the right way. The fact that the right way is my way is just a happy coincidence.

Sheldon tries to find Amy's aunt a gift at the comic book store, but the Sword of Excalibur really doesn't work well as a cane, since Stuart won't put a tennis ball on the end of it for him. The guys think Sheldon should just ignore Amy and join them. He's a grown-up, he should be able to have a sleepover and play videogames all weekend.

SHELDON: I always thought I would be enslaved by some advanced species from another planet, not by some hotsy-totsy from Glendale.

BTW, nice 'whipped' app on Howard's phone. Speaking of whipped, Leonard was hoping for some angst from Penny when he told her about it, but she was fine with it. Which didn't make him fine. But it was a good chance for her to practice her acting, so she humored him. When Sheldon came by and asked her to manipulate Amy into understanding why he wasn't going to the birthday party, Penny wasn't having it. Even a bribe of gummi bears and "Cooper Coupons"

wouldn't work, like for a free grammar check on emails or letters, or a trip to the California Science Center where he'll point out all their mistakes. (LEONARD: Keep an eye on those expiration dates. I've been burned more than once.)

Sheldon makes it to the car...with his laptop, a wi-fi hotspot device and headphones. He can be at the party and not miss a moment of gaming. Amy, you might suspect, is mad as hell and tells him if he thinks some stupid gaming is more important than meeting her relatives who want to see him, he should just go. And that's where she went wrong, since he hops out of the car. And tells her to bring him back a piece of cake if "the old gal's candle blow is clean and dry."

The guys prepare. Raj has low-carb beer, hundred-calorie snacks, and an extra Y chromosome, apparently. He can lend it to Howard, who knuckled under and invited Bernadette to join them for the weekend. And Sheldon enjoys Howard's 'whipped' app even more than he did.

Amy goes to sulk to Penny, but since she knew Sheldon didn't cheat on her, she would need details. Amy was given crap about her lack of a boyfriend throughout the party. ("Is he real or did you make him up like Armen, the miniature horse breeder?") It was more than just having a boyfriend, it was being able to show off Sheldon.

AMY: Think about it, I'm dating Sheldon Cooper. He's handsome, he's lanky, he's brilliant, and his skin has that pale, waxy quality.

PENNY: Well, sickly is the new sexy.

Penny tells her the bad part about being in a relationship is that it leaves you open to getting hurt.

AMY: Do you ever worry about Leonard doing that to you?

PENNY: That's hilarious! No.

Penny suggests they play quarters, but then they have to stop before Penny dies of alcohol poisoning. (AMY: I used to throw a lot of coins into wishing wells hoping for friends. After a while, you start doing trick shots to keep things interesting.) Penny tries to school Amy with some Girlfriend 101 material. Withholding sex will only work with Sheldon once he hits puberty, and the "silent treatment" is a magical evening for Sheldon. So, it's right to Plan C: make a scene.

BTW, if you think Bernadette is overly-cute most of the time, when it comes to gaming, her cuteness is actually a bit annoying, particularly when she tries to kill the bad guys by pointing at the screen and going "pew! pew! pew!" Although shouting "wheel!" to make the land speeder go is kind of cute. (And yes, her laptop is pink.) BTW, in gaming, Bernadette likes to be in one of those couples where they wear matching clothes. (Cue the whipped app.) And since Bernadette is supposed to heal the team but only heals Howard ("My Howie Wowie has an owie."), Amy interrupting is quite blissful for everyone. She threatens to leave Sheldon for Armen. ("Armen who?" "Dammit!") But Penny has her back...and is smushing her face as well. Sheldon concedes that calling him her boyfriend isn't enough if she can't lord it over others. He gives her some Cooper Coupons as restitution.

PENNY: Sheldon, you can't give her your stupid...

AMY: California Science Center? Redeem!!

And those who crap on the show for bringing in Amy and Bernadette, Raj feels your pain.

RAJ: None of you may realize it, but I was very much looking forward to this weekend. It was going to be just like the old days. The four of us, hanging out, playing video games, before all of you got girlfriends. Do you have any idea what it's like to be the only one without a girlfriend?? Even if I get one someday, I'll still be the guy who got a girlfriend AFTER SHELDON COOPER!!!!

PENNY: And that's how a girl makes a scene.

Penny apologizes to Raj and takes Amy with her, mainly to hold her hair as she threw up. Bernadette takes the hint and leaves as well.

RAJ: This is how it's supposed to be. Men fighting the forces of evil. (sips his beer) I can't believe this is only 64 calories.

And the guys enjoy the weekend...until Howard's mother stops by and screams at him for turning off his phone and making her spend a half-hour walking up those ferkakta stairs.

HOWARD: That's my ride, gotta go.

SHELDON: (whipped app)

The Transporter Malfunction

Season 5
Episode Number: 107
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday March 29, 2012
Writer: Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Recurring Role: Brian George (Dr. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali)
Guest Stars: Chriselle Almeida (Lakshmi), Leonard Nimoy (Spock)
Production Code: 3X6870
Summary: Raj gets quite a surprise when he asks his parents to set him up on a date. Penny buys Leonard and Sheldon a pair of Star Trek keepsake collectibles, not knowing the effect it would have on Sheldon.



The gang is enjoying dinner, including Penny. But Sheldon knows the best things in life are free, so... Howard needs to know whom Raj is bringing as his plus one to the wedding, if he is bringing someone. Otherwise, the spot goes to the doctor who sucked the fat out of his mother's neck. Raj insists he is bringing someone, and everyone starts peppering him with questions on who it is. But he won't say...actually he's quite defensive about it. Sheldon doesn't like wedding receptions, but did enjoy Professor Geysler's wedding because it had a make-your-own-sundae bar, which Howard's recep-

tion won't have.

SHELDON: Well you should. 50% of all marriages end in divorce, but 100% of make-your-own-sundae bars end in happiness.

Apparently, Raj is desperate enough for a date where he calls for help from his parents. Given they think he's about to admit he's gay, he must REALLY be desperate. He asks them to help find him a wife.

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI: And just to clarify...a female wife?

MR. KOOTHRAPPALI: A matchmaker. So much smarter than marrying for love.

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI: (understandably pissed) WE married for love.

Penny decided to pay back Sheldon and Leonard for always eating at their apartment. She took the residual money she got from her commercial and bought Sheldon a vintage 1975 Mego Star Trek Transporter with real transporter action. Although it didn't rate the level of giving Penny a hug, but she did get the finger gun from Sheldon. She went to the comic book store by herself and caused two guys to have asthma attacks, which she took as flattery. She got Leonard a label maker, which he thanked her for until she revealed she got him a transporter as well. Bye-bye label maker! Sheldon even has a Mr. Spock action figure that would fit, and Penny want to open up the transporters. But the guys panic, saying the value will go down if they open them up.

LEONARD: One you open a box, it loses its value.

PENNY: Yeah, yeah, my mom gave me the same lecture about my virginity. I gotta tell you, it was a lot more fun when I took it out and played with it.

Raj brings Howard and Bernadette with him to chaperone his date, which is not unusual for first meetings in arranged marriages. Plus, compared to them, Raj looks like he's 6'2". Lakshmi arrives and everybody settles down for dinner.

RAJ: (quietly, to Bernadette) I'm thinking double-wedding.

Sheldon is getting some work done because with quantum mechanics, it's like the universe is naked. However, a voice calls out. The voice was coming from his 1975 Mr. Spock action figure, and take three guesses what voice he heard. The Mr. Spock action figure, voiced by Leonard Nimoy, tells Sheldon he should play with the transporter, even gesturing to it. (every reviewer will say that made the episode) Sheldon protests it's in mint condition, but Spock reminds him, like Spock, he has a human half.

SPOCK: What is the purpose of a toy?

SHELDON: To be played with.

SPOCK: And therefore, to not play with it would be...

SHELDON: ...illogical. Damn it, you're right, Spock.

Of course, Sheldon has to wake up first, so he does and plays with it. And breaks it. Sheldon is freaking out until he remembers there are two transporters in the house.

SHELDON: It's only logical.

Raj's date with Lakshmi went well enough for him to cook for her at home. After all he is a metrosexual. ("I like women...and their skin care products.") Lakshmi is impressed with Raj and discovers she had four missed calls, two text messages and a failed videochat from her parents wanting to know how the date was going. (Raj had only three missed calls.) Both of them want to tell their parents things are going well, but Lakshmi might want to tell Raj something first: she's a lesbian. But Lakshmi figured Raj of all people would understand how hard it is to come out in Indian culture. Raj denies being gay, even though he baked Lakshmi chocolate lava cake, has little soaps in the bathroom, and is wearing more perfume than she is. Also, there are rumors back in New Delhi that he was gay.

LAKSHMI: Fill in the blank. I love the nightlife...

RAJ: ...I like to boogie.

LAKSHMI: Gotcha.

RAJ: But, I like to boogie with women!

Lakshmi is disappointed because Raj was exactly the type of phony-baloney husband her parents would have loved. But she'll settle for the chocolate lava cake.

RAJ: Wait, you don't want to put a bite in your mouth until you try my Chantilly Cream. (pauses) OK, that time I heard it.

Sheldon has another dream and ends up on planet Vulcan. ("Oh, dear. Two suns and no sunscreen.") Spock tells Sheldon he's ashamed of him for switching his transporter for Leonard's. Sheldon rationalizes that Leonard will never take the transporter out of the box so he'd never know, but Spock is still unhappy.

SHELDON: But where you come from, they don't have emotions.

SPOCK: I come from a factory in Taiwan.

But the "green-blooded buzzkill" insists Sheldon put Leonard's transporter back. And then a Gorn attacks Sheldon...which is actually smaller than him but he's still frightened. Whatever...

Raj finds Howard and tells him Lakshmi was a lesbian. But given Raj hadn't been successful with women, he was contemplating going through with a fake marriage to get his parents off his back and Lakshmi's parents off of hers. Howard tells him he's crazy and that he should tell his parents he wants someone who hasn't slept with more women than him.

Sheldon tries to switch boxes back but can't bring himself to do it. Leonard and Penny come home and Penny convinces him to play with the transporter. Since Leonard never would have sold it anyway because she bought it for him, he opened it. Sheldon was in a state of panic, of course. But Penny and Leonard think Stuart sold it to them broken. And of course, Sheldon is ready to let them do that, but Sheldon told them the truth. His toy was the one broken and he switched it. Which was another lie. Several lies later, he talked about Spock coming to him in a dream and forcing him to open and break the toy. And then he was attacked by a Gorn. (LEONARD: OK, that I believe.)

SHELDON: (handing Leonard his transporter) And even though I don't have one anymore, I hope you have fun playing with it.

LEONARD: And that's a lie.

SHELDON: A big fat whopper. I hope it breaks.

Bernadette and Howard come over, and Bernadette gives Raj something to cuddle with while waiting for Ms. Right: a little puppy.

RAJ: Oh, aren't you the cutest little Yorkie! Let's see if you fit in my man purse!

BERNADETTE: (quietly, to Howard) Heterosexual, my ass.

The Hawking Excitation

Season 5
Episode Number: 108
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 5, 2012
Writer: Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Stephen Hawking (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6871
Summary: When Stephen Hawking visits Caltech to give a lecture, Sheldon goes to great lengths for a chance to meet his hero in person.



Howard got an important email, and not an ad for penile enlargement like Raj thought. Dr. Stephen Hawking was coming to lecture at the university and needed Howard to maintain the equipment on his specialized wheelchair. ("It's like you'll be his pit crew!") Everybody's pretty excited, although Howard may want to not do his Stephen Hawking imitation in front of him. Sheldon would certainly be psyched, and Leonard would agree a Stephen Hawking restraining order would look good next to the ones Sheldon has from Leonard Nimoy, Carl Sagan (which I assumed has expired),

and Stan Lee. Sheldon joined the guys with some inspiration to revolutionize humanity's understanding of the Higgs boson particle, which Howard doesn't need to pay attention to because he wouldn't understand it.

RAJ: Are you still going to tell him about you-know-who?

HOWARD: Yup.

LEONARD: Are you going to introduce him?

HOWARD: Not on your life.

And as Sheldon begs and pleads for Howard to introduce him to Stephen Hawking, we can understand Howard's reluctance, such as Sheldon saying he could go to Jewish heaven ("We don't have a Jewish heaven.") or avoid Jewish hell ("Have you met my mother? I live in Jewish hell."). Sheldon saying he's the only human being with an intellectual capacity on the level of Hawking's doesn't work so well either. BTW, Sheldon has only begged three times in his life, according to Raj. Once to Fox to not cancel Firefly, once to TNT to cancel Babylon 5, and once to a deity he didn't believe in to end his life when he got food poisoning at the Rose Bowl Parade. Still, Howard told him no in Russian, Chinese, Japanese, even Klingon. But Sheldon doesn't want Howard to do it for him: he needs to do it for Hawking. ("Let me try gangsta: HELLS NAW!") Finally, a compromise. Sheldon asks him to give Hawking his paper on the Higgs boson particle and Hawking will contact him...because he's smart. Howard discusses it privately with the guys, mainly to discuss how much Sheldon needs to be punished. Finally, Howard agrees. Well...

HOWARD: Sheldon, are you familiar with the 12 Labors of Hercules? You should be so lucky.

First task, polish all of Howard's belt buckles. An entire tub of them. Oh, and the water marks on some of them...not exactly water. But Howard does give him a black light to check on them. ("You may not want to shine that around the rest of the room.")

Next task, wear the French Maid outfit Howard originally bought for Bernadette but wouldn't wear it. (or dust his room in it) But Sheldon proudly wore it at the university. (SHELDON: What are you all staring at? You never saw a man trying to get a meeting with Stephen Hawking before?)

As Sheldon does Howard's laundry...including some leopard-print underwear...Penny agrees with Howard that Sheldon is a condescending jerk. Sheldon even gets a little twinkle in his eye when he corrects people or puts them down. ("That's an involuntary twinkle.") Bernadette, on the other hand, does think Howard is being mean. He defends his actions, but she tells him he knows he's being mean to Sheldon while "the part of Sheldon's brain that should know he's being mean is getting a wedgie from the rest of Sheldon's brain." Bernadette wants Howard to stop making Sheldon do humiliating things...right after Sheldon takes Howard's mother dress shopping instead of her.

MRS. WOLOWITZ: SHELDON, I NEED YOUR HELP!! IT'S THIS DRESS. WHEN I PUT MY FRONT IN, MY BACK POPS OUT!! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK AS A TEAM! GET IN HERE, GRAB A HANDFUL AND START STUFFING!

Sheldon finally comes home, although Howard should have sent his mother and him to that car covering place in Altadena, since they have her pattern on file. Sheldon just has to do one final thing: pay Howard a compliment, as Howard was tired of Sheldon ripping on his job.

SHELDON: I have never said you that you are not good at what you do. It's just what you do is not worth doing.

LEONARD: It's nicer than anything he's said to me. I'd take it and run.

And Sheldon demands Howard give Hawking his paper. Which Howard did three days prior and Hawking wants to meet Sheldon. He was impressed with Sheldon's work. Sheldon's happy about that. It turns out Dr. Hawking liked Sheldon's paper and thought his theory on a boson being in the center of a black hole accelerating backwards through time was fascinating. Except it's wrong. There was a math error on page 2. (HAWKING: It was quite the boner.) And Sheldon faints. (HAWKING: Oh, great. Another fainter.)

The Stag Convergence

Season 5
Episode Number: 109
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday April 26, 2012
Writer: Billy Prady, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds
Director: Peter Chakos
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Wil Wheaton (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6872
Summary: The guys throw Howard a bachelor party, and some embarrassing details about his life get posted on the Internet.



Sheldon is having a fun time in his head at the university. Unfortunately for the guys, he shares it with them. He was wondering what would be the best species for humans to merge with, much like a lichen is a combination of fungi and algae? Raj's answer of a swan was wrong, as was Leonard's guess of a horse. ("Mostly for the height, a little bit for the genital girth.") Howard's answer of a kangaroo was wrong, although he would be the first of his people to dunk a basketball...and could not only live inside his mother's house, he could live in her body, according to Leonard. But Sheldon's answer

was humans should merge with a lichen. At a concert, it could appreciate Beethoven, get a great view being in a tree and feed off the sunlight. Quickly changing topics, Raj wants to throw Howard a bachelor party. He doesn't want any strippers, despite their being a strip club in North Hollywood that named a pole after him. But they think it would be good since he was the first to be married, so Raj suggests a train trip through wine country in Napa. There would be wine tastings, it's beautiful at this time of year, and all the wild flowers are in bloom.

LEONARD: Look at that. In thirty seconds, we went from hiring women to being them.

Leonard tells Penny about the bachelor party plans, which were at a nice restaurant. And she wasn't worried a bit about Leonard...which offended him a bit. But given the most Leonard has ever done with a stripper is not make eye contact and offer to help her kid with his SAT's, you can understand why. But give Sheldon credit for embracing swearing, tobacco, and even alcohol, some of the staples of the stag party. So he tries some scotch. (SHELDON: Jeepsers, that's yucky!) Everybody was there, even Kripke, Stuart from the comic book store and (not so) Evil Wil Wheaton. While Stuart tried to sell his grandfather's watch to pay for his share of the festivities, Amy videotaped Penny, Bernadette, and her working on preparing for the wedding. At the moment, they were preparing gift bags for the out-of-town guests with maps, restaurant recommendations, and for Howard's relatives, antihistamines, antacids, and medicine for diarrhea and constipation. (PENNY: We labelled them Stop and Go.)

AMY: (on video) Bernadette, on the first night you consummate your marriage, what do you think you're first sexual position will be as husband and wife?

Penny mercifully pulls the plug on Amy's videotaping. (PENNY: Ask her stuff like if she's going to take Howard's name, not who's going to sit on who.) Bernadette's going the hyphenated route, in case you were wondering.

Raj initiates a toast honoring the man of the hour, Howard. And Sheldon is happy to volunteer the first words about him. And a drunk Sheldon thinks some jabs he wrote about Howard would be quite the rib-tickler. (nope) Leonard follows it up talking about the wild times Howard and Leonard had together. Actually, it was an excuse to tell how Penny and he had sex in the ocean and he wanted it to count. ("There could have been an undertow!") Kripke cuts him off, and Stuart tries to congratulate him. But he gets all choked up. ("You have everything! I'm 37, I sleep in the back of a comic book store, and I have the bone density of an 80-year-old man!") Kripke uses his time to whine about there being no strippers. Finally, Raj gets up, and he's drunk. ("This grasshopper is kicking my assshopper.") He admitted not knowing how to be cool or dress right when he came to this country, but everything changed when he met Howard, "because we could be lonely together." They talked about camping and sharing all of their secrets, like Raj liking manicures and Howard losing his virginity to his cousin.

HOWARD: (nervous) It was my second cousin.

SHELDON: (drunk) And the first woman you disappointed sexually! (the crowd liked that one)

Then Raj talked about Leonard and him getting Howard a hooker in Las Vegas. ("Of all the Howard-humping-hooker stories out there, that one's my favorite!") Unless you count the three-some at Comic Con with Raj and the chubby girl in the Sailor Moon costume.

RAJ: (hammered) Oh, nothing happened between me and Howard, there was 200 pounds of sailor moon between us!

And if Howard thinks things are bad now, Evil Wil Wheaton taped the whole thing and uploaded it to the Internet.

Bernadette, as you might suspect, is not happy to be picking Howard and Raj up after seeing the video online. ("You never told me about your cousin, or the hooker, or Raj!") She talks with the girls in the morning and she was having doubts about marrying Howard. She thought Howard was a sweet, innocent guy who lived with his mother. (PENNY: I'll take you to the comic book store. That place is full of them.) Suddenly, Bernadette turned on Penny, since she set the two of them up in the first place, demanding if Penny knew about the creepy stuff about Howard beforehand.

PENNY: I didn't think it was going to go past the first date. Then when it did, I didn't think it would go past you meeting his mother. Then DEFINITELY NOT past the two of you sleeping together. You know, the warning signs were there. This is on you.

Bernadette stormed off crying, and Howard continued to try and call her to beg for forgiveness. But the guys weren't any help. Sheldon gave him chicken broth from an 8-year-old bullion cube, Leonard didn't know anything about women, and Raj could only offer the number of the chubby girl from Comic Con. Amy and Penny can't talk Bernadette out of the bathroom, and Amy's suggestion of payback with a cousin Bernadette finds hot goes over as well as you think. Howard comes over and asks Penny to relay a message to Bernadette.

HOWARD: (very humbled) Just tell her that I'm really sorry...and if she doesn't want to marry me, I get it. But what I really want her to know is that the guy she's disgusted by is the guy I'm disgusted by, too. But that guy doesn't exist anymore. He's gone, and the reason is...because of her. So if this relationship is over, let her know that she made me a better man, and tell her thank you.

PENNY: (in tears) Oh, my God. Howard, that's the most beautiful thing I ever heard, and it came out of YOU!

Fortunately, Penny doesn't have to relay the message, as his voice, like his mother's, travels through walls. She forgives him and the wedding is still on.

AMY: (hugs them) Oh, thank God. I'm still a maid of honor! (Penny joins in on the hug) This is kind of hot.

The Launch Acceleration

Season 5
Episode Number: 110
Season Episode: 23

Originally aired: Thursday May 03, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Casey Sander (Mr. Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Karl T. Wright (Jimmy), Robert Clotworthy (Dave Roeger - V.O.)
Production Code: 3X6873
Summary: Howard faces double trouble when NASA moves up his launch and he has to meet Bernadette's father. Some awkward pillow talk by Leonard may change his relationship with Penny.



Howard gets some bad news from Dave Roeger at NASA. The Soyuz rocket failed a pressurization test and thus Howard's mission has to be scrubbed. Needless to say, he's very disappointed.

HOWARD: I'M NOT GONNA DIE IN SPACE!!!! I'm gonna die the way God intended: in my late 50's with a heart full of pastrami. (Crap, I just made a sandwich with pastrami.)

Clearly, Sheldon hasn't been to many tuxedo fittings in his life, given the longjohns he was wearing. But clearly, like Joey on Friends, he's not going to go commando in another man's fatigues. Meanwhile, Leonard and Raj were actu-

ally relieved that Howard wouldn't be going into space in a rocket designed in the 60's by the people who couldn't catch Rocky and Bullwinkle.

HOWARD: Let me explain the difference between you and me. You watch Star Trek; I live it. Make all the jokes you want, but only one of us was brave enough to do what I almost did.

As Leonard and Penny decide to start moving their relationship renewal a bit faster (and I'll never look at the Cookie Monster from Sesame Street the same way again), Amy has decided she wants to accelerate her relationship with Sheldon. (SHELDON: Two years ago, I didn't even know you, and now I'm in your apartment after dark. How much faster can this go?) Amy has a few ideas, such as linking some of Sheldon's lifelong attachments to her. So for dinner, it's Strawberry Quik, spaghetti with little hot dogs in it, and Super Mario Bros. as the background music. (SHELDON: The greatest 600 hours of my childhood.) That certainly worked better for Amy than Leonard's idea of accelerating his relationship with Penny. In Leonard's defense, it was in the heat of the moment while they were having sex.

PENNY: (freaking out) The heat of the moment is 'ooh, yeah, just like that', not 'will you marry me'!

LEONARD: (flustered) At some point, some day we'll look back on this and it's going to be a funny story. Why don't we just do that now?

Yeah, that didn't go over very well.

Howard and Bernadette go over their plans for the wedding, such as Howard's suggestion of their first dance being the final number from *Dirty Dancing*, where, somehow, she's Patrick Swayze and he's Jennifer Grey. (Not a misprint, and boy I wish it was.) But their romantic moment was interrupted by NASA calling back to say the mission was back on. As they really want his telescope on the space station, they were to send him up in just over a week, only he was marrying Bernadette two days later. Howard, you might suspect, loves that he has the perfect excuse, but Bernadette decides to be a forgiving bride and offers to put off the ceremony. Of course, Bernadette's father put a lot of money down in deposits, and Howard is simply thinking of how upset he'd be, but Bernadette thinks her father won't say no to her. But Howard offers to talk to her father.

It turns out, Sheldon had a more awkward time with Amy than Leonard did with Penny, if Sheldon's pitiful 3-D Chess moves are any indication. (And that book the guys got him last year only gave him nightmares.) Well, Sheldon has girl trouble. Amy's efforts to make Sheldon like her more involved arranging for Sheldon to be a junior conductor on Amtrak. (They even let him blow the whistle.) And now Sheldon is starting to think of Amy at inappropriate times. (No, not then, you pervs!)

SHELDON: This morning, I was calculating the random motion of virtual particles in a vacuum when suddenly the particles morphed into an image of Amy's dandruff gently cascading down on to her pale, slightly hunched shoulders. What has that vixen done to me and how do I stop it?

Leonard thinks if Sheldon was in a physical relationship with Amy, he just had to propose to kill the mood. And Sheldon realized that's how relationship talk worked with Leonard and him.

SHELDON: I complain and then you complain and no one offers any solutions? No wonder the women are winning.

Howard goes to talk to Mr. Rostenkowski, who was looking at photos...of the last murder case he did before he retired. And Mr. Rostenkowski cracking some walnuts with his bare hands didn't help much. Howard explained his NASA mission was moved up and would conflict with the wedding and how dare Howard skip out on his commitment to Bernadette. At least, that's how Howard wanted it to go. But Mr. Rostenkowski, despite hating Howard's Beatle haircut (FINALLY they make a joke about it!) and driving around on a Vespa and living with his mother ("I thought Bernadette chose you to punish me."), he was impressed with Howard going into space and really is the right guy for his daughter. He'll deal with all the money; he wants Howard to go up to that space station and make him proud. But Howard worries that he might not make it back.

MR. ROSTENKOWSKI: It's gonna be OK, son. A pretty girl like Bernadette, she'll find a new guy.

As for Leonard, Penny never did give him an answer. But she did give him a kiss, told him she wouldn't marry him, but they were still dating. As for Sheldon, Amy decides she wanted to play Doctor. Star Trek-style.

SHELDON: I'm in hell, Leonard. (to Amy) Don't stop.

The Countdown Reflection

Season 5
Episode Number: 111
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 10, 2012
Writer: Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Casey Sander (Mr. Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Pasha Lychnikoff (Dimitri), Michael J. Massimino (Himself)
Production Code: 3X6874
Summary: The rest of the gang struggles to put together a hasty wedding for Howard and Bernadette, who decide they want to be married before Howard's launch.



It's really happening. Howard is in the Soyuz rocket with Dimitri, a Russian cosmonaut, and NASA astronaut Michael J. Massimino and they were about thirty minutes from launch. Howard decided right then he changed his mind and wanted to stay home. Mass and Dimitri got a good laugh out of that. If they thought that was funny, Howard told them of the bit he'll do where he cries during the entire launch. They were excited. So was everybody back at the apartment. although Amy was more excited about Sheldon's eidetic memory. It does work, though. He knew every ingredient in a can of Pringles, including his favorite: uniformity. (AMY: The uterus quivers, does it not?) Bernadette is understandably nervous, but Raj is so freaked out, he was wearing his fat pants after stress-eating for four days. But Sheldon is impressed Howard is strapped to a rocket that will ignite an explosion of 200 pounds of rocket fuel right under his keyster, made by a country whose primary contributions to the global economy are Tetris and mail-order brides.

BERNADETTE: GIVE ME THOSE DAMN PRINGLES!

While Dimitri thinks Howard is called Froot Loops because of his very gay haircut (which is actually a better reason than Howard's mother giving him Froot Loops for breakfast every morning), we go back to

Howard and Bernadette a few days earlier. Howard gives her a little star pendant as a gift, which he holds on to so she'll have a star that's actually been in space. (HOWARD: Take that, any guy who's ever bought you anything.) But that settled it for Bernadette. She wanted to be married to Howard before he went up to the space station. The trouble was Howard was heading to Russia in two days. They decide to get married at City Hall and have the reception after he got back. They go to tell the gang, and Amy is FURIOUS! She wanted to wear her bridesmaid's dress and tiara and walk down the aisle to The Way You Look Tonight. (That's her wedding song, not

Howard and Bernadette's.) Sheldon doesn't think he'll like it either, but peer pressure from the others made them cave.

LEONARD: Come on, Sheldon. It'll be fine.

SHELDON: That's what you said about the Green Lantern movie. You were 114 minutes of wrong.

Everybody heads to City Hall. Amy wonders if seeing couples in love gets Sheldon thinking. It does...about whether Leonard feels awkward being there when he recently proposed to Penny. During sex. And the cat's out of the bag.

HOWARD: Did you get down on one knee or were you already there?

BERNADETTE: Howard, don't talk like that on your wedding day.

HOWARD: Sorry, Ma...Bernadette/Ma/Bernadette. (Hard to type this out but it was very Freudian.)

Penny, you might suspect, was none too thrilled Leonard told Sheldon, and Leonard took offense that she won't let him talk to his friends or propose. Amy gets everybody quiet, but it was too late in the day to get married. And Howard telling the clerk he's an astronaut didn't work.

While Amy searches for a couple that needs a maid of honor, Raj comes up with the solution for a romantic wedding. The Google Earth satellite would be passing over Pasadena on Sunday morning, so Howard and Bernadette could get married while it takes pictures. The only question now was who would officiate the ceremony. Penny suggested one of them could get ordained online. Sheldon volunteered if he could do the ceremony in Klingon. Bernadette wasn't much for that idea. (SHELDON: (to Howard) What do you see in her?)

Sunday arrives and Howard came up with a thoughtful groomsman's gift for the guys: a copy of *The Fantastic Four* comic where Reed Richards and Sue Storm get married. Sheldon isn't happy because the comic was worth \$100, and he got them an \$88 gravy boat. He handed Howard \$12 to make it even, although he did take \$2 back for the card. But the ceremony was ready. Everybody had to speak up because Howard's mother wouldn't move her chair any closer. She didn't want to fall off the roof. (HOWARD: She should be more worried about falling THROUGH the roof.) And her mustache didn't endear her to Bernadette's father, given it was bigger than hers. Everybody gave a little speech since everybody got ordained. Raj was so touched by the love Howard and Bernadette shared, he couldn't finish and broke down crying. Penny talked about how it didn't matter how and where they got married, as long as they had each other. And Leonard had a slight objection to that, which Sheldon was very happy to elaborate on. Amy thanked Bernadette for letting her be maid of honor and would be happy to do it again if this marriage craps out. Leonard talked about best friends who fell in love in each other, because at its core has kindness, patience, and respect.

LEONARD: Qualities that are hard to find in people these days.

SHELDON: (to Penny) Would you like some aloe vera? Because you just got burned.

Sheldon began his speech...in Klingon. Bernadette cut him off, and he switched to English under protest, talking about the need to find another human being to share someone's life with.

SHELDON: It has always puzzled me. Maybe because I'm so interesting all by myself. May you find as much as happiness with each other as I have on my own.

Bernadette and Howard exchange their own vows, and the gang pronounces them husband and wife.

And now back to the launch. Everybody is freaking out as the Soyuz rocket takes off. (I really didn't think he'd go through with it!) Bernadette says how much she loves Howard...and so does Raj. Bernadette takes his hand. Penny admitted one little part of her thought Howard was lying about it, and she takes Leonard's hand. Sheldon tells Howard to boldly go...and takes Amy's hand.

Season Six

The Date Night Variable

Season 6
Episode Number: 112
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Thursday September 27, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Pasha Lychnikoff (Dimitri Rezinov)
Production Code: 3X7601
Summary: When Sheldon is required by the Relationship Agreement to take Amy out for their second anniversary, he asks Raj to tag along. Leonard has difficulty being with Penny and not asking where their relationship is heading.



When we last left our intrepid 7, Howard and Bernadette got married before he took off to the International Space Station. And he's still there, "looking down on us like a tiny Jewish Greek God. Zeusowitz." according to Raj. Even Sheldon was jealous of Howard looking out at the majesty of our universe with those "dim uncomprehending eyes. Like a cat in an airport carrying case." Leonard does point out the astronauts drink recycled water from each other's urine.

SHELDON: No matter what he's working on, his life will never be the same.

(on the space station)

HOOOOOOOWWWWWWWWWAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHDDDDDDDD!!!!

Yes, his mother's calling. And she's upset he is planning to move out of the house and move in with Bernadette.

HOWARD: Mom, everyone at NASA can hear this call.

HOWARD's MOTHER: GOOD. THEY CAN HEAR WHAT A HORRIBLE SON YOU ARE!!!

HOWARD: (hangs up) Well, space is ruined.

(BTW, they did update the titles so Amy and Bernadette are eating dinner with them.)

Penny is helping Amy bleach her upper lip, who is happy it has the same color as her fake blonde friend. Amy has a 2nd Anniversary date with Sheldon, which requires him through the Relationship Agreement to take her out to dinner at a nice restaurant, ask her how her day went, and engage in casual physical contact onlookers might interpret as intimacy. (PENNY: That's hot. You kids better use protection.) On the relationship front, Penny is still feeling weirded out because Leonard proposed to her in the middle of sex.

AMY: If Sheldon ever proposed to me during sex, my ovaries would grab onto him and never let him go.

After belittling Leonard for not knowing the Anthropic Principle (which he did), Raj asks the guys what they were up to for the evening, but both of them had dates. He was resigned to go home and spend it alone ("I eat alone, I sleep alone, I cry alone"), but Sheldon invites him along on his date with Amy. Leonard advises against doing that, but Sheldon realizes he is perfectly within his rights in the Relationship Agreement to outsource his obligations to an Indian.

Bernadette calls Howard and tells him about the never-ending dinner she had with his mother, which included finding out Howard never told his mother they weren't going to live with her. Yes, she's pissed.

BERNADETTE: You're going to fix this, or that thing I promised to do to you when you got home? You can do to yourself.

DMITRI: He's been doing it since he got here.

Amy and Sheldon arrive at a very posh restaurant, recommended by Raj, and Amy tells Sheldon to thank Raj for the suggestion. But she can tell him herself, as he was waiting for them. Yes, she's pissed.

AMY: I can't believe I bleached my mustache for this.

RAJ: You should go to my girl. She'll knock out those sideburns for free.

In Raj's defense, he is quite the conversationalist. Of course, Amy just wants him to go home. Raj is shocked and wants to make things right. ("Waiter, a bottle of champagne and three glasses!")

Back at home, Leonard gives Penny a night for her, complete with wings, sliders, beer, and a football game. He even painted "go sports" on his stomach. (Covering his bases in case Penny wanted to watch baseball.) Penny is impressed and very happy. Until Leonard wants to know where they are in the relationship. She tells him she had a hard day and just wants to watch the game, so he backs off...for about five seconds.

PENNY: Sweetie, can I just be the girl tonight?

LEONARD: Of course, You watch your game, while I make you a little plate.

And then Raj makes things even more awkward, given he clearly drank the champagne. Leonard wanted him to go, but Penny was happy to have him. (LEONARD: Can't believe I shaved my stomach for this.)

Howard's mother calls once again and tells him Bernadette wanted him to talk to her. Howard finally starts giving the speech about Bernadette and he starting a new life together.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: YOU ARE GOING TO LEAVE ME! BUT THAT'S OK. YOUR FATHER LEFT ME, YOU LEFT ME, I GUESS I'M JUST THE KIND OF PERSON PEOPLE LIKE TO LEAVE!

Yes, Howard knuckles under from all the Jewish guilt and says he'll try to work something out with Bernie.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: I KNEW SHE WAS BEHIND THIS! LISTEN TO ME, IF YOU EVER WANT TO BE A MAN, YOU CAN'T LET A WOMAN TELL YOU WHAT TO DO!

DMITRI: (overhearing) I can't believe these people won the Cold War.

Raj has settled in quite nicely on Penny and Leonard's date. But Leonard tells him to take off while Penny is getting another beer. However for Raj, Third Wheel + Beer = Dr. Phil

RAJ: Oh, pish on your issues! You guys are fine! I mean, Penny, you always knew how this guy felt about you, but you made him grovel for affection. That's OK; he was a groveler from way back. But the point is, the two of you got past it. And Leonard, you went and proposed to this poor girl in the middle of sex? That was some weak tea, dude. But after all you've been through, you can still look into each other's eyes and say 'I love you'. And that's beautiful

LEONARD: (VERY awkward) Actually, to this day she's never said that.

RAJ: Penny, that is ridiculous! You know you love him! Just say it. Say it! (Yes, he gets the boot.)

Alcohol works quite well for Amy, too, as Sheldon looks like a sexy praying mantis to her. And the best part about a praying mantis? They devour their mate.

AMY: (undoes one button on her blouse) Dessert is served.

SHELDON: (nonplussed) I just had cobbler.

Amy gives up and walks out.

SHELDON: You can't go. I need you! You're my ride.

Amy gives him an ultimatum: say something meaningful and from the heart to her, or she is leaving him.

SHELDON: Amy, when I look in your eyes, and you're looking back in mine, everything feels not quite normal. Because I feel stronger and weaker at the same time. I feel excited, and at the same time, terrified. The truth is, I don't know what I feel, except that I know what kind of man I want to be.

AMY: Sheldon, that was beautiful.

SHELDON: I should hope so; that was from the first Spider-Man movie.

AMY: (mulls it over) I'll take it.

On the good side, Raj did find someone else to hang out with: Stuart. And they have a chocolate liqueur in a Chewbacca glass. (STUART: I call it a Sattini.) Stuart puts a bossa nova on, and it makes both of them think of Brazil, the white sand beaches, the bodies glistening in sweat. Yes, it gets awkward, but they do make plans for the next night.

The Decoupling Fluctuation

Season 6
Episode Number: 113
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday October 4, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom), Michael J. Massimino (Himself), Pasha Lychnikoff (Dimitri Rezinov)
Production Code: 3X7602
Summary: Sheldon once again has to keep a secret when he learns Leonard and Penny are going to break up. Howard keeps getting teased by his fellow astronauts in space.



Bernadette, Penny, and Amy are unwrapping wedding gifts and come across the gravy boat Sheldon got for them. Apparently it was \$88 because Sheldon had engraved "in case of divorce, please return to Sheldon Cooper" on the bottom. (PENNY: One inappropriate—yet I wish I thought of that—gravy boat.) Amy thinks she'll marry Sheldon within four years but doesn't want him to know that because he's a flight risk, plus registering at the UCLA Medical School will help with that pricey cadaver she wants. Sure enough, the conversation turns to Penny and Leonard. Penny says he's great...he's

a sweetheart, but for some reason she can't bring herself to say she loves him or wants to marry him. Bernadette thinks Penny will break up with him, but she vehemently denies it. Yet she worries he'll take it the wrong way if she tells him she loves him.

PENNY: I don't know. I've been in love before, but it felt different. Maybe this is a new, different, boring kind of love.

Penny asks the two of them, but Bernadette says it's not a fair comparison because she's married to a "sexy Buzz Lightyear" and Amy feels her loins on fire when she thinks of Sheldon. (AMY: In the good way, not the urinary tract infection kind.)

Meanwhile, the guys are talking to Howard at the International Space Station. However, Raj really doesn't need to shout, and Sheldon has taken to making that noise we all did in the 1970s when imitating CB radios. (The younger crowd should YouTube "CW McCall Convoy".) Meanwhile Dmitri and Mike Massimino want Howard to clean the toilet like he was supposed to. (DMITRI: If you do a good job, next time we give you a brush.) Howard had to go and deal with "a meteor shower." (MASSIMINO: You want to see a meteor shower, you should see what Dmitri left you in the toilet.)

The gang headed to the movies, bringing Stuart with them, mostly because Raj didn't want to sit without anybody. Sheldon naturally protested, but since Stuart went to art school, which was

equally ridiculous as Howard going to MIT, Sheldon let it slide. Provided he ate only Raisinets. At the theater, Amy insisted on holding Sheldon's hand. (SHELDON: Of course you like it, you're a girl. You're like all kinds of hippy-dippy things.) Sheldon protests Penny isn't making Leonard hold hands, but Amy lets slip that Penny may not want to be Leonard's girlfriend anymore. Despite Penny taking a sip from Leonard's diet Dr. Pepper, Amy asks Sheldon to keep it a secret. Which, as we all know, is the one thing Sheldon can't do. Sure enough, Sheldon later is trying not to say anything to Leonard back at the apartment. Although Leonard is sympathetic to Sheldon's tongue not resting on the same spot in his mouth it was before. Tartar buildup, apparently. Leonard promised to take him to the dentist, and Sheldon thanks him quite warmly. Even gave him a "You're good people, Leonard." Sheldon starts to tell him, but then says he can't tell him.

LEONARD: Why can't you tell me?

SHELDON: I can't tell why I can't tell you. So I guess there's two things I can't tell you.

Finally, Sheldon comes up with a way. He admitted to liking the Transformers. (LEONARD: Where EXACTLY did your mother have you tested?) But Sheldon said the Transformers taught us things are not always what they seem. A semi-truck might be a robot or alien, or someone in a romantic relationship might feel differently than they appear to. Leonard figures it out. The guy who is a robot is Sheldon and his relationship with Amy is transforming him into a red-blooded man with sexual desires.

SHELDON: That is, literally, the stupidest thing I've ever heard.

Later, Sheldon knocks on Leonard's door while he's sleeping. But since he still couldn't tell him, he decides to go to Penny's instead. In her bedroom actually. No, she does not react well, but at least Sheldon didn't get his nose broken like when he tried to steal the Lord of the Rings ring. She's mad he just walked in. (SHELDON: I've seen strange men traipsing in and out of here, but when I do it, it's weird?) Naturally, Sheldon wants to talk up Leonard, pointing out to Penny he has a perfect driving record and enjoys all of the insurance discounts that go with that. (Hubba hubba!) Not to mention, he'd be quite average in height in North Korea. Penny figures out Amy told him and said while it was sweet Sheldon was trying to protect his friend, it was really none of his business. Naturally, Sheldon thought it was because he didn't like when things change, he liked homeostasis, so he wanted Penny to continue dating Leonard, no matter what her feelings were towards him. (SHELDON: And while we're on the subject, you recently changed your shampoo and I don't like it. Please go back to green apple.) Penny tells him to leave, but he has one last request.

SHELDON: (very sincerely) Please don't hurt my friend.

PENNY: (equally sincerely) That is the last thing I would want to do.

SHELDON: Coconut? Really, what are you? A hula girl?

Both Sheldon and Penny call Amy. Penny calling because she's ticked at Amy for blabbing to Sheldon and putting her in a bad position and Sheldon to warn her Penny might be calling. (Yes, Penny's call gets there first.)

Howard calls Bernadette to complain about Massimino and Dmitri playing tricks on him, such as going on a space walk and gluing a big-eyed rubber alien mask to the outside of his window. (It's on YouTube.) Bernadette says to stand up to them and say bullying is lame. Given Howard didn't want to go on the first space walk with a wedgie and his mother already called NASA about it...and made things worse...he was pretty much out of luck.

BTW, Raj and Stuart getting excited about going out to nightclubs to pick up girls sounds even more lame than Raj and Howard getting excited about going out to nightclubs to pick up girls. Sheldon thinks Leonard should go, but Leonard already has Penny. But Penny talks to strangers, pets unfamiliar dogs, and has an apartment that's ridiculously easy to get into her apartment. Leonard protests you can't easily replace a person you care about with someone else. (STUART: Please, don't ruin this for me.) Sheldon counters by saying he was upset when they replaced Edward Norton as The Hulk but it turned out Mark Ruffalo was much better in The Avengers. And Sheldon would like to think Leonard's Mark Ruffalo is still out there.

Later, Leonard and Penny had dinner. She looked distracted, and Leonard asked her what was wrong. She had something to tell him. But then she looked into the sad puppy eyes he was making, and...

AMY: You had sex with him!?!?

Penny said she couldn't break up with him when he was giving her the sad puppy eyes.

BERNADETTE: Don't worry, you'll have plenty of chances to break up with him. Your wedding day, your honeymoon, your 50th Anniversary...

But Penny says she and Leonard are trying to keep things homeostasis. (AMY: It's so cute when she tries.) Then she gets a text from Leonard: Last night was amazing. You're amazing. I'm so lucky to have you in my life. And now Amy and Bernadette are giving her the puppy eyes.

On the good side, Howard stood up to the other astronauts and got a full night's sleep for his efforts. And glasses, "froot loops," a beard, and whiskers drawn on him. But Bernadette doesn't have the heart to tell him.

The Higgs Boson Observation

Season 6
Episode Number: 114
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday October 11, 2012
Writer: Steven Molaro, Dave Goetsch, Steve Holland, Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Pasha Lychnikoff (Dimitri Rezinov), Margo Harshman (Alex Jensen)
Production Code: 3X7603
Summary: When Sheldon hires a female grad student to assist him, a jealous Amy asks Penny to help her spy on them, only to make a shocking discovery. Life in the International Space Station is wearing on Howard.



Howard has been up in space for quite a while and it's starting to get to him. So much so, in fact, he begs Bernadette over videochat to drop things so he could remember what gravity was like. Penny doesn't need to remember: she lugged a large heavy box for Sheldon up the stairs (and even got tipped a dollar). It contained a bunch of journals he wrote when he was a child, even a bowel movement log where he mapped shape, color, and consistency. (PENNY: Disgusting! LEONARD: No, what's disgusting is that he's still keeping track.) His reasoning was due to the discovery of the Higgs Boson particle, which was confirmed ear-

lier this year at CERN. Given Peter Higgs wrote about the discovery 48 years ago and was only proven right this year, perhaps Sheldon had something in one of those journals that would help him win his Nobel Prize. Leonard suggests to hire a grad student to go through the journals to save him time. Penny thought she could do it...until she read something he wrote when Sheldon was five.

PENNY: "A Proof That Algebraic Topology Can Never Have a Non-Self Contradictory Set of Abelian Groups." I'm just a blonde monkey to you, aren't I.

SHELDON: (shrugs) You said it, not me.

Sheldon interviews Alex Jensen about as closely as you might think, even trying to goad Alex into admitting she does drugs (including caffeine), which she didn't. Thankfully the inner ear infection she had two years ago didn't factor in. She has the job, and even Leonard stops by to welcome her aboard...and hope God has mercy on her soul. Leonard thinks she seems nice, but Raj jumps right in and calls dibs, despite Leonard not even being remotely interested.

As Howard tries to deal with the news that the Soyuz rocket that was supposed to take him home will be delayed at least a week...not to mention he was down to his last 3 Tums (HOWARD: They left dogs up here in the 60s.)...Amy is getting makeup lessons from Penny. She even got to use an eyelash curler, which she admitted "looked like something used by Tinkerbell's

gynecologist.” She calls to videochat with Sheldon...and phone sex if he’s amenable. However, Alex responds and tells her Sheldon was only taking calls from his mother, Stephen Hawking, or himself from the future. Amy is actually more surprised to find out Alex was a woman. (PENNY: Maybe he didn’t notice.) Amy hopes she doesn’t have to worry about Sheldon, and Penny is quite certain she doesn’t. But Amy says it’s Alex she has to worry about.

AMY: (shows a picture of Sheldon) Look at this face. How can any woman spend eight hours alone with this face and not fall in love with it?

PENNY: Well, for one thing, eventually that face starts talking.

Amy decides to visit her boyfriend and his new assistant, although throwing the door open and yelling A-HA! gave away a slightly different strategy. She decides to lick Sheldon’s stapler and rub his phone under her arm to mark her territory with her scent, which Penny can’t believe.

AMY: Just before you became my best friend, I did this all over your apartment.

Alex joins the guys at lunch over Sheldon’s protests, since he doesn’t want her rising above her station and see what’s beyond her grasp (he got that from watching a lot of British shows on PBS), but Alex was doing her dissertation on Trojan asteroids on Earth’s L-5 Lagrange point, which was Raj’s field of expertise. But since Raj wasn’t hammered, they didn’t converse much. Thankfully, Alex was used to such weird behavior from scientists, having a dad who works at SETI. (LEONARD: You should introduce him to Sheldon. The search is over.) As it turns out, Amy and Penny saw them in the cafeteria.

AMY: You were right. I had nothing to worry about. That skank’s your problem, not mine.

And that could be the case, as Alex was quite smitten with Leonard.

Fortunately, a cherry stem lodged in Sheldon’s throat broke them up.

On the drive home, Penny kept trying to deny she was concerned, but Amy was certain Penny’s prefrontal cortex was battling with her limbic system. (AMY: If it were a boxing match, they’d call it thrilla adjacent to the amygdala.) Penny doesn’t want to believe it, but Leonard can be considered desirable. (PENNY: He’s smart, he’s sweet, and in the bedroom he really, REALLY tries.) All of this weighed heavy on her as they got home, and Sheldon and Alex walked in, since Alex may have found the journal for Sheldon’s Nobel Prize. “Magnets: What Do They Stick To?” wasn’t the original title: Sheldon had to dumb it down to get the overly-religious to stop accusing him of being a witch. Penny introduced herself to Alex without saying outright she was Leonard’s boyfriend, and Alex couldn’t stop singing Leonard’s praises. Penny pulls him out the apartment.

LEONARD: Where are we going?

PENNY: My limbic system wants to take your pants off.

Thankfully, Howard was feeling much better, mostly because the other astronauts tied him down and gave him a shot.

HOWARD: (totally whacked out) Attention, people of Earth. Tonight there will be TWO moons!

The Re-Entry Minimisation

Season 6

Episode Number: 115

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired:	Thursday October 18, 2012
Writer:	Bill Prady, Jim Reynolds, Anthony Del Broccolo, Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro & Eric Kaplan
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Recurring Role:	Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Pasha Lychnikoff (Dimitri Rezinov), Michael J. Massimino (Himself)
Guest Stars:	Jan Hoag (Lilian), Ken Lerner (Dr. Schneider), John Mendoza (Chauffer)
Production Code:	3X7604
Summary:	Howard is offended when his return from space is met with little fanfare but he gets an even bigger surprise at home. Game Night turns into a battle royale between Penny and Sheldon.



Howard is returning to Earth, and everybody is excited about it. (SHELDON: He left a boy and he returns a boy-sized hero.) Of course, that means they no longer need Fake Wolowitz, aka Stuart. Sheldon promises to remember him nostalgically, like the dial-up modem, the VHS tape, and Leonard's gym membership. However, Raj still plans to hang out with Stuart, and Leonard doesn't mind him hanging around, especially for the 20% discount they get at the comic book store. Sheldon is appalled; he won't sell his friendship so cheaply. But at 30%, he's your BFF. Oh, and since there is no

Jewish prayer for falling out of space, Howard had to settle for the prayer used for eating bread. Hopefully it's a long prayer. Even after the parachutes deployed successfully, he still had six miles of falling (and screaming) to go.

At LAX, Bernadette waited for her husband, who got a very warm reception, lots of paparazzi, and tons of people screaming "Howie!" Oh, he didn't see [name=nm0005177/] next to him. (HOWIE MANDEL: I think they're here for me, Ringo.) Howard's a little disappointed that the guys didn't show up, but Bernadette wanted him all to herself tonight. Herself and the bad cold she caught.

Sheldon's a bit disappointed he won't see Howard tonight, "because in all the years I've known him, he's never had the opportunity to receive my admiration." But they would make do with a couple's night. And the game is Pictionary. Penny suggest boys vs. girls. Despite Sheldon claiming any team who didn't have him would be at a significant disadvantage, Amy and Penny get the first one. In Sheldon's defense, Leonard yelling Batman, Batman & Robin, the Twins & the Monkey, the Wonder Twins with Batman didn't help a bit. However, drawing a picture of the four of them playing Pictionary doesn't work as well for the word "present" as a box with a bow on it.

PENNY: Oh, my God. We're going to kill them.

And she's right. What looks like an observational rebuttal of the Lambda-CDM model of the universe to Sheldon is a chocolate chip cookie to everyone else. (SHELDON: If you want to draw a chocolate chip cookie, you put a glass of milk next to it!) Then Penny had plenty of time to point to a colored fingernail for Amy to get "polish," which Sheldon protests because he thought the word was "Polish." Sheldon didn't see the small P. Sheldon keeps drawing ordinary objects like sausages which he insists are Polish sausages.

Still, they were having a much better time than Howard because Bernadette now sounded like Rush Limbaugh attempting to run a city block. She says it's allergies and she took a Benadryl. But she had every intention of having their honeymoon, although Howard would have to be on top because the Benadryl was making her dizzy. And yes, she falls asleep.

HOWARD: Well that was quick and a little gross. Now I know how she feels.

Meanwhile, back at Couple's Night...

PENNY: Sheldon, you're always full of fun little facts. Where does the expression "got your ass handed to you" come from?

Sheldon refused to believe he got his ass handed to him to appease the god Losersaurus, so Penny tells him to pick another game. "Physics Fiesta" gets rejected, although Leonard did pretty well with the first physics question Sheldon gave him in Spanish. Penny suggest darts, but Sheldon says she has an advantage, having frequented bars since she was legal age. (LEONARD: Yeah, that's when it started.) Amy's suggestion of Operation didn't fly well...mainly because she suggested using the cadavers at the UCLA Medical School. (AMY: The nose doesn't light up, but if the cadaver is fresh, you can sometimes get the leg to jerk.)

With Bernadette all knocked out, Howard went home to talk to his mother, who tells him to wait until she's decent. (HOWARD: Woman hasn't tied her robe in 20 years and suddenly she's not decent?) Suddenly a man's voice screams out about losing a sock. Turns out it wasn't what his mother was doing, it's WHO his mother was doing. Dr. Schneider decided to make a house call and exit out of the window. Except Dr. Schneider's a dentist.

Next game in the competition is Where's Waldo. Between Leonard and Amy...without glasses. Same results.

SHELDON: (mad as hell) How could you not find him!?!?

LEONARD: (equally ticked) Because he's hard to find! If he was easy to find, the books would be called THERE'S Waldo!

Now time for Sheldon and Amy to try long division...after spinning around on a bat for one minute. And apparently, Penny has more experience being dizzy than Sheldon, as she easily won. Next is wrestling, and Penny pinned Sheldon in about two seconds. And kissed his nose...and forehead...and everywhere else on him just to tick him off. Sheldon asked Amy to stop her...and she got in on the kissing, too.

Howard went to visit Raj because Bernadette was a bit under the weather and his mother was a bit under his dentist. (HOWARD: Former dentist; I need a new one now that I know where his hands have been.) Howard doesn't want to overplay being in space, but he doesn't have to. It turns out Stuart is living with Raj now and they've become best buds.

RAJ: It's like we both have these holes in our lives, but now we fill each other's holes.

Stuart says that that sounds creepy.

Raj invited Howard to join Stuart and him at a The Sound of Music sing-along, but Howard didn't feel like being a third wheel on their date. (HOWARD: At least my mother made HER boyfriend go out the window.)

Final contest? Pie-eating. Standard State Fair rules apply. Despite Sheldon's fear of running out of oxidants from all the anti-oxidants in the blueberry pies, the game was on! And then Howard shows up.

HOWARD: Hey, guys! How's it going?

ALL: (faces full of blueberry pie filling) NOT NOW!!!

If there was some consolation for Howard, the waitress at the coffee shop recognized him as an astronaut and gave him a free piece of cheesecake. Howard wanted to unload his sob story, but the waitress had her limits.

HOWARD: (breaking down) And I think it's going to be a long, long time 'til touchdown brings me 'round again to find I'm not the man they think I am at home. Oh, no, no, no. I'm a rocket man....(SNEEZE!)

The Holographic Excitation

Season 6
Episode Number: 116
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday October 25, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Buzz Aldrin (Himself), Janelle Giumarra (Claire)
Production Code: 3X7605
Summary: Raj and Stuart throw a Halloween bash at the comic book store. Howard is upset when everyone tires of his stories about life on the space station. Leonard shows Penny his laboratory and is surprised by her reaction.



Stuart was preparing the comic book store for his annual Halloween party, aka his yearly chance to meet women. "Ninth time's the charm!" Raj offered to help, claiming he had a certain je ne sais quoi for making parties, but Stuart could only afford the quoi. But since there's no party like a Koothra-party, he was in. And the first thing he could put up was an autographed picture by Howard from NASA, claiming his comic book store was "out of this world." Although he told Walgreen's their store-brand antacids put him "over the moon," so poor Stuart is getting shortchanged. In fact, Howard

hasn't been able to talk about anything but being in space since returning, so Sheldon proposes an experiment with Leonard. Leonard asks Howard where they should get dinner. "Anywhere but the space station, but hey, you don't go there for the food; you go for the view." Sheldon asks Howard his opinion on the lemon. And Howard claims the Soyuz rocket is thought of as a lemon, but it got him to the space station and back. So the experiment worked, although Sheldon's fist-bump skills didn't.

It's Ladies' Night at the Cheesecake Factory! (AMY: Does it get any better than this? PENNY: God, I hope so.) Amy's tangent into Howard wearing turtlenecks because he misses his foreskin notwithstanding, Amy and Bernadette were a bit surprised Penny didn't want to go with Leonard to the Halloween party at the comic book store. But Penny said there are a lot of guys who hang out there that are pretty creepy. (BERNADETTE: Like my husband? AMY: And my boyfriend?) They wanted Penny to go because they were going. They thought she should be like them and get interested in the things their boyfriends/husbands are interested in.

BERNADETTE: I just think in relationships you get back what you put into them.

AMY: That's not always true. Last night I gave Sheldon my best 'come hither' look and he responded by explaining how wheat came to be cultivated.

Penny admitted she could be more attentive, and Bernadette suggested taking an interest in his work. But Penny wasn't really clear on what Leonard did. And Bernadette and Amy explaining Leonard being an experimental physicist really didn't help.

Amy and Sheldon sat for tea (green with lemon zinger for Amy) and she suggested they have a couples' costume for the party. And Sheldon wholeheartedly agreed. (AMY: Really? I find that inconsistent with everything I know about you.) But Sheldon thought it was one of the best things about a relationship, especially if they went in as America's most-beloved couple: R2D2 and C-3PO. (SHELDON: Dibs on 3PO!) Yeah, that went over well. Amy was hoping for something more romantic, and Sheldon suggested Hewlett-Packard. (SHELDON: Dibs on Packard!)

Penny stops by Leonard's lab, much to his surprise, since she had never been there before. (Did she see his lab in *The Bath Gift Item Hypothesis*?) She hoped he wasn't making a robotic girlfriend and he said nobody had attempted that since Howard made the Lisatronic 3000. But that was before he met Bernadette. She asked him what he was working on, and Leonard was creating a front-projecting holographic display combined with laser based finger tracking. To demonstrate he put a pencil in the middle of a optic display and turned it on, projecting the pencil above itself, and he was able to make it move using hand gestures we probably all have to learn for Windows 8. (They sponsor the show now, and given Sheldon that's a bit of an irony.) Penny was quite fascinated, and then Leonard showed her a holographic image of the Earth (which Penny really liked), saying there was an idea in String Theory that all of us are just on a big hologram.

LEONARD: What we experience every day in three dimensions may really be just information on a surface located at the farthest reaches of our cosmos. So it's possible our lives are just acting out a painting on the largest canvas.

PENNY: (totally turned on) Sometimes I forget how smart you are.

The door is locked and the clothes come off.

LEONARD: I've never fooled around in the lab before. Well, once I had a shot with the Lisatronic 3000, but the extension cord wasn't long enough.

In the cafeteria, as Raj prepared the food list for the party (*Food That Goes Bump in the Night*), Leonard comes in doing the Walk of Pride. (What women would normally refer to as the Walk of Shame.) His hair and clothes were all messed up and he couldn't be happier. Of course, he couldn't say why this was the case.

Howard going on and on about being in space was even getting to Bernadette. She could handle "Astronaut Wolowitz reporting for booty" and "we have liftoff" but asking Bernadette to "jettison the nightgown" was the last one. She wanted him to tone down the space talk, like talking a straight hour about it at dinner. (HOWARD: What was I supposed to talk about? We were eating at Johnny Rockets!) She told him to wait for others to bring it up, and he conceded.

Now that Leonard has a very nice way of getting some from Penny, he broke out the electromagnets and demonstrated how they could hold a very heavy shotput in the air. He does that pretending he's Magneto from the X-Men movies.

PENNY: Getting a little less cool, Leonard.

LEONARD: But what I really am is a very smart scientist who understands the mechanics of the universe and is wearing the sexy black underwear you bought him.

PENNY: There we go. (grabs him)

Raj's party planning was putting Martha Stewart to shame. He even found a photo booth that looks like the Tardis from Doctor Who, which Sheldon claimed had nothing to do with Halloween and insisted that he better get it. Raj wanted to borrow Howard's whip and fedora to "dress as Indiana Jones' mocha love child: India Jones." But Howard was upset because everybody was sick of him talking about being in space. Raj denied it, Sheldon admitted to it. (SHELDON: OK, if you think being nice will get him to shut up, I'll try it.)

Sheldon and Amy's decision on the couple's costume wasn't going well. His suggestion of being Salt & Pepper didn't fly because salt makes Amy retain water and her cousin was ground to death in a pepper factory. Raggedy Ann & Andy didn't work for Sheldon because of the three things he hated: clowns, children, and raggediness. Sheldon was ready to give up.

AMY: No. There are certain things that say to the world 'I have a boyfriend and he's not made up': matching costumes, hickeys, and sex tapes. Pick one.

SHELDON: What's a hickey?

Howard and Bernadette had no trouble: they were going as Papa Smurf and Smurfette. (They won't let that one slip by on the IMDb boards.) But Howard was still upset because everybody thinks he's boring. But Bernadette insisted he go, mainly because she spent three hours coloring herself blue and if she goes alone, people will think she's a really short person from Avatar. (BERNADETTE: I'm going to be washing blue paint out of my smurf for a month!)

At the party, Leonard went as Albert Einstein, and Penny was a sexy cop. (Not a slutty cop, that just came with a skirt and two badges.) Meanwhile, Stuart, dressed as Willy Wonka, was having no luck talking to a girl no matter how friendly she was. Oh, and Raggedy Ann & Andy won out. Or should I say, Raggedy Ann and Raggedy C-3PO? (SHELDON: I should have picked hickey.) Raj is upset that Stuart was taking credit for the party, and suddenly a drunk Howard was offended since he heard about that all week and everybody was fine with it. Bernadette pulled him aside and got in his face about it, but Howard thought she should take his side because they were married. (And Simon's imitation of her high-pitched voice was hysterical, but obviously that doesn't translate into text.) He admitted it was the greatest thing he would ever do in his life, and if he stopped talking about it, "then I'm just plain old Howard Wolowitz again."

BERNADETTE: "Plain old" Howard Wolowitz is the best guy I know. I married him...on purpose!

They made up...and now the Tardis phone booth was now free for them to use after Penny and Leonard exited it. (LEONARD: Just explaining the theory of relativity. Twice.)

But Raj did come up with a way to make Howard feel better. He sent him a video of Buzz Aldrin handing out Halloween Candy.

BUZZ: Here's a Milky Way. The Milky Way is a galaxy in space. I've been in space. Here's a Mars Bar. I'm an astronaut. This one's a Moon Pie. I've walked on the moon. What have you done?

HOWARD: OK, I get it.

The Extract Obliteration

Season 6
Episode Number: 117
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday November 01, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Eric Kaplan
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Stephen Hawking (Himself (voice))
Production Code: 3X7606
Summary: Penny reveals that she is taking a class at the local community college, but insists it is no big deal. Sheldon plays an Internet game with his idol, Stephen Hawking, then frets when Hawking stops playing.



What could be more important than Howard and Raj playing Dance Party on X-Box to a Japanese version of YMCA dressed as Stormtroopers? Well, Sheldon would interrupt the end of the world to say he got a new t-shirt, so anything. Sheldon sent out an invitation to Professor Stephen Hawking to play Words With Friends and Hawking accepted. Sheldon is particularly excited that it's Words with FRIENDS, which meant he and Hawking were now friends. (SHELDON: All I need now is a bunk bed with a slide and I'll have everything I ever wanted since I was six years old!) But Raj decided he wanted

to go back to dancing...and ripped his shirt off because "it's gonna get hot in here!"

Still, a shirtless Raj has to beat Bernadette taking a shower and accidentally drying herself off with a pair of Howard's mother's underwear. ("I had to take another shower. It wasn't enough. Nothing will ever be enough.") And the only thing more shocking than Amy seeing Sheldon's underwear drawer is a collegiate history book at Penny's apartment. She decided to enroll in a class at Pasadena Community College without telling Leonard. The reasons were certainly sound: she was afraid he'd go over the top saying how proud he was of her and think it was a big deal and try to help her.

AMY: You guys have got to be the weirdest couple I know.

PENNY: (understandably pissed) Really? You can't think of anyone weirder?

AMY: (hushed) I can, but she's sitting right there.

And later, when they were having dinner and Penny told him, he went over the top saying how proud he was of her and tried to help her with her paper on slavery. But she cut him off, not even allowing him to read it. Now a normal boyfriend would let it go, particularly when said girlfriend would give him the opportunity to sleep with a college girl for the first time. But this is a sitcom and Leonard had to get up in the middle of the night to read Penny's report. To her credit, she was totally against slavery, and she figured that would get her in good with her black professor. However, he decided he had to make changes to her paper.

Sheldon was actually doing quite well against Hawking. Amy gave him a suggestion of using Hawking's entry of "act" to make "extract." Sheldon thought it was cheating, but then he realized he could use the word "extract" (the noun, not the verb) and that wouldn't be cheating. He was wiping the floor with Wheels (his nickname for Hawking, which Hawking didn't like), but then Hawking doesn't play his next word for several days. Suddenly, Sheldon was concerned. According to Howard, Hawking is a bit of a baby when it came to competition. For example, Hawking thought Johnny Depp was the star of *The Matrix* and when Howard showed him he was wrong, Howard ended up not being invited to a party Hawking threw at the university.

HOWARD: (imitating Hawking) I'm sorry, your invitation must have gotten lost in *The Matrix*.

While Sheldon tried to use the Jedi mind trick to get Hawking to play again and Howard and Raj debated how bad each other's accents were (No point in describing it, just watch it, it's hysterical), Leonard brought Penny breakfast in bed, along with a revised report on slavery. He tried to smooth it over by telling her the story about the Shoemaker and the Elves. (PENNY: Elves? Come on, Leonard. It's too early for *Lord of the Rings*.) Of course, Penny was livid about him rewriting her paper, saying he did it so he wouldn't have to be dating only a waitress. He tries to deny it but she rolls on, telling him in no uncertain terms that she would take the class on her own, passing or failing on her own merit.

PENNY: Oh, and since you like stories so much, this is not "The Shoemaker and the Elves", OK? This is "give a man a fish, he eats it; teach a man to fish, he...sells it...or something, whatever! I don't know, it's just a lot better than what you did, jerk!

After several days, Hawking finally plays a word. ("Coop and Rolling Thunder together again! He was OK with that nickname.") Now Sheldon has to play his word, but Howard reminds him he should tank the game so Hawking would win. Sheldon is all ready to do that, but then he thinks he'll be an intellectual fraud. But he doesn't want to lose his friend, but then he'll be a phony, a sellout, a Hollywood poser.

SHELDON: My mother always said 'to thine own self be true.' But then she also said every animal in the world got on one boat, so what does she know?

He sends it, and Hawking wins.

Speaking of winning, Penny knocked on Leonard's door a few days later to show him the B- she got on her report without any help from him. He was sorry, but she wasn't done rubbing it in.

PENNY: (mocking Leonard) Gee Penny, you're smarter than I thought. You may be the one in school, but I'm the one who learned a lesson. I'm so stupid, Penny. Duh.....!

SHELDON: (in hysterics) She sounded exactly like you!

And then she goes back to her apartment to thank Amy and Bernadette, who wrote the paper for her. Although she wasn't happy they only wrote it good enough to get her a B-. Bernadette argued they had to make it believable, and Penny put them in her crosshairs for saying she's not smart.

AMY: I feel like I'm in high school again.

BERNADETTE: Yeah, doing the prom queen's homework so she'll like us.

AMY: (elated) I know. It's finally working!

Oh, and if you thought Hawking was a sore loser, he's an even worse winner.

HAWKING. I really enjoyed our game, Doctor Cooper. Or should I say Doctor Loser? Do you like brain teasers? What do Sheldon Cooper and a black hole have in common? They both suck. Neener-neener.

The Habitation Configuration

Season 6
Episode Number: 118
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday November 08, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Wil Wheaton (Himself), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: LeVar Burton (Himself)
Production Code: 3X7607
Summary: Bernadette puts her foot down about Howard moving out of his mom's house. Sheldon is perplexed with the enmity between Amy and his friend Wil Wheaton and has no clue how to fix it.



It's time once again for "Sheldon Cooper Presents Fun With Flags." And today, he had a special guest: Wil Wheaton. Wil was glad to be there and was ready to talk about the Federation flag from Star Trek: The Next Generation, until Amy yells "cut!" To Amy, Wil is a bit wooden. They try again, and Amy accuses him of not having fun with it. Wil isn't liking the direction, and Sheldon agrees. But Amy persists, insisting she is the director.

AMY: This time, let's try more real boy, less Pinocchio.

WIL: (stops her) You do realize I'm doing this for free, right?

AMY: Yes, and we still aren't getting our money's worth.

They start again, and Wil seriously overacts on purpose. Amy is ticked, but Sheldon said it reminded him of a young William Shatner. (Easy joke, but still hysterical.) Wil tells Sheldon he wasn't going to continue if Amy would continue to be a huge pain in the ass, and Amy demands Sheldon defend her honor.

SHELDON: Well, you're my girlfriend, and I don't want you to be upset. But Wil's my friend and I don't want him to be upset. This is a sticky wicket. (To Wil) What do you think?

Amy pulls Sheldon aside, but first Sheldon hands Wil his Star Trek figurine and tells him to play with himself. Amy tells Sheldon to kick Wil Wheaton out, and Sheldon doesn't want to do it. Then she said she would leave, which Sheldon is ecstatic about. And skipping dinner means dinner at the Hometown Buffet with Wil!

Howard and Bernadette finish up dinner at his mother's, and he goes to get a few things to take back to her apartment. She wants to know why he hasn't moved everything to her place yet, and Howard naturally denied it. But his mother asking him if he had any clothes for the laundry and he left some stuff in the hamper kind of ruined his argument. He agreed to move the rest of his stuff to Bernadette's apartment...right after he gets his mother's hand out of the garbage disposal before she retrieves "A PERFECTLY GOOD CHICKEN LEG!"

Sheldon makes it home from a night of revelry with Wil Wheaton, or at least as much revelry you can create in a Hometown Buffet. Leonard thought Sheldon had plans with Amy, but Sheldon explained Wil called Amy a "pain in the a-s-s" and she left. And Sheldon didn't see where he went wrong, even delighting in sitting next to the frozen yogurt machine at the buffet because of Wil's status. Leonard thinks Amy might be upset, which Sheldon denies. However, one videocall to Amy confirmed Leonard was right. And Sheldon suggesting she eat a Luna bar because she might actually be hungry, not angry, didn't go over well. She told him she was his girlfriend and he didn't defend her when Wil insulted her. She hung up on him.

At The Cheesecake Factory, Howard and Bernadette were having dinner, and Howard tried to weasel his way out of moving, saying Saturday was the Sabbath and he wasn't supposed to do any labor...while eating a bacon cheeseburger. Howard said he didn't plan to live in his mother's house forever, but even Penny wasn't convinced Howard would move. (PENNY: I've seen her burp you.) Howard had enough and told them in no uncertain terms he'll move when he's ready for it. (And told Bernadette he would after Penny left.)

Sheldon had a solution for making it up to Amy: bringing her the entire Star Trek: The Next Generation DVD collection so she would know how important Wil Wheaton is. (SHELDON: Get ready for 130 hours of 'I told you so.')

She didn't make it so; she slammed the door on him. And then Sheldon decided to tell her what happened, starting with Encounter at Farpoint. At which point she grabbed the DVDs and slammed the door in his face again.

SHELDON: She's hooked.

At Howard's, Leonard and Raj are helping him pack things up. If these walls could talk... (LEONARD: They would say "why does he touch himself so much?") Howard still can't get used to moving out of the room he's always lived in. He reminisced about hiding under the desk to eat his Halloween candy. He had some Peanut M&Ms...and went into his first anaphylactic shock. Then getting home from the emergency room and celebrating with a Snickers. He caught on by the third Almond Joy. He wanted one more moment in his room.

LEONARD: We're not standing outside by the U-Haul while you fondle yourself.

And they left.

Sheldon goes to The Cheesecake Factory to ask Penny for advice on girls. (PENNY: Are you finally getting fuzz in weird places?) Sheldon usually has chamomile tea when he's had a rough day, but he needed something stronger. So Penny suggested a tea of the Long Island variety. Worked for Sheldon. Amy had told Penny what happened, and Penny said to just apologize. But Sheldon thought the bigger problem was Amy and Wil not liking each other. Penny said he couldn't force them to like each other, even though Leonard forced him to like Penny. And then Sheldon took a few lessons from Bluto on how to drink alcohol, downing that puppy in an instant. Penny said it wasn't about right and wrong; it was that Sheldon didn't defend Amy when she got insulted. She thought Sheldon would do that being from Texas.

SHELDON: Penny, please. I think I've evolved beyond my simple rustic upbringing. (feeling the booze) On the other hand, that low-down polecat done wronged my woman.

PENNY: Welcome to Long Island, Tex.

Suddenly, Sheldon thought he should have defended her, given the things Amy's done for him, like eat all the Brazil nuts out of a Planter's mix so he didn't have to look at them. (SHELDON: She's a unique blend of saint and squirrel.)

Howard proudly walks the last box into Bernadette's apartment, officially cutting the cord with his mother. (HOWARD: From now on, you'll be the only woman in my life I see naked in the bathroom.) Bernadette hopes he's OK, but Howard admitted feeling responsible for her after his dad left. He was the only person who could make her not be sad all the time. Apart from her other two favorite guys: Ben & Jerry. Finding his magic wand in one of the boxes, he tells Bernadette of how he used to do magic tricks to make his mom happy, even putting up a bedsheet to act like a stage curtain. Then he'd ask for a volunteer to come out of the audience to be his beautiful assistant.

BERNADETTE: Ah, crap! Let's go! (grabs boxes)

HOWARD: Wait, I want to sleep here. Can't we talk about this?

BERNADETTE: (sounding like Howard's mother) NO HUSBAND OF MINE IS GOING TO BREAK HIS MOTHER'S HEART!

A very drunk Sheldon goes to Wil's house (yes, his house number is 1701) to confront him. In fact, he's so drunk, he can't even remember if he knocked twice or three times. Wil accuses

him of drinking. (SHELDON: Just tea. Best tea I've ever had!) He tells Wil he insulted his woman and he came to defend her honor. (SHELDON: Two! It was two! knocks again) And Wil apologized without an argument. And Sheldon is annoyed for taking a long bus ride for nothing. Although he does ask Wil if any particular shrub in his yard could benefit from a good vomiting. But he just picks one at random.

SHELDON: You were so good in Stand by Me (goes back to vomiting)

Fortunately, for the next "Sheldon Cooper Presents Fun With Flags," there won't be a problem with Amy and Wil, because LeVar Burton was the guest, and he had some interesting flags for the show, too. But Amy once again thinks she's Michael Bay and feels the need to criticize him. But Sheldon had it covered this time: Levar would still get gas money and a nice lunch.

The 43 Peculiarity

Season 6
Episode Number: 119
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 15, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Dave Goetsch, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Margo Harshman (Alex), Ryan Cartwright (Cole)
Production Code: 3X7608
Summary: Leonard is surprised to learn about Penny's study partner at school, and Howard and Raj are determined to find out about one of Sheldon's secrets.



Sheldon's quite the little doodle-bug today, according to Howard. Sheldon was actually drawing on a napkin a mock-up of a containment system for a frisbee-sized hole that could serve as a portal to parallel universes. Leonard warned him many scientists believe opening the door to parallel universes would be bad for our world, but that's why Sheldon made it that size. You can just block it with a frisbee. Sheldon takes off, offering the drawing to Howard. To build something?

SHELDON: No, I expect you to wipe the pudding off your chin.

Howard checked Sheldon's public calendar and noticed he never has anything booked between 2:45 and 3:05. It wasn't to go to the bathroom, which Sheldon does at 8AM, with checkups at 1:45 and 7PM on High-Fiber Fridays. Raj is excited, because it was just like one of his murder mystery nights. (LEONARD: Or "who murdered three of my Saturday nights.")

Penny and Leonard discussed their respective days at her apartment, and she got a text from a guy at school. And immediately Leonard tried to confirm they were still dating. Which they were. She said the guy was just a friend who was doing an oral report with her for their class. (LEONARD: Sorry, what was that? I had a little stroke after you said 'oral'.) He had just moved from London, and Leonard was already dreading him having the sexiest accent imaginable. Which Penny denied...for about three seconds before giving up and agreeing. Leonard asked her to text she was hanging out with her boyfriend, which she did under protest. And her British classmate, Cole, immediately concluded her boyfriend made her type that. Penny promised she would find a new partner, even though it would be impossible at this late stage and she would fail the class as a result. (LEONARD: That'd be great. Thanks.)

Howard and Raj try to confront Sheldon in the hallway at 2:44, inviting him to pet the glow-in-the-dark bunny in the genetics lab. (RAJ: They turn off the out and it's like a cute little laser light show that poops all over the place.) Sheldon takes off without telling them, and Sheldon's assistant, Alex, doesn't know either, other than she has to buy new pants because corduroy makes too much noise.

RAJ: (after she leaves) What I wouldn't give to get her out of those pants...and into something a little more stylish.

Of course, they can't leave it at that, so they follow him to a locked storage room in the basement. He couldn't be doing 20-minute abs because he'd have way better abs, according to Raj.

RAJ: Maybe he has Leonard Nimoy chained up in there. Bill Gates or Stephen Hawking.

HOWARD: Why would he chain up Stephen Hawking?

RAJ: You can't treat him differently just because he's disabled! That's not OK!

At the apartment, Leonard was doing his best jealous Ross from Friends imitation by staring through the peephole at Penny's door, where she was working on her project. And told Sheldon what he was doing, even though Sheldon didn't realize Leonard was in the room. Leonard finally figures out he's being silly and has nothing to worry about.

SHELDON: Oh, I don't know. If your looks are average, then 50% of guys are more handsome than you. (That probably should be 'median', not 'average', but whatever.) That's 1.5 billion guys waiting to rain on your parade.

Leonard admits not being the most handsome...or athletic, or tall, or able to digest dairy products. (Well, Sheldon admitted it for him.) Emotional maturity? (SHELDON: You were just spying on your girlfriend through a peephole.) But Leonard is convinced he trusts Penny and has nothing to worry about.

SHELDON: Unless he's a skilled hypnotist. She might be performing sexual acts with him and not even know it. The mind's a mysterious thing. He could be having the time of his life while she thinks she's a chicken pecking for corn.

(Yes, the live audience went there.)

Howard and Raj return to the locked storage closet in the middle of the night, and once they settle whether they were ninjas or cat burglars (ninjas tonight, cat burglars next time), Howard got out his lockpick set from when he used to be a magician, thinking he could be popular as an escape artist. (HOWARD: I escaped friends, popularity, and every party thrown within a 12-mile radius.) Raj worries there might be Sheldon-laid booby traps, but Howard had that figured out. He pushed Raj in first. But all they found was the number 43 written on a chalkboard. Raj theorizes since 43 is a prime number and prime numbers are used for encryption, he thinks it's code for Sheldon's secret for making his egg salad so tasty. But Howard already knew it was paprika.

Leonard, still looking through the peephole, watches Cole head down the stairs and follows him. He introduces himself (trying to sound all street) and asks if Cole knew the cute blonde on the fourth floor. He tells him he tries to keep his distance because "her boyfriend is a scary dude." Which confuses Cole, given Penny told him her boyfriend was a scientist. But that was the gang name, according to Leonard. (LEONARD: They are ka-razy!) Cole leaves...and Penny was right behind Leonard. No, she was not happy at all.

LEONARD: We're still dating, right?

At the cafeteria, Leonard runs into Alex, although he wanted her to call him Leonard instead of Dr. Hofstadter. Just like his father...and his mother...and his sister...and his cat. (Dr. Boots Hofstadter's degree is honorary.) Leonard tells her about his girlfriend's study partner with an English accent, and Alex swoons over an English accent. (LEONARD: Yeah, you all do.) Leonard thinks Cole is hitting on Penny, but Alex thinks it's just harmless. After all, she's certain Leonard gets hit on all the time.

LEONARD: (disbelief) Right. Because girls are always like, "ooh, that guy owns two Star Trek uniforms and gets a lot of ear infections. I got to get me some of that!"

But Alex is certain, because she thinks Leonard is cute and funny, and maybe he's getting hit on without him knowing it. Like right now.

LEONARD: (bursts out laughing) I gotta get back to work, thanks for listening. Hope no girls rip my clothes off on the way!

Howard and Raj still haven't figured out what 43 means, although it's the neck size of Howard's mother and the element number for technetium. Which is radioactive, but Sheldon took two years to build his Lego Death Star, so building a bomb isn't likely. It's also not the answer to life, the universe, and everything. (That's 42) They're ready to give up and go home...but they can't. They plant a secret HD camera in the storage room. If it's good enough for the Mars Rover and is guarded by a cheap lock... Sheldon enters the storage room and opens an unknown box.

He records that it's the 44th wormhole generator test. Sheldon turns on the box...AND A WORM-HOLE OPENS UP! He's checked 43 universes already and found them empty. Sheldon sticks his head in the hole for #44...AND IS EATEN BY AN ALIEN LIFEFORM!!! Howard and Raj go insane with fear...and the alien lands on their computer. Thrown there by Sheldon. He found the camera and changed the feed. Sheldon was understandably upset.

SHELDON: You may not realize it, but I have difficulty navigating certain aspects of daily life. Understanding sarcasm, feigning interest in others, not talking about trains as much as I want to. It's exhausting! Which is why, for 20 minutes a day, I like to go down to that room, turn my mind off, and do what I need to do to recharge.

He wouldn't tell them what the 43 meant.

Penny and Leonard see each other in the hall, and she was still mad because he didn't trust her. She demanded to know why he embarrassed her in front of Cole like that when he knew exactly who Leonard was, given there was a picture of Leonard on her refrigerator.

LEONARD: It's hard sometimes. Everywhere you go, guys are hitting on you, even if I'm standing right there. And they're all taller than me. Why is everyone taller than me? (pauses) You know what, this is all in my head. It's my problem, not yours.

PENNY: Leonard, why do you always do this? Listen to me. You are the one I'm with. You know I love you, so will you please relax? Because you're driving me crazy!

(long pause)

LEONARD: You know, that's the first time you've ever said you love me.

PENNY: (completely scared) Yeah...

LEONARD: (equally scared) Am I...supposed to pretend it's not a big deal?

PENNY: (starting to lose it) That's...exactly what we're going to do...because...you're about to make me cry and we both know if I start crying then you're gonna start crying.

LEONARD: (starting to cry) You're right, we better go!

Leonard makes it back to his apartment, still in shock at Penny saying she loved him. He gets a text from Alex saying she enjoyed their talk earlier and she was available anytime he wanted to talk. With a couple of smiley faces.

LEONARD: (oblivious to the point where you want to strangle him) What a friendly girl.

BTW, the 43? Sheldon playing with a hackey sack. Try as he might, he couldn't reach 43 again.

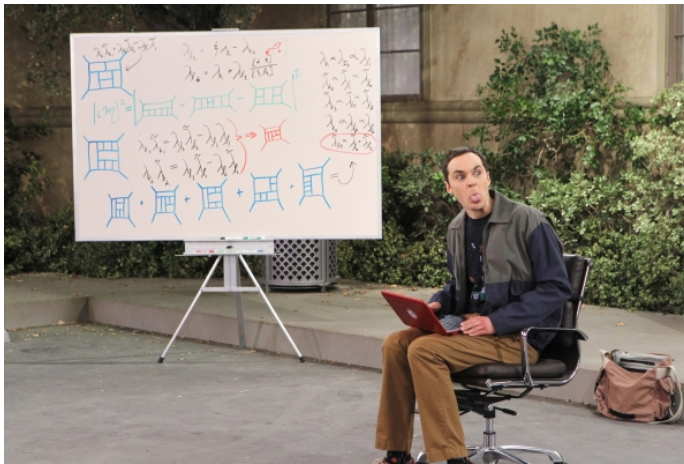
The Parking Spot Escalation

Season 6

Episode Number: 120

Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 29, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Adam Faberman, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Peter Chakos
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: William Stanford Davis (Dry Cleaner)
Production Code: 3X7609
Summary: The University decides to reassign Sheldon's unused parking space to the newly popular Howard, a move that Sheldon feels is a slap in the face to his importance. This starts a feud between the two friends that spills over to their ladies, and Penny pays the price.



Here's an easy way to get a cookie: explain to Raj the difference between a mummy and a zombie. He thinks there is no difference, but Sheldon earned his dessert by explaining getting bitten by a zombie makes you a zombie, but getting bitten by a mummy just makes you some schmo with a mummy bite. (SHELDON: So like a zombie who has been eaten from the waist down, you don't have a leg to stand on.) Howard got his new car and still likes the new car smell, as long as he keeps his mother out of it. (The car is a Mini; how the hell would his mother get in it?) The university even gave him a nice

parking spot: Sheldon's. Naturally, Sheldon is highly offended, and the fact he doesn't own a car or know even how to drive doesn't get in his way. He loves the spot because it's only 28 steps from the entrance, is a corner spot so he doesn't have to worry about getting his pretend car dinged, and it gets shade from a tree that also contains a very nice squirrel. (Most squirrels are jerks.) Sheldon demands Howard move his car, who naturally refuses. And that gives Sheldon no choice but to move it himself. And apparently he doesn't master physics because he can't move the car.

Sheldon's appeal to President Siebert fell on deaf ears, mainly because Sheldon kept calling him after he wouldn't answer the door at home. Sheldon whined that Siebert thought Howard was a high-profile asset to the university, and Leonard pointing out Howard went to the International Space Station didn't change his mind. (SHELDON: That was five weeks ago. How much longer is he going to milk that cow?) Not getting any support from the reality-based Leonard, Sheldon decides to try another tact: stealing Howard's Iron Man helmet. Sheldon wanted it and Howard wasn't using it, and those were the rules. (SHELDON: Payback. It certainly is the b- word, isn't it.) Howard demanded it back, but Sheldon put it on because he was using it. Howard then took Sheldon's diploma off the wall. Which was fine with Sheldon, since it'd be the only doctorate Howard would ever get.

Penny, Amy, and Bernadette returned to Penny's apartment. Amy is showing some signs of progress. She got a bikini wax. (Yes, she was walking funny.) It took a while because they had to go out for more wax. But she felt five pounds lighter. (BERNADETTE: Really? Only five?) Bernadette and Amy both had to deal with their significant others whining about the parking spot argument, although Amy didn't hear much because of "that stupid robot mask." But Amy was proud to see the two alpha males locking horns. (PENNY: I gather these were some sort of horns they got at Comic Con?) Bernadette thought Sheldon shouldn't lose his spot because Howard was a big deal, and Amy thought Sheldon should just have his little moment in the sun. And now the fight was beginning to spread.

AMY: Well, Howard will never go to space again, but Sheldon will always be a genius.

BERNADETTE: You're right. And I'm sure Sheldon will get a fancy parking spot again if and when he makes a worthwhile contribution to science.

Penny can smell the passive-aggressive banter beginning to escalate and tries to change the subject but to no avail. Bernadette argued none of Sheldon's theories have ever been proven and Amy thought Howard was an inspiration to the millions of Americans who hoped you didn't need to be special or even qualified to go into space.

BERNADETTE: I'm sensing a little hostility here. Is that because, like Sheldon's work, your sex life is also theoretical?

AMY: Well, at least when we make love, Sheldon won't be thinking about his MOTHER. And yes, that is a cleverly-veiled reference to Howard's lifelong obsession to crawl back into his mother's spacious womb!

And Penny thought getting a bikini wax from her sister with melted Crayola crayons and duct tape was painful. Bernadette marches out and goes to have sex with Howard in the parking spot. (BERNADETTE: Which sounds dirty but I didn't mean it that way!)

Actually, Bernadette didn't have to go far. Sheldon, Raj, and Leonard get back to the apartment to discover Howard in Sheldon's spot with nothing but a laptop and a smile. Sheldon demanded he give back his spot, which Howard would as soon as he gets back his Iron Man helmet, which...you get the idea.

HOWARD: Actually, I thought you'd be more upset that your laptop is sitting on my junk.

RAJ: I didn't pick up on that. That's a nice touch.

A little overnight visit to the university for Sheldon and Amy, who enjoys the tingle of excitement from Sheldon spray-painting his name over Howard's on the parking spot. (AMY: Although that could be my newly defoliated bikini zone.) Sheldon has Amy put her car in the spot, but first she wants Sheldon to get into the car so she could show him what she had done that day.

AMY: What do you think?

SHELDON: I think you're high on paint fumes. Boy, that's a lot of Band-aids.

At Bernadette's, Penny and she look over her wedding pictures, all of which feature Howard's mother. Amy drops by and already thinks Penny is on Team Bernadette for even being there. Amy's car got towed and she wants \$200 from Howard. But Bernadette thinks that's not likely. SHE had the car towed. (AMY: Didn't see that one coming, did you?) So Amy didn't think Bernadette would see Amy's purse coming at her. But she was wrong twice. Bernadette did, and Penny didn't. And Amy apparently had a coffee can in her purse of change she had been meaning to take to the bank.

PENNY: Get away from me, or I swear to God, I will rip out what's left of your pubes!

Amy apologized for both her and Bernadette, which kept the fight going! Penny begged to go to the emergency room, and Amy offered to drive, just so Bernadette could see where the tow truck scratched her car.

BERNADETTE: The tow truck didn't scratch your car.

AMY: How do you know?

BERNADETTE: Because I did it!

Sheldon came up with a new tactic. Since Howard accused him of never using his parking space, he took his work outside and started using the space. Howard told him to move, and Sheldon refused. Although Sheldon may have been better off not sitting in a chair with casters on it, as Howard just pushed him with his car. Leonard comes out and wants both of them to stop acting like idiots over a mere parking spot. Howard thinks it's more about Sheldon not handling the fact Howard was a bigger deal at the university now. But Leonard thinks Howard's being as

big of a jerk as Sheldon. Although Leonard may want to rethink that as Sheldon decided to break in Howard's new car wearing only a smile.

SHELDON: You know what they say: revenge is a dish that is best served nude.

Finally Raj gets involved and visits Sheldon, bringing Howard with him. Sheldon's throwing star aside, Raj brought Howard to apologize for what happened. Howard gave him his spot back.

SHELDON: Well, Howard. Thank you. That was quite a gesture on your part. You've shown yourself to be the bigger man. Which I find totally unacceptable.

Sheldon wasn't going to let Howard get away with that, so he gives the spot back to him. Howard thanks him and admits he's the bigger man. Sheldon gives him back his Iron Man helmet. And the two couples go to the Cheesecake Factory to celebrate. Amy and Bernadette thought it brought them closer.

PENNY: (sporting a broken nose and steam coming out of her ears) Yeah, everybody's happy. Great!

Although Sheldon wasn't sure how he could go to the cleaners and get them to fix a couch cushion that was the victim of a "nude revenge wiggle." Tuesday was fine for Sheldon. And he could offer the manager a laptop with 16 GB of RAM and an Intel Core i7 Processor, and "has spent less than 20 minutes resting on an astronaut's penis."

The Fish Guts Displacement

Season 6
Episode Number: 121
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday December 6, 2012
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Casey Sander (Mr. Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Meagen Fay (Mrs. Rostenkowski)
Production Code: 3X7610
Summary: Howard and Bernadette have a tense dinner with both of her parents. The subject of Mr. Rostenkowski's weekend fishing trip comes up and Howard is hooked into going with him. The guys visit Penny to learn all about fishing since she used to go with her dad. Sheldon shows up at Amy's apartment to find his girlfriend sick. After initially rejecting her request, Sheldon stays to take care of Amy the way his mother took care of him, sometimes a bit intimately.



Sheldon is puzzled about his third-favorite cartoon theme song: Spider-Man, which is behind Inspector Gadget and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. After all, there were plenty of things that spiders could do that Spider-Man couldn't, like crawl into someone's ear and die, leave Guatemala without a passport, and have sex with a spider. That really killed the mood, which was OK with Howard, since he had to go out to dinner with Bernadette's dad. Obviously bonding would be difficult with his father as

it is. But a desperate Howard trying Sheldon's idea of the Spider-Man theme song was a disaster from the start. Howard was thinking the chicken didn't need to be fully cooked for him to try it out, particularly when he asks Mrs. Rostenkowski how her trip to the Grand Canyon was and she only said "it was good."

Sheldon heads over to Amy's apartment to attend a funeral for one of her colleagues, but she had a bad case of the flu. He leaves, but Amy reminds him the Relationship Agreement clearly said when one person is sick, the other would take care of them. Sheldon pointed out that it was only in there to get Amy to take care of him when he's sick. But he relented because she was right and he cares about her well being.

SHELDON: Now let's get this over with.

102.2 is definitely a fever and hadn't gone down in the half-hour since Sheldon last took Amy's temperature. (SHELDON: It's like you're not even trying to get better.) Amy wasn't much for Sheldon's bedside manner, but Sheldon had an idea. Since Amy believed the Placebo Effect was valid, Sheldon gave her a Tic Tac and "claimed" it was a powerful medication that could cure her illness and freshen her breath. Amy wants him to go, but Sheldon insisted on taking care of

her, and he still had to apply a cold cloth to her head, sing to her, and apply Vap-o-Rub to her chest.

AMY: (perking up at that last one) You...you want to rub something on my chest?

SHELDON: (oblivious) Yes. All over it!

Amy figured she'd forego the cloth and the singing.

SHELDON: Now, you may notice some tingling.

AMY: (horny as hell) Oh, I'm counting on it!

Howard, Bernadette, and her parents settle down for dinner, and Howard was surprisingly subtle when it came to Mr. Rostenkowski saying Grace. Bernadette asks her father about fishing and he perked up slightly. Not Amy-slightly, mind you, but Bernadette was trying to help Howard by suggesting the two of them go fishing. Mr. Rostenkowski didn't sound too thrilled about it, either, but one stare from the Mrs. and he was on-board with it. Howard tries to get out of it by saying Bernadette and he have "a thing" going on next week, but Bernadette "cancelled it."

Howard talks to Raj and Leonard for advice. Raj figured he just had to practice, like all of the practice Beef Wellingtons he made before inviting them over. They needed someone who has done many things in their life. Yes, Penny knows all about fishing.

STEP 1: Worms (BTW, "Ewww..." is not one of the things you want to say in front of your father-in-law. Same with "icky" and "get it away!")

Penny tells Howard to pick a worm up and put it on a hook. He only drapes it over the worm. So Sherm the Worm will have to be impaled by the hook. Raj and Leonard encouraged him.

PENNY: That's great. Cheerleading. Way to man things up.

Amy was feeling a bit better after Sheldon told her a bedtime story. About genetics. But Amy is ready to have her chest rubbed again, but Sheldon was trying to get her to bed and the Vap-o-Rub seemed to get her all fired up. Bernadette stopped by to see how the poor thing was doing. (SHELDON: I'm hanging in there. Thanks for asking.) Bernadette brought some drugs her company was working on (might be a few side effects) while Sheldon drew her a nerve-wracking bath of indeterminate temperature because Amy didn't have a bath thermometer. But it turns out Amy had been fine for two days, using rubber cement to make her look like she had a runny nose. But she was enjoying Sheldon taking care of her so much, she didn't want it to stop.

BERNADETTE: I don't mean to be judgey, but this is the kind of thing lunatics do.

Amy agreed and was ready to tell Sheldon.

SHELDON: Amy, would you be strong enough to bathe yourself or do you need my help?

AMY: (to Bernadette) I'll tell him tomorrow. Momma needs a bath.

STEP 2: Gutting the fish. Penny demonstrates you have to cut along the belly of the fish, which resulted in a near-vomit for Howard. Then she warned not to cut too deeply or the blood would squirt all over your face, which resulted in a near-vomit for Howard, Leonard, and Raj. Penny couldn't believe the guys could be such wimps, but Leonard said the only father-son time his dad did was with a 2,000 year old skeleton of an Etruscan boy, Raj got bored at his dad's gynecology office to the point where he put vaginal lubricant on his shoes and pretended he was ice skating, and Howard kept looking out the window waiting for his dad to return. (RAJ: Yeah, OK. Howard wins.) But now, as Leonard pointed out, he had a father willing to go fishing with him, so he decided to man up and gut the fish. Now it was time to stick his thumb down the fish's throat and pull out the guts. And he succeeded.

PENNY: Oh, look! It's a female! You can see all of the eggs. (Yup, the guys reacted just like you think they did.)

Amy was practically giddy. She was Walking on Sunshine, in fact. Seriously, she was playing Katrina and the Waves in her apartment. But the second she heard the door, she was back on the couch and under the covers. Amy thinks she needs another bath. But it turns out, Sheldon took a swab of her cheek while she was sleeping and had it cultured in the lab.

SHELDON: Have you developed any of the following symptoms? A growing nose? Or perhaps a warm sensation in the trouser region? Otherwise known as full-blown LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE!

Amy apologized and admitted even though she was sick at first, it felt so good for Sheldon to take care of her, she didn't want it to stop. Sheldon was offended. (SHELDON: I thought our relationship was based on trust and a mutual admiration that skews in my favor.) But Sheldon thought some sort of punishment was in order so it would never happen again. But using a stockade in the public square probably required a permit.

AMY: I could be not invited to see the next Star Trek movie.

SHELDON: That seems a bit harsh. You gave in to a human weakness. You didn't kill a man.

Sheldon thought it was a tad old school, but his father was not one to spare the rod when his brother snuck into his dad's truck and drank his driving whiskey.

AMY: (very interested) Are you saying you want to spank me?

SHELDON: It's not like I want to, but you've left me no choice!

AMY: That's true. I've been a bad girl.

Howard goes to meet up with Mr. Rostenkowski, but his fishing outfit left a lot to be desired. But it turns out Howard should have bought hunting gear, since Mr. Rostenkowski wanted to go shoot some ducks early. ("I have some big shells. Can't eat 'em afterwards, but it's fun watching 'em blow up.") Howard confesses he really wanted to bond with him but he didn't really want to shoot ducks. Plus his fishing vest wasn't returnable if it had duck all over it. Mr. Rostenkowski asked why he agreed to go on the trip in the first place, and Howard admitted Bernadette made him go. Well, Mrs. Rostenkowski made him go, so they were even.

HOWARD: Your wife makes you do things? You're a big scary cop!

MR. ROSTENKOWSKI: You're an astronaut and your wife makes you do things. And she's only four feet tall.

And the two bond over their mutual fear of their wives. But they still had to go away for the weekend. Fortunately, there was a Indian Casino near Palm Springs they could go for the weekend. Howard was a decent enough dice player thanks to his time in temple, so Mike (Howard could call him that now) would teach him.

HOWARD: Wow, we've got a couple of ball-busting wives, huh?

MIKE: That's my wife and daughter you're talking about.

HOWARD: (quickly reversing course) They're great gals.

MIKE: I wouldn't go that far.

Oh, as for Amy's punishment? Some R&B would do the trick...so the neighbors wouldn't hear. Yeah, that's it.

SHELDON: You're not supposed to be enjoying this.

AMY: Well, then maybe you should spank me harder.

SHELDON: Well, maybe I will! (thwap!)

The Santa Simulation

Season 6

Episode Number: 122

Season Episode: 11

Originally aired:	Thursday December 13, 2012
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role:	Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Dakin Matthews (Santa)
Production Code:	3X7611
Summary:	Guys plan to play Dungeons and Dragons, but girls are not invited, which causes arguments among them and the girls. After playing for some time at the apartment, the girls show up dressed sexily for a girls' night out and Raj goes with them to the nightclub. After striking out with a woman at the bar, Amy and Raj get to know each other better.



Saturday night is Dungeons & Dragons night, much to the delight of the guys and the chagrin of the girls. Actually, Amy was kind of on-board with it until Sheldon told her she wasn't invited. Penny couldn't believe Leonard was whining about not getting to play D&D anymore.

PENNY: (sarcasm) Oh, you poor thing. Is having a real-life girlfriend who has sex with you getting in the way of your board games?

LEONARD: (in desperate need of his "sarcasm!" sign) A little bit, yeah.

Not only was Bernadette upset that Howard was ruining their lone free night of the week, Howard copped out by saying the guys would blame her if he blew it off. And Raj has to break a dinner date and a chance to go see the Christmas lights. But Stuart was more geeked about a D&D night anyway, so he got off pretty easily.

As Dungeon Master, Leonard had a surprise for everyone. The D&D quest he created included in a village of massacred elves, (SHELDON: I like where this is heading), rescuing their leader from a dungeon of ogres (SHELDON: What a saucy twist.), who just happened to be Santa Claus.

SHELDON: Oh, no, no, no!

LEONARD: Actually, it's 'ho, ho, ho, ho' but you'll get the hang of it.

Raj was excited about the game. ("Oh, man! The first monster I see, I'm going to sneak up behind him, whip out my wand, and shoot my magic all over his ass!") And no, Stuart, Raj doesn't think before he says things like that. Nor does he like to follow plans, charging in to rescue Santa. He hits a tripwire and gets blasted out of the game by a cannon. (SHELDON: Lucky!) No rods of resurrection, either. ("Get in here with your rod and give it to me!")

The ladies won't take being stood up lying down, although the dresses they wore could mean they'd be lying down next to someone that night. Bernadette sported leather pumps and a red

wrap dress (rawr!) from Forever 21 (clearly adhering to the 'ladies' night out' motif), while Amy was showing a lot of ankle with a dress she clearly got from Forever 63, while Penny had on her little black dress...emphasis on little. ("It got me out of 2 speeding tickets and jury duty.") And none of the guys cared. (SHELDON: I know they're making a rhetorical point, but I don't know what it is.) Except for Raj, who begged and pleaded to join them on ladies' night. Penny decided he could.

RAJ: (crazy excited) Girls Night! Girls night! Woot woot!

STUART: Seriously, how does he not hear that?

At the bar, Raj was feeling quite generous and paid for champagne for the group, which Penny really appreciated. Anything to avoid the Pabst. It was time to get Raj a girl. But a one-night stand or a relationship? (AMY: Let's get him laid!) Raj was gun-shy but some Trent-like encouragement from the ladies convinced him to let them help. Provided the girl they got for him was at least a 9 or a 10. But he'd take an 8 if she had another 8 willing to join them in the hottub.

BERNADETTE: (seeing through his BS) Bottom line, you'll take any woman who will have you?

RAJ: In a New Delhi minute.

Back at the apartment, while Stuart lamented Leonard buying his figurines online instead of at Stuart's store. Howard finds a large treasure chest, and Howard decides to bury his head in the chest and motorboat it. (If you don't know what that means, you really shouldn't watch this show. And definitely don't watch 2 Broke Girls.) Suddenly, the door to the room shuts and the walls start closing in! The only clue was "if squashed to death you wish not to be, sing Svaty Vaclav and his victory!" But Sheldon knew what to do. Svaty Vaclav was better known as Good King Wenceslas! (HOWARD: I never heard of that. It must be the only Christmas song not written by a Jewish guy.) He sings their way out of trouble (and the cheers from the audience are louder for that than the slinky dresses the ladies were wearing, so we know where the audience's priorities are). Sheldon remembered that from Mee-Maw and Pop-Pop singing Christmas carols in front of the fire while he tried to build an energy particle accelerator out of his Legos. But there were four more verses to sing.

It turns out the ladies are really good matchmakers, given the girl Raj was talking to was just dumped by her boyfriend, was angry, was drunk, and her favorite movie was Slumdog Millionaire. (AMY: That is some low-hanging fruit.) And Raj was successful, even getting her email address: jennifer@not-if-you-were-the-last-guy-on-earth.loser. (I swear I registered that domain in 2003.) Raj was despondent, once again being attracted to women who were way out of his league. He even admitted to that about Penny and Bernadette. Which was actually news to Amy. He explained what happened with Penny and how he misinterpreted them getting drunk, naked, and into bed. And this was getting awkward.

AMY: (in desperate need of a bone) So at, uh, some point, you probably had a thing for me, too?

RAJ: (not in a throwing mood) No, not really.

PENNY: (damage control) Come on, Raj. Not even a little bit?

RAJ: Not that I can think of.

BERNADETTE: (eyes shooting laser beams) Think harder.

RAJ: (dude...) Nope. I guess the heart wants what the heart wants. Or in this case, doesn't want.

Well, at least Stuart was enjoying himself. Since his doctor changed his anxiety med prescription, anyway. Well, Sheldon singing every last verse of Good King Wenceslas and chiding Leonard for not making melted snowmen descriptive enough can be a bit of a buzzkill. But clearly Sheldon was getting into the Christmas spirit, no matter how much he tried to deny it. After all, he even had an eggnog mustache. (SHELDON: Christmas is a bunch of baloney started by the tinsel industry.) But Leonard had enough bad Christmases as a kid and didn't like Sheldon sucking the fun out of them now.

LEONARD: Instead of leaving Santa cookies and milk, we had to leave him a research paper. And we knew he had been there because in the morning, the papers would be graded.

SHELDON: No wonder you love Christmas. That sounds amazing!

LEONARD: I got a C-minus four years in a row.

SHELDON: I've seen your work. That C-minus was your gift.

Raj finally figured out where he went wrong and apologized to Amy, but she was all too familiar with this. She didn't have her first kiss until she was 22, and that was because she wouldn't give the insulin back to the guy. But Raj had it bad, too. When a Spin-The-Bottle landed on Alina Shankar, she threatened to break the bottle and cut Raj with it.

AMY: You think that's bad? I once passed out drunk at a frat party and ended up with more clothes on.

Raj admits it's nice to talk to someone who knows what it's like to be alone. But Raj pointed out Amy had Sheldon now. Which Amy appreciated, and she knew Raj would find someone soon.

RAJ: I can only hope she's as half as lovely and amazing as you are.

AMY: Thank you Rajesh. (to Penny and Bernadette) He wants me! I'm good. We can go home now.

Of course, now that Raj knows Amy likes him, he's kind of into her.

Back at the D&D game, Sheldon cracked the code to lower the drawbridge. Just have to play Jingle Bells on the bells. But it worked and they found a beaten and bloodied Santa chained to the wall. But Sheldon throws a paralyzing spell at Howard and Stuart because he has a bone to pick with the big guy. Apparently, when Sheldon was 5, his mother took him to a shopping mall in Galveston to sit on Santa's lap. Sheldon asked Santa to bring Pop-Pop back, who had died earlier that year. (LEONARD: This is weird, right?) Pop-Pop was the only one who encouraged Sheldon to pursue science (when he was 5?) but the Lincoln Logs he got from Santa really didn't build a decent Pop-Pop. And now Santa wants a favor from him.

SHELDON: Well, sorry, Mr. Kringle, but today's not your day. I take the skeleton key, toss it into the chasm, and on the way out, I give Santa a swift kick in his bowl full of jelly!

LEONARD: (serious helping of perspective) OK, so Wolowitz and Stuart are paralyzed, Santa's dead, and I picked this over having sex with my girlfriend.

But it's not over. Sheldon woke up in the middle of the night to find Santa putting gifts under the tree. Santa apologized for disappointing him as a boy. He could do a lot of magical things, but bringing back Pop-Pop wasn't one of them. He did, however, have something special for him.

SANTA: (aiming a large cannon at Sheldon) This is for leaving me in the dungeon to be eaten alive by ogres! Ho, ho, ho, you big dork!

The Egg Salad Equivalency

Season 6
Episode Number: 123
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 03, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Regina King (Mrs. Davis), Margo Harshman (Alex)
Production Code: 3X7612
Summary: Sheldon gets all the guys before the Human Resources Department when he tries to talk to Alex about her advances to Leonard. Alex's actions also make Penny feel insecure.



Things are back to semi-normal at the university. Relative to the guys, anyway. Alex still has a crush on Leonard and actually decided to do something about it. She comes to the apartment, inviting him to a lecture and dinner, and you couldn't get the smile off of Leonard's face with a sledgehammer. (BTW, that lifesize Jenga game looks so cool.)

While Raj laments the fact that there are no cereal mascots that are female, Sheldon finds out his assistant was hitting on Leonard. Never mind the fact Leonard liked it; she was supposed to devote all of her time to him and not get

these "female urges". (this comes up later, trust me) Not knowing what to do, Sheldon gathers Penny, Amy, and Bernadette for tea and counseling. He even made up t-shirts for them: Sheldon Cooper's Council of Ladies. He refuses to use actual names, but he points out a certain woman's boyfriend (Ricardo Shilly Shally) is being hit on by a person (Tandalaya Dinginhamvilat) who works for a brilliant physicist (Dr Einstein Von Brainstorm). How does he get her to stop doing that and concentrating on his (Dr Einstein Von Brainstorm's) needs? Apparently, talking to Alex wasn't enough for Sheldon and he rescinds the t-shirts.

Alex finds an appointment in her calendar to get a "talking to" by Sheldon. She sits down and listens to Sheldon talk about how she made inappropriate sexual advances towards Leonard. (which obviously she didn't) But Sheldon said it wasn't her fault; she was just giving into her urges to reproduce like all women have. In fact, Sheldon compared it to an egg salad sandwich on a hot Texas day (according to his father). It's full of eggs and not all that desirable after a while. And if she ever became a slave to her urges again, she should take Sheldon's book showing pictures of sexually-transmitted diseases.

As you might suspect, Alex did NOT like anything Sheldon had to say and filed a complaint with the university. Of course, Leonard ended up as a semi-innocent victim in this, since Penny was upset he liked the fact Alex hit on him. Sheldon received a call from Human Resources to have a meeting with Mrs. Davis, to discuss Alex's complaint. Naturally, Sheldon doesn't know

what he's being accused of, but for the record, Mrs. Davis told him he couldn't say 'egg salad' or reproduction to Alex anymore. But Sheldon protested he said Alex wasn't to blame. She was a slave, just like Mrs. Davis was. Obviously not a good idea, and Mrs. Davis lets him have both barrels. But Sheldon, continuing to be oblivious wonders how he can be in trouble when Leonard blabs about being sexually desirable to anyone who will listen, Howard spent university funds to build a robot with six breasts, and a drunk Raj once referred to Mrs. Davis herself as "brown sugar." (SHELDON: Oh, and for the record, that's not meant to be racist. It's not, because he's also brown.)

Now all of the guys are waiting outside of Mrs. Davis' office. Raj and Leonard are confused, but Howard is an old pro at this. (HOWARD: Hi, Jeanine. How are Tom and the kids?) Leonard didn't quite know why he was there, and Raj took the advice of a bartender in how to talk to Mrs. Davis while trying to make it look like he was drinking coffee. (No, it didn't work.) And Raj accusing Leonard of letting Alex "sniff around his goods" wasn't making their case to Mrs. Davis, either. If that wasn't bad enough, Sheldon comes to lodge a complaint about someone using bad sexual language in front of him.

MRS. DAVIS: Who would that be?

SHELDON: You, you dirty birdy! I've been thinking about all the things you said to me yesterday, and I've come to the conclusion that they've made me very uncomfortable. So, be a dear and grab me one of those complaint forms.

Mrs. Davis, you might suspect, has had enough and orders all four of them into the office. And just when you thought Sheldon was done...

SHELDON: You taught me that I shouldn't asking if you're on your menstrual cycle. Judging by how you're acting, I don't need to.

To Sheldon's credit, he did acknowledge to Alex he may have said things he wasn't supposed to and apologized for it. He even had to take an online course concerning the matter.

SHELDON: My time is far too valuable to be spent doing something like this, so I'm going to have to ask you to complete this for me. I'd get on that and do a good job, they're pretty mad.

Leonard apologized to Penny for liking Alex hitting on him too much and was surprised Penny was so insecure about it. (LEONARD: Without that then I have nothing to bring into this relationship.) But Penny had a solution for trying to listen to Leonard and then looking up everything he said in a dictionary. She bought a pair of nerdy-like glasses and put them on.

PENNY: (low and throaty) Molecules.

Yeah, that worked. Leonard took her to his bedroom and requested she keep the glasses on. And her boots.

The Bakersfield Expedition

Season 6

Episode Number: 124

Season Episode: 13

Originally aired:	Thursday January 10, 2013
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferarri
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter)
Recurring Role:	Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Frank Alvarez (Car Thief 2), Matt Battaglia (Officer Reynolds), Rick Gifford (Guy O.S.), Craig Gellis (Car Thief 1), Angela Sargeant (Lana)
Production Code:	3X7613
Summary:	The guys have a road trip in order to attend to a comic book convention, dressed as "Star Trek: The Next Generation". Stopping to take some photos in costume, Leonard's car is stolen. Meanwhile the girls are at home trying to figure out a comic book.



Sheldon is being a bit selfish about letting Leonard borrow the clothing steamer, mainly because Leonard once told him they didn't need one and didn't want to invest in it. While Sheldon steamed his Star Trek: The Next Generation, Penny dropped off some makeup sponges for Leonard. (PENNY: You've got more makeup than I do. You've got BETTER makeup than I do.) But Leonard wouldn't share, which Sheldon applauded because he got pinkeye from borrowing his sister's once for a costume contest...which still

got him 2nd place for his zombie costume. This Comic Con was in Bakersfield. Even though the guys attended the big one in San Diego, Leonard liked the one in Bakersfield because it was more like Comic Con before it went all Hollywood., a sentiment Sheldon did not share one bit. But they were still going because, "like pizza and particle accelerators, even the stinky ones are still pretty good." And they were off, just as soon as Leonard took a picture of him kissing Penny while she held today's newspaper. (LEONARD: To show people when they don't believe me.)

While the boys headed for Bakersfield, Penny, Amy, and Bernadette enjoyed brunch, because booze with breakfast on a Tuesday is a problem, but on the weekend it's brunch! Penny even LOL'ed Leonard's text message of them heading to Bakersfield at warp speed. (Must have been the mimosa talking.) All three of them talked about how excited their boyfriends were to be going. Howard sewed his costume himself, having learned how to sew by letting his mother's pants out every few weeks. They wondered how the guys could be so excited about something designed for 12-year-olds. (BERNADETTE: I think Howard's in touch with his inner child, but when he wears his Bat-Man pajamas to bed, it feels like I'm touching his inner child.) Amy did conclude since all of them were bullied as kids, playing with make-believe heroes was a sort of wish fulfillment. Bernadette thinks they should go to the comic book store and purchase a few comics to see what the guys love about them.

PENNY: That is an AMAZING idea! (looks at her mimosa) Wait, how many of these have I had?

Not as many as Leonard needed when he found out Sheldon hacked into the GPS on his car and substituted his voice for the turn-by-turn directions. Although it did provide some interesting trivia about interstates in the U.S. (HOWARD: Leonard, there's a bridge. Please drive off of it.) But all was not lost, as they were about to reach Vasquez Rocks, where many Star Trek episodes were filmed. The guys decided to pull over and don their TNG gear for a cool photo shoot. (FYI, Sheldon, I knew Eisenhower was the President who signed the Interstate Highway System law; there's signs on them everywhere.)

The ladies make it to the comic book store, but Bernadette was scared that all the guys were staring. Amy soaked in all the attention. Stuart told the guys to stop; the ladies weren't anything they hadn't already seen in movies or in drawings. Penny tells him they were interested in comics to see what the guys love about them.

STUART: Cool, what do you think you might be into? Superhero, fantasy, graphic novels, manga,...(turns to the guys) I SWEAR I will turn the hose on you!

Bernadette suggested the same comics the guys like: superhero comics. Amy asked who the best superhero is, but that could start a riot. Stuart suggested categories like clean-cut heroes, brooding, dark anti-heroes like The Punisher. (Amy LOVED that suggestion.) But Stuart settled on handing them Fables #1, with its sophisticated artwork, intelligent writing, and complete lack of objectification of women.

PENNY: Oooh, Thor! He's hot!

STUART: (conceding) Yeah, he is.

The guys looked good. Sheldon was decked out as Mr. Data, although his hair needed to be gelled back. (I really need to invest with one of those "life" things.) Raj was Mr. Worf, Leonard was Captain Picard, and Howard was a Borg. They pose for a "fight scene" shot, where Sheldon just stood there and thought about it, since Data's greatest weapon was his mind. Same thing for training phasers on the Borg, Charlie's Angels (no, I'm not kidding, and it was hysterical), and some sexy glamor shots per Raj's suggestion (he even provided the hip-hop backbeat). Suddenly, they hear the sound of the engine from the car. Yes, someone stole Leonard's car. And everybody's cell phones were in their regular clothes.

SHELDON: The only thing left to do now is assign blame. (to Raj) Nice going!

They try to flag down cars but to no avail.

SHELDON: Maybe we're better off. What if we got into a car with a crazy person?

LEONARD: Sheldon, look at us! WE'RE the crazy people! Let's start walking, I'm sure we'll find a gas station somewhere.

SHELDON: What, just because you're wearing a captain's uniform, you think you're in charge?

LEONARD: (steam coming out of his ears) Yes.

SHELDON: All right.

The girls finished their comic. Penny finished a little slower, but whatevs. Bernadette asks Amy what she thought.

AMY: Well, there was certainly a lot of action, the story moved along at a brisk pace. Overall, I thought it was...what's the word I'm looking for?

PENNY: Stupid?

AMY: SO stupid!

They couldn't figure out how the guys could spend hours arguing over things that don't even exist! (FYI, those of you agreeing with them, I give you five words...Here Comes Honey Boo Boo.)

PENNY: (disbelief) A hammer so heavy, no one else can pick it up?

BERNADETTE: Well, I don't think it's heavy. I think it's some sort of magic so only Thor can lift it.

PENNY: That makes even less sense!

AMY: Oh, no. No it doesn't. Thor is a god, the hammer is his, only he can use it. Sort of like Sheldon and his toothbrush. Or his thin beckoning lips.

PENNY: (being sucked into the vortex) OK, what if Thor's hand is on the hammer? If he's touching it with his god magic, does that mean I can lift it?

BERNADETTE: No. AMY: Yes!

They decide to read it again to settle the argument. Amy and Bernadette went to make tea, mostly to give Penny a head start.

The walk through the desert, you might suspect, was not pleasant. (RAJ: Wool pants. I've got poached testicles.) But Sheldon has an interesting take on the whole situation. It's been their dreams to be in the world of their favorite fantasy worlds. And right now, they were a Starfleet landing party on a desolate alien planet with only their skills to rely on. And...

CAR PASSING BY: NERDS! (Sheldon gets an Icee splashed on him.)

SHELDON: I hate this planet.

The ladies' arguments were getting...intense. Now they couldn't decide whether Thor's hammer was the one to deem someone worthy of wielding it.

PENNY: If Harry Potter's wand can make decisions, why can't Thor's hammer?

AMY: OK, if you're going to start comparing wands and hammers, I can't even take you seriously.

They finally decide to go to the guys' apartment to look at their Thor collection to see if Thor's hammer could be picked up in space like Penny thinks. (PENNY: In space, anyone could pick up the hammer because it would be floating around in a weightless environment. Yup, that's right; the slow reader used science. Suck on that!)

The guys finally make it to a diner, where naturally they get stared at. Leonard tells the waitress their car was stolen and asked to use the phone. Naturally, the waitress asked why they can't have Scotty just beam them up. And even more naturally, Sheldon has to correct her about Scotty being on the original series and they were TNG characters. (HOWARD: We're not with him.) The police finally arrive to write up a report. (OFFICER: You guys need me to call anyone? I'm guessing your moms?) But Howard had that covered. He called his mother, who got them a rental car. Raj wants to go on, but the others want to go home.

SHELDON: We're not a real landing party. We're an imaginary landing party who got real-life garbage thrown at us by real-life strangers who think we're idiots. To tell you the truth, I'm starting to feel like one. Raj gives in, but he still hoped the rental car was coming from Enterprise.

RAJ: (rough crowd) Screw you, that's funny!

And entire dinner and a few dozen comic books later...

BERNADETTE: Well, what if The Hulk picked up Thor while Thor was holding the hammer? Then by the transitive property of picking things up, Hulk picked up the hammer!

PENNY: (didn't see the wine, but...) Hold on. If I go to a bar and pick up a guy, then he goes and picks up a girl and we all leave together, did I pick up the girl?

The guys finally make it up to the apartment. And just when things can't get any more crazy...

AMY: (inside the apartment) Look, right here. Red Hulk is picking up Thor's hammer 'cause Thor's touching it.

BERNADETTE: He's really just touching the strap.

AMY: The strap is part of the hammer!

RAJ: (outside) Are they actually arguing about comic books?

HOWARD: Maybe Thor's Hammer is a new color of nail polish.

SHELDON: There can be only one logical explanation. Somewhere in the desert, we must have crossed into an alternate dimension where the women in our lives can finally appreciate good literature.

'Captain Picard' decides they should investigate. But phasers on stun.

LEONARD: If you vaporize Penny, I'll never find a girlfriend that pretty again.

Oh, as for Leonard's car, the two guys actually found Sheldon's lecture on the interstate system quite fascinating. (SHELDON: Can you name the four state capitals that are not served by the interstate system?) Oooh, another quiz!

The Cooper-Kripke Inversion

Season 6
Episode Number: 125
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday January 31, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke)
Production Code: 3X7614
Summary: Howards's nerd hobby gets him into money troubles. Sheldon is forced to work with Kripke while in competition with Kripke, ends up spreading rumors about his sexual relationship with Amy. Howard and Raj get action figures of themselves that cost 1000\$.



As Sheldon eschewed dinner to suckle at the bosom of Mother Physics, Raj found an online Website where you can get action figures made of yourself. Howard and Leonard thought it was an awesome idea, but since Penny wondered why he'd want to get one, he was out. Explaining that it would be a personal item then got her to say that Leonard could get one if he really wanted one. So he was still out. But Sheldon was on a roll with his equations, even adding some Bob Costas-like commentary. Then Kripke John Ross Bowie) shows up to spoil the mood. Really spoil it, given the University has ordered them to work together on the same fusion reactor grant.

tor grant.

At \$500 each, Howard's and Raj's action figurines were insanely expensive, but Raj's family is loaded and Bernadette makes a great salary. (HOWARD: My wife came with both funbags and moneybags.) The figurines, however, don't look like they spent \$500 on them. In fact, Raj's looks like Mr. T and a circa 1970s Michael Jackson had a child. At least Howard's was close, apart from the Princess Vespa nose from Spaceballs. (Yes, her old nose.)

LEONARD: Maybe it's a shipping problem. Maybe Wesley Snipes and Toucan Sam just got action figures that look like you guys.

BTW, Penny doesn't like sitting through the credits, particularly when she goes to a documentary about the Holocaust. (LEONARD: Maybe they'll show bloopers.) They come home to the Imperial March blaring out of the speakers, the sign Sheldon is unhappy and about to destroy the planet. Penny wants to talk to him. (LEONARD: Really, have you learned NOTHING in six years?) Although to his credit, the afghan over his head did make him look creepily like The Emperor. Leonard offers to make him tea, but Sheldon's outraged the University is making him work with Kripke.

LEONARD: So, cocoa?

SHELDON: (lights up like a Saturnalia tree) Yes, cocoa! Do you know what it's like to be paired with someone who is so annoying?

LEONARD: (raises his hand and jumps up and down) Oh, teacher! Me!!

Sheldon still couldn't believe his work would be marginalized by Kripke. He was angrier than ever and filled with despair.

PENNY: What beverage do you make for that?

LEONARD: Wait-wait, I know this...um...hot apple cider with a cinnamon stick? (correct)

At the University, most hostage situations go more smoothly than Sheldon and Kripke exchanging their papers on the subject. Sheldon scoffs at Kripke's notion he would copy Kripke's work. (Only if he wanted to be published in Mad Magazine.) Clearly Sheldon doesn't trust Kripke, as he comes back with the blank paper Sheldon gave him. Sheldon hands him a new folder. (KRIPKE: If this one's bwank, too, I will be fuwious.)

Raj's "always bet on black" jokes with his figurine aren't helping Howard, so he suggests a 3-D printer. Howard is intrigued at a printer that could mold a plastic 3-D image of whatever is needed, but they are ridiculously expensive.

RAJ: Come on, you deserve one! You worked hard to find a woman who makes a lot of money!

Howard thinks he could use it at work for his CAD/CAM work, and Raj is up for Malibu Koothrappali's Totally Bitchin' Dream House.

Amy pays Sheldon a visit. Sheldon is in even worse shape. As it turns out, Kripke's plan for a fusion reactor was leaps and bounds ahead of his.

SHELDON: (breaking down) The mommy of the smartest physicist in the University is not my mommy. It's his mommy!

Amy offers a consoling hug, but Sheldon feels like he's being strangled by a boa constrictor. But she shouldn't stop. Sheldon fakes a fever to not go into work. (Well, it was 128°, you be the judge.) Leonard tells Sheldon that Kripke simply got lucky while Sheldon got stuck on the wrong path, like Einstein did on the Unified Field Theory for decades. But nobody knew anything at the time, so Sheldon claimed everything Einstein did was a breakthrough.

LEONARD: (at his limit) SHELDON LEE COOPER, I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS NON-SENSE! NOW GO PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON, GET IN THE CAR, AND LET'S GO TO WORK!

SHELDON: Alright, geez! What a grouch.

LEONARD: (shocked) How did I do that? I gotta remember how I did that.

Howard and Raj were having fun with their \$5,000 3-D printer. (That's each, BTW.) It only took them three hours to make a 25-cent party whistle, so major-league ROI, huh? Howard was ready to scan Raj's image for the computer, although Raj had to suck in his gut to do it. But Howard could give him six-pack abs on the computer. (RAJ: Great! Now I can look like Val Kilmer as he looked in Batman than Val Kilmer as he looks today.)

Kripke confronts Sheldon on his subpar work and Sheldon wants both barrels. But Kripke knew what was wrong: Sheldon had a girlfriend. (KRIPKE: My work would suffer too if I was getting waid all the time.) And Sheldon agreed that was the reason. (SHELDON: My work is suffering because of all the laid I'm getting. What can I say? She enjoys my genitals.) Kripke commends him but says he must buckle down. He even gave Sheldon a fist bump.

Howard shows Bernadette the completed figuring of him and she loved it. (BERNADETTE: I didn't know there could be a smaller version of you!) He even made one of her. And then she heard the price. \$5,000 for a couple of little dolls? Bernadette wanted to know if it ever dawned on him about talking to her first before spending that much money. (HOWARD: It's kind of dawning on me now.) But Howard claimed they were married and shared everything, including her money. (oops)

BERNADETTE: Either you return that machine, or you can print out a working set of lady parts and sleep with those. (Howard thinks about it) OH MY GOD! ARE YOU ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT IT!?!

Fortunately for Howard, Raj was happy to buy his half of the printer. Although the check had to be made out to Bernadette. (HOWARD: I was taken off the joint checking account until I learned the value of money.) And he can't even have lunch because he blew his allowance on Pokemon cards.

Sheldon covers himself with Penny and Leonard, saying if Kripke ever asks, his coitus with Amy is frequent, intense, and whimsically inventive.

LEONARD: (to Penny) Is my coitus whimsically inventive.

PENNY: That's what I write on the bathroom walls. 'For a whimsically inventive time, call Leonard Hofstadter.'

LEONARD: I know you're joking, but I'd be totally OK with that.

Penny asks Sheldon if he will ever have sex with Amy, even though nobody ever asks him that.

SHELDON: I'm quite fond of Amy. All my life, I have been uncomfortable with the sort of physical contact that comes easily to others...Hand shaking, hugging, prostate exams...but I'm working on it. Recently, I had to put Vap-O-Rub on Amy's chest. A year ago, that would have been unthinkable.

LEONARD: (flesh crawling) Now you know how I feel when I have to put it on you.

PENNY: So are you saying, one day you and Amy might get...physical?

SHELDON: (gives it a lot of consideration) It's possible.

Penny is in shock, grabbing Leonard's arm. (or when the cameras aren't rolling, punching it) Oh, one little problem with letting Kripke think Sheldon was sleeping with Amy? He wanted details. Like whether Amy was naked or wearing lingerie. (SHELDON: I was busy squishing all the desirable parts of her body!) But Sheldon wants to get back to work. However, Kripke wants to know if they use toys.

SHELDON: I have a model rocket next to my bed.

KRIPKE: (loving it) Oh, you're a FWEAK! I'm WOVING it! (told you)

The Spoiler Alert Segmentation

Season 6
Episode Number: 126
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Thursday February 07, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferreri, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3X7615
Summary: With Leonard mad at Sheldon, he moves in with Penny. Amy notes that she would be the perfect roommate for Sheldon since she knows him so well and he wouldn't have to break in someone else. Sheldon and Penny are not happy with these arrangements. Raj is trapped in the Wolowitz house with Howard's lonely mother.



Leonard has never read any of the Harry Potter books or seen the movies? REALLY?!?!? Sheldon had no problem telling him Dumbledore dies in the sixth book, and Leonard gets ticked off for spoiling it for him, saying Sheldon would complain for weeks on end if he did that to him. (true) But Sheldon writes it off to another of Leonard's "hissy fits," which he claims are brought on by Leonard drinking soy milk instead of regular milk and thus having extra levels of estrogen in him. (SHELDON: I think your morning Co-Co Puffs are turning you into a hysterical woman.) Leonard can't believe how annoying Sheldon is.

SHELDON: I'M annoying? You criticize my behavior all the time! 'Sheldon, don't talk about your bowel movements over breakfast.' 'Sheldon, when the president of the university is giving a eulogy at a funeral, don't yawn and point at your watch.' 'Sheldon, don't throw away my shirts because you think they're ugly.' You're impossible.

Enough was enough (other than Sheldon pointing out Leonard had to put up with this because he had a signature on a document saying he did), and Leonard took his Roommate Agreement and threw it into the trash. He was moving out and had the perfect place to go: Penny's. Which was quite a surprise to Penny after his long rant about how insufferable Sheldon is.

PENNY: But you two make such a cute couple. Like Bert and Ernie. You even teach me about numbers and words and stuff.

She tried to come up with a reason that wouldn't hurt Leonard's feelings. Such as feeling bad for Sheldon and wondering how he'll get along. Leonard pointed out Sheldon had Amy now, not to mention Penny would never have another rent problem. Penny kept trying to come up with something...and somehow spoiled more of Harry Potter for Leonard. Leonard even wondered if Penny wasn't ready for it, although he didn't recognize it was a big step for her. But Penny caved.

LEONARD: Great! Oh, could you clear a shelf in the bathroom because I take a LOT of medicine!

PENNY: (to herself) I hope some of it is Xanax.

Raj came over to Howard's place to loan him a suitcase...that he borrowed from Howard two years ago...because Howard and Bernadette were heading to Las Vegas. This was Bernadette's bonus for rebranding a dandruff shampoo that caused horrible anal leakage (RAJ: Is there a 'good' anal leakage?) as a laxative. But Howard knew a way for Raj to pay him back. Since his mother's dentist dumped her, Howard needed someone to take care of her while he was gone. Raj was hesitant because he had a whole Saturday night planned.

HOWARD: See if this sounds familiar. You pay \$15 to park, you stand on the sidewalk for an hour before you break down and give the bouncer \$20 to let you in. You push your way to the bar where you drink an \$18 cosmopolitan while you stare at a pretty girl and imagine your perfect life together, your children, your grandchildren. Meanwhile, she leaves with a guy who claims he wrote Beverly Hills Chihuahua. Then you give up on anybody loving you, go to Marie Callender's and buy a pie that you eat in your car right in the parking lot.

RAJ: What time should I be here?

Say what you want about the Wolowitz residence, but you always eat well there, as Raj discovered after enjoying Mrs. Wolowitz's brisket. Which stayed down despite hearing about all of the things Mrs. Wolowitz had removed over the years. (RAJ: I didn't know you could have a cyst inside another cyst.) He's ready to go home, but she wants to make him cheesecake. But he insists on going, and she starts crying. (Raj's first mistake.) She says it's OK, she only cries when she's lonely and has nothing to live for. Yup, Raj fell for it.

As Sheldon and Amy inventoried the memorabilia in the apartment (or children's toys, as Amy called them), Sheldon admitted he would have to find and cultivate a new roommate. You can pretty much see the light bulb over Amy's head (and her voice approaching Bernadette's octave). Amy thought he needed a roommate who was a scientist and already comfortable with Sheldon's ways.

SHELDON: If that person existed, I would sign on. No further questions asked.

AMY: Great! Here I am!

And you can actually hear the brakes squealing inside of Sheldon's head. But Amy was ahead of him, saying she wasn't a stranger, they were intellectually compatible, and "your quirks that others find annoying or rage-inducing, I find cute as a button!" She wanted to know one reason why this wasn't a great idea, and Sheldon didn't have one. (AMY: I'm going to go see if Leonard's room is big enough for my waterbed!) Of course, now Leonard was his "good buddy," and went right over to tell him Amy made him realize this "little dust-up" is much ado about nothing, and all is forgiven. But Leonard saw right through his offer of a soy-milk hot chocolate and the new "devil may care" bathroom policy. Which he explains to Penny; Sheldon suddenly wants Leonard back because Amy wants to move in with him. However, Leonard was quite confident Penny and he were happy living together. (PENNY: It's like the happiness won't leave the apartment.) Sheldon was desperate because Amy laid out a set of logical arguments he couldn't refute. (PENNY: That is the worst, isn't it?) Leonard would not budge. (LEONARD: And spoiler alert! This door is about to slam in your face!) Sheldon was left with the positively giddy Amy wondering when she'd get a key to their apartment.

Howard and Bernadette called Raj from Las Vegas. They were still a little sore from the previous night.

BERNADETTE: Those Chinese acrobats in Cirque du Soliel make it look so easy!

HOWARD: Honestly, if I could bend that far, why would I need with you?

BERNADETTE: If you could bend that far, you'd be doing both of us a favor.

They were surprised Raj stayed the night at Howard's house, but Raj felt guilty about leaving her alone, so he stayed through cheesecake, an episode of *The Rockford Files*, and some cream sherry, and the next thing you know, she put Raj in Howard's bed...and Howard's pajamas on him. (hysterical visual, BTW) Howard warned him to get out because she would use food and guilt to keep him there for the rest of his life!

HOWARD: You're not Jewish! That's how they get you!

RAJ: But I have a cream sherry hangover and I smell blintzes.

Howard asked him where his clothes were, and Raj said right on the chair...where they weren't. Sure enough, Raj got trapped. His clothes spent the entire day in the laundry and

his keys were gone. Well, technically Mrs. Wolowitz started jingling when she walked, so he had some idea where they were. And now, he had to run. Mrs. Wolowitz made him a bath.

RAJ: Oh, my God. She's not going to bathe me, is she?

HOWARD: (creeped out) Gee, I wish I could tell you no.

Sheldon spots the "homewrecker" in the hallway and gives her both barrels for giving Leonard someplace to go and allowing Amy to buy His & Hers bath towels. (SHELDON: I can never dry myself with something that has a possessive pronoun on it.) Penny admitted she loved Leonard but it was too fast to go to the move-in stage. (SHELDON: Tell him the truth, break his little heart. Everybody wins.) Of course, Sheldon could tell Amy the truth before he finds leg stubble in his shower. (PENNY: I've seen those legs; you might want to get yourself some Dran-O.) Penny doesn't want to tell Leonard the truth, either, but both figured they had to face the music.

SHELDON: I suppose there's no choice but to face the crying, the angry accusations, and the high-pitched wails of despair.

PENNY: Yeah, and who knows how Amy will act.

Sheldon goes to confront Amy. And despite getting Sheldon's Chinese food order perfectly, Sheldon was forced to admit the truth. Penny didn't want Leonard to move in with her and there was nothing he could do about it. Amy turns her anger from Sheldon (AMY: I have been going out with you for two years! I watched your dopey space movies, I signed all of your stupid contracts, I even stopped wearing lip gloss because you said it made my mouth too slippery!) to Penny. She got mad at Penny because she heard she didn't want to move in with Leonard. Yes, Leonard overheard that, but Penny said he moved in with her without even asking if she was ready for it. And Then she turned on Sheldon, saying why doesn't he tell Amy the truth about why he doesn't want her to move in with him. (It's all very Three's Company.)

AMY: (mad as hell) You're a coward!

SHELDON: Well, the...evidence does support that.

Penny takes Amy to go drink lots of wine and talk about what jerks their boyfriends were being.

AMY: We'll show them! I should move in here with you!

And while Penny dealt with that, Sheldon invited Leonard to watch *The Walking Dead*. After covering up another spoiler.

As for Raj, he was attacked by the Creature from the Black Lagoon! AKA, Howard's mother!

The Tangible Affection Proof

Season 6
Episode Number: 127
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 14, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Margo Harshman (Alex), Josh Brener (Dale), Kate Micucci (Lucy), Briana Cuoco (Gretchen)
Production Code: 3X7616
Summary: Sheldon tasks his assistant to buy a Valentine's Day gift for Amy. Leonard, Penny, Howard, and Bernadette have a disastrous dinner together, while Raj and Stuart host a "Lonely People" party at the comic book store.



Penny had a very full day at work. She saved an old man from choking to death! She yelled out the guy was choking, and one of the busboys performed the Heimlich on him, so she's a hero! Meantime, Leonard wanted to know what she wanted to do for Valentine's Day. She thought they could do something, but Leonard wanted her to be more enthusiastic. She didn't want the pressure of planning something, so Leonard offered to be her Romance Ninja.

LEONARD: You don't see it coming, then it's BAM! ROMANCE! WATCH OUT! HEARTS! KISSES! LOVE! WHOO-YAH! (makes a karate chop)

PENNY: You know, sometimes I think I've made you so much cooler than you used to be, then you go and do that.

Speaking of romance, do you agree the painful passing of a meal with spicy chiles is proof the rectum possesses the sense of taste? Sheldon thinks so, but it still didn't get him out of planning something with Amy for Valentine's Day.

While Howard tried to placate the overworked Bernadette with a series of OK's on the phone on things he should be doing while she was at the office... and he was swamped playing Assassin's Creed... Raj decided that he wasn't going to get all hung up on finding someone for Valentine's Day and suggested Stuart have a party at the comic book store for all the people who don't have dates.

RAJ: The theme can be "the greatest love a man can have is the love he has with himself."

STUART: Or maybe something that's less hands-in-pants.

But since Stuart planned to hide all the sharp objects in his apartment and white-knuckle it 'til morning, a party sounded good.

Sheldon had the perfect solution to his Valentine's problem with Amy: send Alex to get her something. Never mind the fact Alex gave up a job at FermiLab to work for Sheldon. (SHELDON: I guess those chaps will have to have someone else buy their girlfriends gifts.) Alex was really hoping to contribute to Sheldon's scientific work, but at least she can count the money Sheldon gave her to get Amy's gift. She leaves in none-too-good of a mood.

SHELDON: (scoffs) 'Contribute to my work'. Kids say the darndest things.

Although to Alex's credit, she does a great job with the project. Since Amy liked harps, she found a miniature harp music box that played Amy's favorite song. (SHELDON: But Amy already has a real harp, and it can play any song. What are you trying to pull here?) Since Amy also liked *I racconti di Canterbury*, she found a frame-able map of the places visited in the story. (SHELDON: But she's got Google Maps on her phone.) Finally, she found a hand-drawn painting of a brain cell signed by Santiago Ramon y Cajal, the father of Neuroscience. Sheldon was very impressed. So impressed, he kept it for himself.

Having lost the gift he originally got for Bernadette, their initials carved on a heart 1/1000 the size of a grain of sand ("A micro-Valentines for my microbiologist"), Howard begged to join Leonard and Penny on their restaurant night. Penny approves of the Romance Ninja's choice of restaurant. Howard and Bernadette arguing, not so much. Howard wants to downplay it, but Bernadette had asked him to do some laundry and clean the apartment while she worked late hours and all he did was play on his X-Box, so she hid it from him. (HOWARD: She hid my X-Box like a child. And my mom got that for me for my birthday, so if you don't give it back, I'm telling.) Bernadette was upset Howard couldn't even do one load of laundry, but Howard insisted he was sorry.

BERNADETTE: Sorry doesn't clean my underpants, buddy!

HOWARD: I told you, turn them inside out.

BERNADETTE: And I told you, bite me!

Yes, it gets worse. One of Penny's ex-boyfriends walks in...accompanied by the woman he cheated on Penny with. She tries to ignore it, and then he gets down on one knee and proposes to her, which she tearfully accepts. Penny is understandably crushed.

LEONARD: Well, two can play this game. Penny... (starts to get down on one knee)

PENNY: GET UP!

Despite his clinical depression, Stuart was really looking forward to the party at the comic book store. As is Raj. It was too bad Stuart wasn't a woman because of their problems would be solved. They could date, read comic books, go to movies. (RAJ: Then I'd take you home, slip off your little black dress, and pile drive you into oblivion.)

Penny isn't liking her evening any better, and Leonard started suffering from foot-in-mouth disease. (LEONARD: He was with the wrong person, and now he's with the right person.) Naturally, that set Penny off. Leonard tried to convince her to forget about them and enjoy their dinner. And Penny was fine...for about five seconds until her ex and his new fiance drank out of each other's glasses, something Penny taught him. Leonard thought she was going to let it go.

PENNY: It's not fair, OK? They're bad people. It's not supposed to end happy for them, it's supposed to end happy for me.

LEONARD: (quite offended) Um, it did end happy for you. You're here with me.

PENNY: (dismissive) Yeah, yeah, I know.

LEONARD: You know, this is getting a little hard not to take this personally.

PENNY: Oh, stop making this about you.

LEONARD: Oh, I can tell this is clearly about you.

PENNY: Whatever, OK? I told you Valentine's Day sucks.

LEONARD: This one does, and you're the reason why.

If there's a silver lining to this, Bernadette and Howard found their argument quite petty by comparison. They decide to blow off dinner and Howard would go straight home to do the laundry. And Bernadette told him his X-Box was in the last place he'd look: the washing machine.

Amy shows up for her Valentine's date with Sheldon, and he was prepared to pretend he was enjoying himself. (he even practiced his facial expression for it) But Amy decided she wanted to be a good girlfriend and not put any pressure on Sheldon to do something grand tonight, so she canceled their reservations and they would have pizza at his place while they watched one of his "Star War/Trek things." Sheldon was moved by Amy's generosity. (SHELDON: This is the most

thoughtful gift anyone's ever given me. And that includes the awesome gift I gave myself today.) And despite Amy saying he didn't have to get her a gift, he handed her one.

AMY: (reading it) "Sheldon Cooper, CalTech University, Employee Information?"

SHELDON: Read the bottom.

AMY: "In case of emergency, please contact..." (gasps) Amy Farrah Fowler. And there's my phone number! (tearing up) This is the most beautiful gift you could have ever given me.

SHELDON: Well, I figured if I ever had a stroke or a kidney stone, who would I like to share that with?

Amy is overwhelmed and hugs Sheldon.

SHELDON: OK. (won't let go) Stop ruining Valentine's Day and order my pizza. (still won't let go)

Penny and Leonard go into their respective apartments, but Leonard decided he wasn't done yet.

LEONARD: (mad as hell) You know what? That was pretty crappy of you! All I wanted to do is give you a great night and all you wanted to do was destroy it!

PENNY: Yeah, I know. I'm a total bitch.

LEONARD: I'm not saying that.

PENNY: Well I am!

LEONARD: OK, you win. You're a bitch.

Penny admitted that things were going very well between them, she was really happy, but she admitted to having commitment issues. Things were going so well, Leonard would always ask her to marry him, then they'd be married forever and it kept freaking her out. But Leonard had a solution.

LEONARD: I promise I will never ask you to marry me again. If, someday, you decide you want to get married, you have to propose to me. It's all on you. But I gotta tell you, when the time comes, I want the whole nine yards. I want you on one knee, I want flowers, I want to be swept off my feet!

PENNY: (very happy) You got it.

LEONARD: And I'm cool with surprises but nothing on a Jumbotron. I don't want to cry on a big screen like that.

They kiss, and Penny has a question for him.

PENNY: Leonard Hofstadter, will you be my Valentine?

LEONARD: Sorry, maybe next year. (leaves and comes back) I'm just kidding. Let's have sex! Romance Ninja!

And a third Valentine's night is going well for Stuart and Raj, although their fellow partiers still look pretty sad. Raj has had enough. He thinks everybody has to stop beating themselves up like they were. He gets everyone's attention.

RAJ: We are all here tonight because we don't have anybody to be with us, but that doesn't make us mutants! The only mutants here are in these comic books. We have to stop defining our self-worth by whether or not we're in a relationship. You know what I see when I look around? I see a room full of great people. So let's give ourselves a break! We are a community, and as long as we're together, we're never alone!

The crowd was impressed, particularly a very shy girl whom Raj asked if she wanted to get some coffee. She agreed.

RAJ: (walking out the door) LATER, LOSERS!!!

How is Amy's gift from Sheldon working out? Quite busy, if the brain tumor Sheldon had was any indication. Of course, it could have been brain freeze from his ice cream, but Sheldon insisted she come over.

The Monster Isolation

Season 6
Episode Number: 128
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday February 21, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Kate Micucci (Lucy), Riccardo LeBron (Tom)
Production Code: 3X7617
Summary: After a terrible date, Koothrappali vows to never leave his apartment. Meanwhile, Penny actually impresses Sheldon with her acting skills.



Last week, Raj told the motley crew of comic book aficionados they were a community and would always have each other. A woman named Lucy liked his speech and asked to get a cup of coffee with him. One "LATER, LOSERS!!!" later, Raj is telling Lucy all about himself, how he went to Cambridge because it "totally looks like Hogwarts." He fell in love with astronomy and came to work at CalTech. (RAJ: So Raj is my name and stars are my game. And rhyming is also my game. So, uh, two games.) OK, enough about Raj, he wanted to hear about Lucy. She excused herself to go to the bathroom, and

Raj celebrated a successful date by himself. Appropriate because Lucy snuck out the bathroom window and ran, so he really was by himself now.

Back at the apartment, Sheldon taped another Fun With Flags (his episode dedicated to Black History Month didn't go that well...The Man's always putting him down) and Penny was gracious enough to volunteer as a Flag Virgin. (SHELDON: Not a real virgin! She's had coitus many times. Sometimes within earshot of this flag enthusiast. One time while he was trying to watch The Incredibles.) They started talking but Penny had him pause the tape. She told him he should look at her while they were conversing and not be so robotic. Several commenters had agreed with her, but Sheldon thought they were being complimentary. She told him to work on his body language so he was more open to the viewer instead of closed. And that open is the good way to go. Sheldon's efforts...well, I found Howard less creepy in the early seasons when he was trying to hit on Penny. And his definition of "open" was to open his legs wide. (SHELDON: Spread your legs, invite them in.)

Howard took Bernadette and Leonard with him to Raj's apartment because he sensed something wrong with him. (BERNADETTE: How close were you guys before we got married?) Pretty close, because Howard's Spidey senses were quite accurate. Raj answered the door in what looked like one of my t-shirts (ripped and full of stains) and his apartment was so messy it would make Oscar Madison retch. He was humiliated once again and planned to never leave his apartment

again. He figured he could order things online, like a case of Dinty Moore Beef Stew on Amazon (yes, I looked it up, you can) and order lobsters as well. A little surf-and-turf thought came to Leonard's and Howard's minds while Bernadette confronted Raj. (BERNADETTE: We're trying to get him out of here, not you in!) But Raj couldn't be persuaded and locked himself in his bedroom. Bernadette thought they could talk about it at Red Lobster. (BERNADETTE: Oh, we were all thinking it! I just had the decency to wait for him to leave!)

Sheldon called Amy on teleconference, but she was quite busy with the final day of her nicotine addiction study. The monkeys were down to one cigarette a day and they were MAD. (AMY: Makes me miss my marijuana-abusing flatworms. Those guys were mellow!) Sheldon told her Fun With Flags was a success thanks to Penny's advice. Amy asked if he thanked Penny but he didn't know he should. Amy told him to do so, and Sheldon did. Leaving Amy alone.

AMY: (to the monkeys) Yeah, you want a cigarette? I want a normal boyfriend! DEAL WITH IT!

Sheldon goes to thank Penny, somehow working his three-knock-Penny cadence into the conversation. She invites Amy and him to her acting company's play and he thinks that's crazy. And tells Amy that, who told him he was being rude and left her to be hit by monkey feces while he went to apologize. Several awkward/angry/confusing minutes (mostly on Penny's part) later, and Sheldon was going to her play.

At the comic book store, Sheldon finds out about Raj sequestering himself. (SHELDON: Brilliant! I've been itching to pull that trigger!) Lucy stopped by and Howard read her the riot act. She apologized and asked Howard to give him a note. (RAJ: Raj is a proud, passionate man. If you go running out on him again, you're only gonna get three or four more chances before you are history!) Howard goes to tell Raj, who is now down to a lobster bib and tighty-whiteys. (and managed to top Sheldon's creepiness) Raj said it was too late, that he was renouncing all worldly pleasures. Except for lobster. And garlic butter. (HOWARD: I want to say it's her loss, but you're not making it easy.) Howard gives up and leaves. But not for long, as Raj chases him down the street to get her number back. (yes, in the lobster bib and tighty-whiteys)

Leonard got ready for Penny's play...by shaking down Sheldon for all the games he hid on his person, including the Rubik's Cube in his crotch and the Etch-A-Sketch down his underwear. Amy stops by to get ready for the play, having been dropped from her nicotine addiction study.

AMY: Typical bureaucratic nonsense. You can get animals addicted to a harmful substance, you can dissect their brains, but you throw their own feces back at them, and suddenly you're "unprofessional."

LEONARD: I'm so sorry...that I even asked.

Sheldon said he wanted to get to that stupid play, but Amy pointed out A Streetcar Named Desire is one of the great American plays. But the streetcar sold Sheldon on it. Everybody enjoys themselves. Sheldon was quite impressed with Penny's work. (SHELDON: How can she memorize all those lines, yet at the Cheesecake Factory she can't remember my cheeseburger comes with no tomato?)

Lucy stopped by Raj's apartment to apologize. She wanted to see him but she had a hard time being around people she didn't know. She didn't even like comic books; she saw the light on at Stuart's comic book store and forced herself to go in. She was ready to leave, but Raj admitted he was just as scared as she was. Had it not been for the beer in his hand, he wouldn't even be able to talk to her. (RAJ: There are many things wrong with me! And not, like, quirks either. Like...diagnosable psychological problems. There might be brain damage.) He proposes she go out on a date with him and he'd prove it. She agrees.

RAJ: You won't regret it! I'm the most pathetic guy you've ever met! (she smiles and leaves) And that, boys and girls, is how it's done.

The Contractual Obligation Implementation

Season 6
Episode Number: 129
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday March 07, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds and Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Kate Micucci (Lucy), Dawson Fletcher (Justin), Piper Mackenzie Harris (Girl 1), Diamond White (Girl 2)
Production Code: 3X7618
Summary: Raj and Lucy have their first date meeting in a library and texting to each other. The guys have to promote science careers for women at Howard's old middle school, while the girls go to Disneyland and get made up as Disney Princesses.



As faculty at the university, Leonard, Howard, and Sheldon had to come up with some ideas for the university committee they were on, which was to encourage women to think about careers in science. Leonard figured they could get it over with or just bitch and whine about it. (HOWARD: I got whine. SHELDON: I got the 'b' word.) Leonard doesn't want it to be like school all over again, where the smart kid in the group does all the work. (HOWARD: If I was any good at convincing women to do stuff, I wouldn't have spent so much of my 20s in the shower.) Sheldon thinks people should do things

for themselves, like when Leonard drove him to the pharmacy, the dry cleaners, and the post office. Leonard thinks refusing to do this is being sexist, but both Sheldon and Howard protest...as they play their videogame with big-breasted heroines. Finally Leonard's had enough and challenges Sheldon to prove he's as smart as he always says he is. Surprisingly, Sheldon steps up to the plate and thinks they have to talk to women while they're in middle school because by the time they get to college they've already made their minds up. Leonard thinks he was onto something, and Howard figures he can use his influence as a NASA astronaut to get a talk arranged at his old middle school. Sheldon isn't sure how to give a talk about science to a bunch of schoolgirls. But that's what Google is for.

SHELDON: (typing) How do I get twelve-year-old girls excited?

LEONARD/HOWARD: NOOOO!!!!

Meanwhile Raj was thanking Penny, Amy, and Bernadette for letting him crash girls' night. He even brought fondue and wine.(PENNY: I've slept with guys for less. What? It's a joke...based on real events.) Raj wanted to pick their brains on how to date Lucy when she has serious social anxiety. Amy's suggestion of finding a dangerous place to go, such as picnicking near a lunatic asylum or a wine tasting on skid row, didn't fly that well. Bernadette suggested riding Space

Mountain at Disneyland, so Lucy would get scared and hold onto him. Although Penny advised him that the ride was much shorter than you think and they take your picture at the end, so get the clothes back on quickly. (PENNY: It's a joke!...based on real events.)

RAJ: Disneyland? I don't know. With the crowds and all the weird characters walking around, it reminds me too much of India.

Suggesting they go on a weekday to avoid the crowds gets the ladies agreeing to play hooky from work one day and going.

AMY: Play hooky? My mom said that's how girls end up addicted to reefer and jazz music.

PENNY: More like how girls end up at a Best Western motel with a 34-year-old guy named Luther.

BERNADETTE: Joke?

PENNY: (shrugs) I can laugh about it now.

And they kind of forget Raj's problem. Which was OK, since none of them had any other good suggestions for him.

Leonard, Sheldon, and Howard make it to his old middle school, where Howard still gets pushed around by the bigger kids. Leonard introduces himself and the guys and tries to make science sound very exciting to the middle school girls. I emphasize try. Quite honestly, it looked more like a stand-up comedian doing his act in a club with only two people in it...both of whom were heckling him. Leonard's attempts to sound like the host of an open mic night notwithstanding, he brings up Sheldon, who tells the girls about Madam Curie. She was a hero to science, until her hair fell out, her vomit and stool became full of blood, and she was killed by her own discovery of radiation. (SHELDON: With a little hard work, I see no reason why that can't happen to any of you.) Next up was Howard, who talked about being an astronaut. He didn't go to the moon, he went to the International Space Station. He also didn't get to drive the rocket there or back; he was just along for the ride. So according to one of the students, he was just like her uncle, who was a flight attendant. (HOWARD: The difference being I'm an American hero while your uncle brings people nuts!) Well, Leonard can't do any worse. Or so we thought. One student asks how he got into science and he tells her both of his parents were scientists, so he was kind of led in that direction.

LEONARD: Well, pushed would be more like it. (getting depressed) To be honest, when I was your age, I wanted to be a rap star. Like Snoop Dogg but with a healthy respect for the police. (the students laugh) Oh, you laugh. Just like my mother did. (starts rapping) After I confided, I was derided and chided. My mom said I collided, she said my dreams were misguided. (yes it was that bad)

Much to Penny's dismay, Amy and Bernadette wanted to do princess makeovers instead of getting drunk and riding the rides. Bernadette called Cinderella "because this was my idea, I'm driving, and I'm going to be Cinderella. And if you bitches have a problem with that, we can stop the car now!" Meanwhile, Raj sets up a picnic basket at a library for his date with Lucy. After getting rid of the creepy guy who is a little awkward, too, Lucy wonders what he's doing. He takes out his phone and sends her a text: they were having a texting date. And she text back that she loves the idea. But Raj advises her over text that she should remember he has an adorable accent. Not to worry, she totally digs the date. Raj wants to know what she does for a living, and she texts she's in web design. Raj asks if she did anything he would have seen.

LUCY: (texting) You ever look at porn websites?

RAJ: (texting uncomfortably) No, never. What is porn?

LUCY: (texting) Sorry, Autocorrect. That was supposed to say PROM websites.

RAJ: (texting happily) Fun! I love prom! The romance, the gowns! It's like a fairy tale come to life! (oops) Sorry, Autocorrect. That was supposed to say "I like sports."

The talk on encouraging the girls to take up science is crashing and burning very quickly. (LEONARD: I never wanted to play the cello! How do you meet girls playing the cello? 'Hey, wanna come over to my house and listen to me play an instrument that sounds like a suicidal bumblebee?') But once again, Sheldon comes up with a solution. He decides the girls should talk to two ACTUAL female scientists, so he calls Amy and Bernadette to talk to the girls.

AMY: The world of science needs more women, but from a young age, we girls are encouraged to care more about the way we look than the power of our minds. (as she fixes her lipstick in her full Snow White attire)

BERNADETTE: That's true. Any of you has the capacity to be anything you want to be.

PENNY: (not happy about being Sleeping Beauty) Unless you want to be Cinderella.

BERNADETTE: (pissed) Come at me! See what happens!

Raj and Lucy's date has to come to an end since her battery was dying out, so she told Raj (by actually saying it) she enjoyed the date, even though she was scared to be there. So she decided she'd try one more scary thing and kiss Raj. She got close and...maybe next time! (she ran out) But Raj counted that as foreplay.

Back at home, we find out why Bernadette fought so hard to be Cinderella. Howard comes home and she has a surprise for him. (HOWARD: Please be Cinderella, please be Cinderella...). And he goes the full Prince Charming on her. As for Penny, she tried to explain to Leonard they did princess makeovers, but he had half his clothes off before she could even say she was Sleeping Beauty. And Snow White lay on the couch, waiting for her kiss from Sheldon.

SHELDON: I heard you the first time.

The Closet Reconfiguration

Season 6
Episode Number: 130
Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday March 14, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Production Code: 3X7619
Summary: Sheldon rearranges Howard and Bernadette's closet and finds an unopened letter from his father sent for his 18th birthday. Penny and Leonard have a formal dinner party instead of take-out food.



Howard and Bernadette have decided to have the entire gang over for dinner, and Howard is actually cleaning. The guy's definition of cleaning, which is to throw everything in the closet. Over Bernadette's protests, naturally. (HOWARD: Hey, you can tell me what to do or tell me how to do it, but not both. This isn't sex.) Actually, a great idea would be to show the closet to Sheldon and have him rearrange everything. (HOWARD: Everything in his apartment has a label on it. Even his label maker has a label on it that says 'label maker'.) Bernadette thought that was crazy until

Sheldon brought his own food over to the dinner party. (BERNADETTE: Show him the closet!)

Yes, like a four-year-old at a grown-up's party, Sheldon spent the whole night playing. Even Amy had no problem with this. (AMY: The other day, he spent an hour at Whole Foods optimizing the cheese aisle. His quirks just make you love him more! Someone please agree with me.) He even wanted five more minutes to continue cleaning and reorganizing when it was time to go...after Leonard had already told him five more minutes. Howard offered to drive him home, and Leonard was happy with that deal. During his reorganization, Sheldon opened a letter he found from Howard's father, who had left Howard when he was eleven. Howard was upset he did that, but Sheldon didn't know if it was supposed to be filed under personal correspondence or memorabilia. He didn't want to know what was in the letter, although he did let Sheldon keep a box of shirt buttons to sort on the ride home.

As Leonard and Penny decide to have a dress-up party for their friends (PENNY: Just when you say dressed up, you mean nice clothes and not capes and tights and crap.), Howard stayed up during the night wondering about what was in the letter his father sent to him when he was eighteen. After mulling it over and talking to Bernadette about it, he felt his father didn't deserve a chance to apologize or explain himself. He burned the letter. And set off the smoke detector. (HOWARD: And neither of us is tall enough to reach that.) Bernadette went to talk to Amy and Penny about it the next day, seeing as how Howard was already freaked out by wearing her pants to work. (BERNADETTE: I don't know why he was upset; they were bigger on him than me.) She really needed to know what was in that letter, and Amy pointed out they could ask Sheldon.

BERNADETTE: What kind of wife would I be if I didn't respect my husband's privacy?

PENNY: What if I asked him and you just happened to be in the room?

BERNADETTE: (thrilled) That works!

They go down to the laundry, where Sheldon is cleaning out the lint traps from the dryers. (SHELDON: It's like I'm cleaning out the entire building's belly button.) The ladies arrive and Amy tells Sheldon he has something they want. (SHELDON: My mother warned me this is what happens to pretty boys in the big city.) They told him they wanted to know what was in the letter, but he was bound by the closet organizer-organizee confidentiality agreement. Penny protested it was Bernadette's closet, too, so she has the right to know what was in the letter.

SHELDON: Are you pointing out that California is a community property state, and since Howard and Bernadette are married, the intellectual property contained in that letter is jointly owned by the two spouses?

PENNY: (totally lost) Yeah, obviously.

SHELDON: Well played. You know, sometimes I don't give you enough credit, Penny.

So now four out of the six know what was in the letter to Howard's father. How did Leonard and Raj find out? Raj wanted to plan Leonard and Penny's dinner party, but turn-of-the-century Moulin Rouge! was a bit over-the-top for Leonard's tastes.

LEONARD: I'm thinking you need a testosterone patch. Penny and I just want something low-key. Cocktails, some light jazz music, hors d'oeuvres.

RAJ: So, your theme is "I saw an episode of Mad Men and bought some crab puffs from Trader Joe's"?

Sheldon came back from the laundry and told them about revealing confidential information about Howard's father, which he wasn't going to reveal to them.

SHELDON: Badgering me won't work. What you should have said is it's pointless to keep this a secret because Penny would tell us.

LEONARD: OK, then that.

SHELDON: All right, I'll tell you. My goodness, everybody is on their game today.

At Leonard and Penny's party, everyone agreed before Howard arrived to not make any mention of his father. However, on the way up the stairs...which Howard suffered as much as Bernadette thanks to his Cuban heels...Bernadette admitted to him she knew what was in the letter. He bursts through the door and is ready to attack Sheldon, who used Amy as a human shield. (SHELDON: I panicked! He looked taller than usual!) Everyone admitted they made Sheldon reveal it. Except Raj.

RAJ: Shame on all of you!

LEONARD: You know, too.

RAJ: Couldn't leave him one friend, could you.

Howard was upset and Bernadette apologized. They offered to tell him, but he flat-out refused. He left the party and went home. Bernadette went home to find him looking at pictures of his father. (HOWARD: I have to tell you, as angry as I am with Sheldon blabbing, he did a HELLUVA job organizing this closet!) Bernadette had an idea. She brought the entire gang over and each offered to say what was in the letter. Sheldon said they could create a way of knowing and not knowing based on a macroscopic example of quantum superposition; that a physical system exists partially in all its possible states at once. (PENNY: We were all thinking it, really. Sort of the elephant in the room.) Hence, only one story would be the truth, but Howard was free to believe whichever story he wanted. (SHELDON: Hence you would be in a state of epistemic ambivalence.) Howard accepted that.

RAJ: It was a card for your 18th Birthday. Inside it said "Happy Birthday, Howard. I love you, Dad." Oh, and it was a Far Side comic, the one where the frog has his tongue stuck to the underside of an airplane. Thinks it's a fly?

SHELDON: It was a map leading to the treasure of the famous pirate One-Eye Willie.

HOWARD: Nice try, that's the plot from The Goonies.

AMY: You didn't know it, but your father was in the auditorium at your high school graduation, and he cried because he was so proud of you.

PENNY: It was a letter explaining your dad wasn't who he said he was. Eventually, his other life caught up to him, and the only way to keep you and your mom safe was to leave.

LEONARD: Your dad wrote about how family is the most important thing, and that you should never throw it away like he did.

BERNADETTE: Inside the envelope was a picture of your father holding you the day you were born. On the back he wrote "Howard, my son, my greatest gift."

Everybody is curious to know which story he thinks is correct, but Howard hopes all of them are correct. Penny suggests they continue the dinner party and they head back to Leonard's apartment. Although Sheldon did read some rather saucy passages from Bernadette's diary, which was also in the closet. Sheldon assured her those secrets were safe with him.

SHELDON: (aside to Howard) Although copyright laws would allow me to quote snippets of it in the form of a review.

And as everybody enjoyed the party, Sheldon enjoyed reorganizing Penny's closet. He even found a dead goldfish that she forgot to feed. He also figured she had a dog, based on the battery-operated chew toy he found.

PENNY: (shoving him out the door) Party's over! Party's over!

The Tenure Turbulence

Season 6
Episode Number: 131
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 4, 2013
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Regina King (Janine Davis)
Production Code: 3X7620
Summary: Competition between the guys increases when a slot for a tenured professor opens up and they start to schmooze the tenure committee members that include Mrs. Davies from Human Resources who Sheldon has crossed paths with before.



Apparently, a jellyfish is capable of immortality simply by spending a period of time in an asexual state and grows up again. The same thing Howard's grandfather tried on his Jamaican caregiver but didn't work. But at least now the mystery of the smell from Professor Tupperman's office was solved: it was Tupperman himself dying at his desk and nobody noticing for two weeks, according to Kripke. (KRIPKE: In lieu of flowers, the chair is asking everybody donate a bottle of Febreze.) But it also meant there was now a tenured position at the university. While Kripke went to attach his lips to the

butts of the tenure committee, Sheldon railed against tenure, saying scientists would work better if a chip was implanted in their heads that exploded whenever the scientist said something stupid. Raj thought people worked better when they had job security. ("Boom!") But Raj thought it should go to Sheldon or Leonard if he didn't get it, and Sheldon told him not to fill Leonard's head with false hope.

LEONARD: (mad as hell) Excuse me, but I think I'm just as qualified as you are.

SHELDON: (that chip again) Boom! Boom! Boom!

Leonard, Sheldon, and Raj discussed the tenured position with their significant others (or Howard's significant other in Raj's case, since Howard wasn't eligible). Raj could use the extra income, since his dad will buy him the BMW but won't spring for the seat warmers. (BERNADETTE: I think that's enough wine for now.) Penny was impressed with the fact Leonard couldn't be fired from his job. (PENNY: Sounds a lot like being a pretty waitress at The Cheesecake Factory.) But Leonard would love to get it just to be able to call his mother and tell her he got tenure at Cal-Tech...assuming she took his call. He was going to let his work speak for itself, no schmoozing, and Penny admired his integrity.

LEONARD: You think I'm a naive idiot, right?

PENNY: Oh good, you heard me.

Amy thought Raj and Leonard didn't stand a chance because Sheldon was so great. (SHELDON: I must say, I go back and forth on this boyfriend-girlfriend thing, but those moments when you worship me really keeps you in the running.) She thought he should cozy up to the committee, but Sheldon does not do cozy. (AMY: You don't say.) But Sheldon did check to see who was on the committee. Among them was Janine Davis, yes the Mrs. Davis whom Sheldon told she was a slave when he was accused of sexual harassment, so Sheldon figured he had a 50/50 chance with her.

Let the kissing up begin! Leonard corners Mrs. Davis in the gym as she worked out on an elliptical rider. Leonard tried exercising on the one next to her as if he had been doing it all of his life...thanks to Mrs. Davis telling him where the Start button was. Leonard's attempts to engage in polite conversation were a bit difficult since he had to inhale his entire asthma inhaler while trying to keep up on the elliptical rider. (And saying Mrs. Davis would look great in a swimsuit probably didn't help.) But when Kripke came in to kiss up to Mrs. Davis as well and wouldn't leave, Leonard pretended to head over to the weightlifting section...but actually fell to the ground and needed someone to call a medic.

Mrs. Davis was thankfully spared Raj's 90-minute video on why he would be a good choice for tenure...until she found out it was Sheldon at her door. (MRS. DAVIS: God, they're everywhere.) He decided to give her a thank-you gift to smooth things over for the last time.

MRS. DAVIS: Roots? Why would you think this is an appropriate gift?

SHELDON: (confused and/or clueless) Um...well...you are black, right?

The meeting quickly ends (at Mrs. Davis' insistence), which was fine for Sheldon, because he had to drop off the complete works of Jackie Chan to Professor Wu.

Suffice it to say, nobody wants to go to Prof. Tupperman's funeral, except for the fact that Howard pointed out the entire tenure committee would be there. And the guys perked up. (HOWARD: Yeah, that's what I was hoping for—meerkats.) Sheldon goes to break his date with Amy, explaining he had to go to Tupperman's funeral...and not to trim his Q-Tips to fit his ears. (SHELDON: Honestly, if I have to endure a long and tedious evening, I'd rather be with you on Date Night.) But Amy thought she should come along because she was well versed in tenure politics and could talk Sheldon up. Sheldon agreed. (SHELDON: Actually, I meant you can drive me.) Leonard was upset when Penny told him about Sheldon going since they all agreed not to go. Then he could go without anyone finding out. Penny offered to go with and support him, but Leonard thought there wasn't much she could do among a group of boring old men.

PENNY: OK, I'm just going to tie my shoe while you think about that.

LEONARD: (watching her caboose as she bends over) Oh, yeah. Thanks, that'd be a great help. You realize then you might kill some of them.

PENNY: Oh, then you WILL get tenure.

At the funeral, Amy reminds Sheldon that he feels sad, the great number of people doesn't make him sweaty and claustrophobic but glad, and getting Mrs. Davis that box set of Roots was bad. But Sheldon couldn't handle Raj showing up, accusing him of just coming to schmooze the tenure committee. (RAJ: Hey, I'm here to pay my respects to Professor...Tupperware.) And then Leonard and Penny arrive, and Leonard starts right in on Sheldon. (LEONARD: I guess the train store in Glendale wasn't having a cotillion.) Amy wants to know why Penny was there, and Leonard tells her to do it. Penny gives her the reason. Both of them, in fact. In a nice tight low-cut black dress.

SHELDON: Did she do it yet?

AMY: (exasperated) She's planning to flirt with members of the tenure committee to further Leonard's cause.

SHELDON: Well that's a fine how-do-you-do! (to Amy) Take your breasts out.

Amy is ticked off Penny would resort to such ploys and confounded at how Penny's breasts were staying up like they were. (LEONARD: Way to hit 'em with both barrels.) Raj thinks both Leonard and Sheldon should be ashamed at using their girlfriends to advance their cause with sexuality...and whatever Amy plans to do.

SHELDON: (offended) Are you implying my girlfriend has no sexuality to exploit?

RAJ: Yes.

SHELDON: OK, because that was not clear...

AMY: SHELDON!

What was Sheldon to do now? With Howard and Bernadette there, he took Howard's advice to talk smack about Raj's mother.

SHELDON: Last night, I was feeling in need of some sexual release when I happened to come across your mother.

Leonard stops it and figures tenure wasn't worth losing his friends over. He was going to let his work speak for itself.

LEONARD: Friends are forever.

HOWARD: So is tenure...

BERNADETTE: (pissed) WALK!!!

But Raj agreed that this was beneath him. (RAJ: Like your mother was last night!) But Sheldon asked Amy for advice.

AMY: Well, you'll always be an academic success, but I seriously question if you'll make any more friends.

SHELDON: I don't want any more, but let's go.

Besides, Kripke found the in with Mrs. Davis: babysitting her kids. (KRIPKE: I wove kids. There's something about me that just makes them waugh and waugh...)

They wanted to remain friends, but they couldn't let Kripke get that tenured position, either.

RAJ: Screw it, I'm going in.

SHELDON: Hold on. I believe "Screw it, I'm going in" is what I said to your mother last night. (to Amy) I didn't really say that. I find the concept of coitus ridiculous and off-putting.

AMY: (frustrated) Should have taken my breasts out when I had the chance.

Here's the good news: Mrs. Davis recommended Leonard, Sheldon, and Raj for the short list, admitting all of them were accomplished scientists despite their quirks (re: SHELDON). And no gift for her this time; he realized how inappropriate his prior gift was.

MRS. DAVIS: (sticking her hand out) Thank you Dr. Cooper. (Sheldon gives it two slaps, a couple of fist bumps and...it was hysterical, words don't do it justice) I'm going to pretend that didn't happen.

SHELDON: Yeah. Right on, sister!

The Closure Alternative

Season 6
Episode Number: 132
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 25, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Bill Prady, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Kate Micucci (Lucy)
Production Code: 3X7621
Summary: Sheldon feels lost after one of his favorite TV shows gets canceled too soon and Amy tries to help him get over his compulsive need for closure. Meanwhile, Raj discovers a secret about his new love interest, Lucy.



Sheldon needs room on the DVR for recording. Naturally, he thinks it's Penny's fault. Although pawning it off to the Chinese hacking the DVR is a flimsy excuse when a recording of Paul Blart: Mall Cop is on there. Leonard suggests Sheldon erase the season 2 finale of Alphas, given it won't have a season 3. Which was news to Sheldon. He was quite upset that it ended on a cliffhanger and it wouldn't get resolved. After all, Firefly got a movie, Buffy the Vampire Slayer continued as a comic book, and "Heroes gradually lowered the quality season by season until we were grateful it ended." Sheldon was going to call the Syfy Channel and give them a piece of his mind, much to Penny's chagrin. (LEONARD: If they didn't want to be yelled at by crazy nerds, they shouldn't have started the Syfy Channel.) Oh, speaking of crazy, not a good idea to convince Penny to watch Buffy with him at 6:30 in the morning, no matter how many jokes or hot vampires the show has.

(Same can be said for Twilight, only there the vampires ARE the joke.)

While Howard installed Raj's new security camera so he could keep an eye on his dog at work (HOWARD: Why can't you just watch porn like a regular guy?), Raj found Lucy's blog online, where she said she recently went on a date with a guy named Roger, who was Indian and an astrophysicist. Raj wanted to know who it was. Howard had to explain Lucy changed his name on purpose to protect their privacy. (RAJ: I always thought if I had a white name, it would be Gavin.) Raj thought it was creepy to read her blog, but getting a little tongue action on his lips from his dog was just cute. He finally breaks down and reads her blog to find out Lucy thought Raj was a little feminine. (HOWARD: Just a little? That's great!) Howard suggests he uses the blog to get into Lucy's pants.

RAJ: Why must you always make things filthy? Why couldn't you have said "the blog is like key to her heart"?

HOWARD: "The key to her heart." That's nice. Were you quoting someone or is that tattooed on the small of your back?

RAJ: I was quoting a man who knows a thing or two about women: Sir Elton John.

Amy stopped by to visit with the despondent Sheldon in the hopes of helping him cope with Alphas ending with some physical contact. (SHELDON: I'm not going to fly all the way to Texas just to get a hug from my mother.) But Amy pressed forward, accusing Sheldon of having issues with closure. Of course, he denies it. And Amy knocks the beginning of "Shave and a Haircut," knowing Sheldon will complete the "Two Bits." (SHELDON: That proves nothing!)

Oh, if Leonard ever introduces you to Buffy, make sure he drinks decaf. Penny thought Buffy was cute, but Leonard thinks that word diminishes them. (PENNY: So, do you want me to stop calling your little tushie cute?) Leonard is depressed but Penny was up for another DVD because it reminded her of her high school. (PENNY: Except instead of vampires, we had meth heads. But both came out at night and had messed-up teeth.)

Amy volunteers her knowledge of neuroscience to cure Sheldon of his need for closure. She starts with a game of tic-tac-toe. Sheldon thinks she's full of it, particularly when she is about to lose to him. At that point, she erases the game. And now Sheldon wants to pull his own face off and tear it up into little Sheldon face confetti.

SHELDON: You don't know what it's like to feel completely frustrated. To have a desire build up in you and then be denied any opportunity for release.

AMY: (major league sarcasm) Yeah, sounds like a drag.

While Raj decides to "butch himself up" by wearing a L.A. Kings hockey jersey (only because black is very slimming, that Cup's coming to CHI-TOWN!!!!!!), Penny still can't get as enthused about Buffy as Leonard does. Or about anything for that matter. She asked Bernadette about it, and Bernadette admitted she was quite passionate about science, particularly the first time she looked through a microscope and saw millions of tiny microorganisms. (BERNADETTE: If I wanted to, I could wipe them out with my thumb like a god.) All Penny needed to do is take some time and figure out what she's passionate about. (PENNY: Ugh, that sounds like a lot of work.)

Sheldon's deprogramming continues. Included are Amy playing the Star-Spangled Banner and stopping before the word "brave," having Sheldon set up a creation made of dominoes...and not letting him knock them down...and let's not even talk about a jack-in-the-box playing Pop Goes the Weasel. And stopping Sheldon from blowing out the last candle on a birthday cake.

AMY: Now your wish can't come true.

SHELDON: (muttering) Lucky for you, 'cause I wished you were dead.

Raj and Lucy's date is going OK. Raj's favorite hockey player is definitely NOT Brian Boitano, and the burritos are still a bit frozen because no wrapper is going to tell Raj what to do. (Except Jay-Z) Finally, Lucy asks him why he was acting all weird, but Raj claims it was the steroids. She thanks him for the burrito and pork rinds and the lecture on monster trucks and heads out, so Raj finally admits reading what she wrote about him being feminine. Lucy said it was a compliment, saying he was sweet and caring.

LUCY: Do you even like hockey?

RAJ: (laughs) No. I bought this at the Staples Center when I went to see Taylor Swift.

While having dinner with Leonard, Penny told him she figured it out. She was passionate about him. (LEONARD: Aww, my cute little tushie strikes again.) She had all of these grand plans to be in movies and live a glamorous life, and anything short of that wasn't worth getting excited about. But she realized she had Leonard, she had all sorts of great friends. She had an exciting life right now.

LEONARD: So...does that mean we get to talk about cool shows and get dressed up in matching costumes and go to Comic Con?

PENNY: Leonard, I had an epiphany, not a stroke.

And Sheldon appeared to be cured. Amy was proud of him and went on her way.

SHELDON: You're an excellent neuroscientist, you're a wonderful girlfriend, and (closes door) a complete sucker!

Finish that tic-tac-toe game, pop that weasel, blow out that last candle, knock down those dominoes, and the home of the BRAVE! It was practically orgasmic.

PENNY: (walks in) Sheldon, you big weirdo, I want you to know that I love you're in my life!

SHELDON: (spent like Austin Powers) And I love you, too.

And Sheldon even found the writer of the Alphas finale, who told Sheldon how he would have resolved the cliffhanger.

SHELDON: Oh, that stinks. No wonder your show got canceled. Goodbye.

The Proton Resurgence

Season 6
Episode Number: 133
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday May 2, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Bob Newhart (Arthur Jefferies / Professor Proton), Troy Winbush (Paramedic), Ashley Shewell (Cafeteria Student)
Production Code: 3X7622
Summary: When Sheldon and Leonard learn their favorite TV scientist is available to hire, they seek to do so. Howard and Bernadette are tasked with watching Raj's dog.



Sheldon found out something exciting on his computer, and Penny found something exciting on Leonard's computer: a computer-controlled Nerf gun. (Although she conceded Sheldon's big head made it an easy target.) As for Sheldon, he found out Professor Proton, the host of his favorite TV show as a child, was available for children's parties and he wanted to hire him to "hang out, do experiments, or have him take 12 pictures and make a calendar." Believe it or not, Leonard was just as interested in hiring Professor Proton as well, having seen his show where he would demonstrate scientific principles

using everyday household objects.

LEONARD: It was pretty cool.

PENNY: Aww, it's so cute when you use the word 'cool' wrong. Like when kids say 'psghetti'.

Raj needed someone to take care of his dog for the weekend while he worked in the telescope lab. Howard wondered why he couldn't just put Cinnamon in a kennel. And Raj angrily wondered why Howard just didn't put his mother in a home. (HOWARD: To be honest, she'd do better in the kennel.) Still, Howard and Bernadette would be happy to take care of the dog, although they did draw the line at feeding her egg-white frittatas for breakfast and scampi for dinner. But they were OK with the baby carriage Cinnamon rode around in, and Bernadette even thought it was nice that Howard threw the ball such a short distance so she didn't have to scamper so far on her little legs. (HOWARD: Yeah, that's what I was doing.) In fact, she even admitted it felt like they were a little family...which of course in sitcoms means they've lost the dog.

Sheldon, of course, kept Leonard up much of the night in excitement over the arrival of Professor Proton. Even Leonard's little act of violence against Sheldon to stop him from practicing his greeting didn't slow him down. And naturally, Sheldon panicked when Professor Proton was two minutes late. But then, it would have been nice if they had told him the elevator was broken, as Professor Proton was catching his breath on the third floor landing, needing 30 minutes just to

get that far. Sheldon was still incredibly excited to meet him, even getting to call him by his real name: Arthur Jennings. (SHELDON: Look at me, I can get as close to you as I want without my Mom telling me it'll ruin my eyes.)

PROTON: Is he dangerous?

LEONARD: Actually, he's a genius.

PROTON: That doesn't really answer my question.

To be fair, his health improved rather quickly when he saw Penny and he was ready to put on a show. Then he found out the show was just for Sheldon. Then he wasn't nearly as thrilled but he soldiered on.

PROTON: (to Leonard) Is the blonde girl really your girlfriend? YOU'RE the genius.

Howard and Bernadette searched high and low looking for Cinnamon, even calling her name in Raj's accent so she would understand them. Howard actually liked hearing Bernadette talk like that. (BERNADETTE: It turns you on when I sound like Raj?!) But Cinnamon was found. Animal Control picked her up and called Raj, who decided not to tell Howard and Bernadette for a few hours while they got massages to calm themselves down. When he finally Skyped with them, they were beside themselves trying to apologize...until they found out Raj retrieved Cinnamon hours ago.

BERNADETTE: (mad as hell) We've been worried sick! She could have been dead, for all we knew! You should be ashamed of yourself!

RAJ: (flustered) I'm sorry...

BERNADETTE: Sorry's not good enough! Maybe you should take some time and think about what you've done! (slams laptop shut)

HOWARD: Nice guilt trip. You're going to be a wonderful mom.

Penny asked Arthur if he did a lot of appearances like this, but he had to admit he was still trying to figure out what 'this' is, particularly with Sheldon mere inches from him with a big grin on his face. There wasn't much to tell about his life, since he did the show years ago and had been doing children's parties to pay the bills since nobody in the scientific community would take him seriously in spite of a PhD from Cornell. Still, working with kids had to be rewarding, right? (ARTHUR: You get bit a lot.) Sheldon and Leonard both wanted Arthur to perform some experiments.

ARTHUR: You two are physicists and want me to perform a children's science show?

Yes, they did. Sheldon even provided the puppet from his show: Geno the Neutrino. (got it on eBay for \$20 including shipping) But the professor did it perform an experiment where an egg would be sucked into a large flask when it snuffs the flame inside of it. Which Sheldon knew, although Penny didn't. But she certainly wanted to see the electric clock powered by the potato. (PENNY: Shut...UP! You can really do that? I mean, wouldn't that solve the world's energy crisis?) Unfortunately, Professor Proton couldn't do any more. Sheldon thought it was Penny's fault, but she was the only reason he had stayed that long. Arthur was burned out over being Professor Proton, thinking it never gotten him anything.

ARTHUR: I've got potatoes in my briefcase, other scientists think I'm a joke, and the puppeteer who did Geno did my wife.

But Leonard and Sheldon gave him some perspective. Sheldon said that Professor Proton was the only friend he had at his house every day at 4 PM, and Leonard told him he must have influenced thousands of kids into becoming scientists, so their accomplishments were just as much his. He thanked him for their kind words and thanked them even more for calling 911 because his pacemaker was acting up. Sheldon wanted to ride along in the ambulance, and Arthur was disappointed to learn ambulances weren't reserved for next-of-kin. Still, he would be OK, Sheldon's singing of Soft Kitty in his hospital room was a help ("the fourth time was the charm"), and he even asked Sheldon to perform his act for a Korean family the next day because he was laid up.

SHELDON: Should I call myself Professor Proton, Jr.?

ARTHUR: Sounds great.

SHELDON: So, in a way, it's like I'm your son. (hugs him) Father!

ARTHUR: Sure, what the hell.

The Love Spell Potential

Season 6
Episode Number: 134
Season Episode: 23

Originally aired: Thursday May 9, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Kate Micucci (Lucy)
Production Code: 3X7623
Summary: After an aborted girls' trip to Vegas, they are all playing Dungeons and Dragons together. Raj leaves after he finds that Lucy is free and he pushes her to do things that scare her. In the game, Penny casts a love spell on Sheldon and Amy's characters which gets Amy very upset because they are treating her and Sheldon's relationship as a joke.



It's party time for the gang. For the ladies, it's VEGAS BABY, VEGAS! For the guys, it's D&D BABY, D&D! Penny, Amy, and Bernadette get in a cab and head to the airport to fly to the land with no rules. Although Amy does think there should be a rule about not having a six-way with the Blue Man Group. Fair enough. No husbands or boyfriends this week-end, so Penny was ready with new bikini, Bernadette had a nice tube top (and can of pepper spray), and Amy had a pair of old underwear to throw on the stage at a Garth Brooks concert. She tried new underwear the last time and it didn't get her

anyplace.

The boys decided to shake things up and let Howard be the Dungeon Master instead of Leonard. Of course, Sheldon loathes change, at which point Leonard has to remind him he ended up liking Zachary Quinto as Spock. Sheldon is upset Leonard throws that in his face every single time he complains about change, but whatevs. Howard's ready to go, and the warriors come across an oak tree that looks like Nicolas Cage. (And a very kick-ass imitation there, Simon!) (SHELDON: You just got pantsed in the schoolyard, four-eyes!) But Raj was a brave warrior who wouldn't be kept from his goal. Nor a date with Lucy, who finished work early, so Raj was out the door. Thankfully for the guys, the ladies had returned. Apparently, a TSA agent got a little too handsy with Amy. She got a broken nose from Amy's elbow, and Amy got a spot on the no-fly list. She was upset. (PENNY: Hey, you lost money, you feel ashamed, and you got groped by a stranger. That's Vegas, you nailed it. Amy was about to go home when Leonard invited the ladies to play D&D.

SHELDON: (shocked) Three weeks ago, you bought crunchy peanut butter, and now you want the girls to play D&D? Do you have a drug problem? I've never played Dungeons & Dragons with girls before.

PENNY: Don't worry, sweetie. No one has.

Sheldon left the decision to the Dungeon Master, who saw some Satanic fungus rising from the forest floor that looked like Al Pacino.

HOWARD/AL: You're playing D&D, you're playing D&D, this whole APARTMENT'S playing D&D! (It was even better than his Nic Cage.)

The ladies were in, particularly when Penny made a pitcher of margaritas. Sheldon informed them they didn't drink while playing D&D but Penny said it was a magic potion to make her like him more. (LEONARD: Double-potion, please.) Howard tells them about two hulking ogres (that sounded a lot like a bad guy from Super Friends). Everybody grabs a weapon, and Penny grabs more of her magic potion. But they need to roll the dice, so they leave it to the craps expert. (PENNY: 15's the point. The point is 15. Give the little lady some room. Here it is coming out.)

Raj and Lucy meet for drinks. And despite the alcohol, it was going a bit awkwardly. In fact, Lucy was so nervous, she put roll-on anti-perspirant all over her body before arriving. (LUCY: If sweat starts squirting out the top of my head, you'll know why.) But to give her credit, she had been trying to do things that she was too scared to do, like tell her hair stylist she doesn't like bangs, saying no to kids selling magazine subscriptions door-to-door (LUCY: I have a two-year subscription to Guns & Ammo.), or sending her food back at a restaurant if something was wrong with it. But given at dinner her crab cakes were a bit funky, Raj thought it was the perfect opportunity for her to practice. Against her wishes, he called the waiter over, but she wouldn't tell him to fix the crab cakes. Raj kept prodding her, and she ran off to the bathroom. Raj thought it was cute and told the waiter the first time they dated, she went to the bathroom and jumped out the window. Just like she did tonight. Only she was locked in by a fence. She had no choice but to call Raj.

As the rest of the gang really got into the D&D game (BERNADETTE: Come on! Mama wants a pair of dead ogres!), Raj finds Lucy and tells her it chips away at his masculinity to have her crawl out of a bathroom window. But she says right back that he was pushing her to send her food back and she didn't like it. And if she couldn't tell the woman at SuperCuts her forehead is her best feature, how could she tell Raj she was upset about being pushed?

RAJ: Well, I like you a lot! And that is scary for me, because you're a proven flight risk.

LUCY: How can you like me a lot?

RAJ: For one thing, you have bigger emotional problems than me and I find that very attractive in a woman! I don't know...I think you're wonderful.

Lucy goes up to the fence and puts her lips through it. Raj kisses her. (LUCY: I'm sweating out the top of my head!)

In the D&D game, the gang takes out a flying dragon, but the dragon survives. Sheldon demands to know if the dragon said anything, so Howard breaks out the Christopher Walken. (Didn't have the voice quite right, but the cadence was spot-on funny!) Amy gets a winning roll, the dragon dies, and Sheldon even gets some final words from Chris. Bernadette thinks Howard's one fine-ass Dungeon Master (although that may be the magic potion talking). He planned to take her on another adventure when they got home, and Sheldon was excited! (AMY: Sheldon, they're talking about sex.) Then Penny came up with the great idea Sheldon's and Amy's characters should do it in the game. Gets an Oooo! from Bernadette (and a backup Oooo! from Howard). The love spell was cast.

HOWARD: When Sheldon looks at Amy, she's the most beautiful half-Orc he's ever seen and he's overcome with a desire to rip her armor off and gaze at her four hairy breasts! When Amy sees Sheldon, he...looks just like Sheldon because apparently she's into that.

That might have been too much for Amy, who leaves and locks herself in Sheldon's room. (SHELDON: You see what happens when you let girls play D&D?) Sheldon goes to talk to her (knocking on his own door for the first time), and Amy is upset everybody thinks their relationship is a joke, but Sheldon doesn't think it is.

SHELDON: Amy, before I met you, I never had any interest in an intimate relationship.

AMY: And now?

SHELDON: And now what?

AMY: Do you have any interest now?

SHELDON: I would not rule that out.

AMY: (sarcastic) Wow, talk dirty to me.

Sheldon thinks they have an extremely intimate relationship, but Amy wanted more. (SHELDON: More? Look at us! It's only been three years, and we're in bed together!) But Sheldon said their characters did have a love spell cast upon them and they should play it out. He went to get some dice and decided to (rolls) take off Amy's armor. Amy decided to kiss him on the lips. And Sheldon decided to (rolls) kiss her on the lips as well. Amy removes his armor, and Sheldon erotically caresses her (rolls) nose. (AMY: Keep rolling!)

After a while, Penny and Leonard go to find out what happened and to apologize.

AMY: Go away! Sheldon is about to nibble on my (rolls) FOURTEEN!

The Bon Voyage Reaction

Season 6

Episode Number: 135

Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 16, 2013
Writer: Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Kate Micucci (Lucy)
Production Code: 3X7624
Summary: Leonard gets a new job opportunity to work abroad for the summer and Sheldon is feeling a little bit jealous. Meanwhile, Raj tries to move his relationship with Lucy into a new direction by introducing her to his friends, but he fears that she may not like them.



Things were going well with Raj and Lucy. He spent 20 minutes on videochat just staring into her eyes...until he realized the screen froze. (RAJ: Still one of my top dates of all time.) Sheldon had some advice when it came to handling so many people around: pretend they're characters from Star Trek. Worked for rooming with Leonard, aka the unnamed crewman in a red shirt. Howard had a big surprise for Leonard: Stephen Hawking was sending a team on an expedition to the North Sea to test hydrodynamic simulations of black holes and they needed a replacement theoretical physicist, and Howard

recommended him for the job. Leonard was ecstatic, but Sheldon thinks it's a bad idea. (SHELDON: You know Star Trek. Should a man with no name and a red shirt really go on an expedition?) Oh, Sheldon was just getting started. He mentioned drownings on the way home, and being eaten by sharks. Clearly he didn't want Leonard to go, but there wasn't a thing Sheldon could say to stop him.

SHELDON: Things between you and Penny have never been better. I hope four months apart won't change anything. (that got Leonard) I should have opened with that, huh.

Raj had another date with Lucy and let her look through his telescope aimed at Venus and showing the International Space Station, even telling her about Howard being up there. And all he got was a t-shirt that said "My friend went to the International Space Station and all I got was this lousy t-shirt." Raj wanted her to meet his friends, but Lucy wasn't having it. Raj thought it was cool he had six friends (not friends with Stuart anymore?), but Raj offered if she would meet only one.

LUCY: Will you be there?

RAJ: Sure.

LUCY: That's two. Three if you count me. Oh, this is getting out of hand!

At least Penny got a big tip at work today...thanks to spilling a tray of drinks all over her shirt. Leonard told her about the opportunity to join Hawking's expedition (Hawking wouldn't

be going...the wheelchair would just be sliding all over the place), and Penny was concerned she wouldn't be able to visit him. Leonard was afraid things had been going so well with them, he didn't want to screw things up.

PENNY: Sweetie, if you're going to screw things up, it's going to be while you're here, not while you're away.

He asked her to keep an eye on Sheldon while he was gone and she reminded him of the time she took care of his goldfish.

LEONARD: Well, flush Sheldon down the toilet and get me a new one.

Everybody decided to throw Leonard a bon voyage party, even though he said it wasn't necessary. (SHELDON: Leonard, you're being selfish. We have to give you a proper send-off so we have closure when you die at sea and crabs eat your face.) Bernadette said the way she got through Howard being in space is getting married right before he left. And now Penny has two people who need to shut up. Raj asked everyone if one person could come meet Lucy. Sheldon claimed he didn't have time to do it, but Raj had already decided on Leonard. Which Howard took offense to until Raj explained his big personality and "Woody Allen swagger" would scare Lucy. Penny suggested Lucy would be more comfortable meeting a girl first...so Raj asked Bernadette.

PENNY: (offended) What the hell!?!)

RAJ: You're very pretty, that could be intimidating to another woman.

BERNADETTE: (even more offended) What? You don't think I'm pretty enough to scare your girlfriend?

HOWARD: Calm down, Bernie. You're very scary.

Amy suggested her because she knew what it was like to be the outsider in the group and they took her in and made her feel loved...like she was family. (SHELDON: Fine! I'll do it!) But Amy told Lucy the story of meeting Sheldon, then Leonard, then becoming friends with Penny and Bernadette. Amy even suggested everybody get together next week, but Raj cut her off and told Lucy she didn't have to do that. (RAJ: Tell her how much you hate being put on the spot. Go ahead, tell her.) Amy told Raj she was a neurobiologist and understood social anxiety. (AMY: I think I'm a little more qualified than you to know about what's not working in your girlfriend's brain!) Lucy was getting uncomfortable quickly, and Raj asking if her if they really were boyfriend/girlfriend made it worse.

RAJ: Are you my girlfriend? By the way, if you say no, I'll never be happy again. Not to put you on the spot. (Lucy runs for the bathroom.) We might as well eat; she won't be coming back anytime soon.

Sheldon and Penny did the shopping for the party, but Sheldon couldn't find the party section. Penny found it. They sell alcohol. He grilled her about Leonard leaving and she was supporting it. She said she was supporting him as her girlfriend. (SHELDON: You say that now, but there is a rich tradition of men at sea finding comfort in each other's arms and britches.) Sheldon didn't even think the trip was a big deal, even though they could prove where the universe came from, why everything exists, and what its end will be. (SHELDON: I'm interested in the big questions.) Penny finally figured out he was jealous and told him nothing is being taken away from him just because good things are happening to Leonard. She told the story of how another Cheesecake Factory waitress won a toothpaste commercial over her and she took the high road. Looking her in the eye, smiling, and saying she was happy for her. Penny even demonstrated it for Sheldon. (SHELDON: Wow, no wonder you didn't get that toothpaste commercial.)

Raj went on videochat with Lucy to apologize for pushing too hard. He tried to invite her to Leonard's party, saying the focus will be on him. (RAJ: If you wear something brown and sit on the couch, they won't even know you were there.) Lucy didn't want to do it, and Raj didn't want to have to beg...which he was quite good at. She caved and told him she would be there.

At the party, Howard expressed his admiration for Leonard going on this adventure. Leonard admitted it was the biggest adventure of his life. (HOWARD: Maybe your lifetime; I went to space.) Meanwhile Sheldon decided to propose a toast, saying "he was happy for Leonard," complete with fake smile. (SHELDON: And THAT'S how you get a toothpaste commercial.) Unfortunately, Raj got a text. Lucy wasn't coming, said it was too much for her, and told him they shouldn't see each other anymore.

After Penny bid a tearful goodbye to Leonard at the airport...as tearful as she could be with Sheldon badgering her about parking in the red zone...she stopped by Raj's apartment to see how he was doing. He wasn't doing well. Lucy left him, and he drove her away. Penny hugged

him and said she missed Leonard, so she knew how he felt. He continued on about how he was completely unlovable.

PENNY: That's just the booze talking.

RAJ: It's not. I haven't had a drink since last night.

PENNY: (shocked) You're talking to me.

RAJ: I am! (breaks down) And now I'm crying for a whole different reason.

PENNY: (starts crying) Me too!!!

Season Seven

The Hofstadter Insufficiency

Season 7
Episode Number: 136
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Thursday September 26, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Tara Hernandez, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Regina King (Ms. Davis), Sophie Oda (Grace), Aaron Takahashi (Scientist), Alex Ball (Waiter)
Production Code: 4X5301
Summary: Sheldon and Penny share intimate secrets while Leonard is away at sea, later, Sheldon's feelings are crushed when Leonard returns. Meanwhile, Raj gets consoled about his ex-girlfriend and Wolowitz's relationship with his mother causes an unusual threat to his masculinity.



Leonard is in the middle of the North Sea and the weather's rough. Of course, that doesn't stop Sheldon from calling him and accusing him of putting the Back to the Future Part II in the Back to the Future Part III case and vice versa. Then Leonard hears a roar coming from the sea, and Sheldon tells him someone's released a Kraken. Suddenly Leonard is pulled overboard by an octopus-like arm and Sheldon screams in terror! Yes, it was a nightmare and he high-tails it to Penny's and asks her if she's had any nightmares because she was missing Leonard. But he admitted to having a bad

dream. ("Back to the Future II was in the Back to the Future III case.") But Penny relents and "admits" she would feel better if Sheldon slept over in her apartment. So he does...right in her bed.

At the university, Raj was missing Lucy, if thinking an oil-shaped stain in the parking garage was shaped like her could be an indication. Howard suggests Raj go to the post-doc mixer that night and find someone now that he can talk to women without alcohol. But Raj wants to know how he can meet women when he sees Lucy everywhere, even in his chicken pot pie? So Howard smashes the hell out of the thing. Raj is not happy with him, but Howard decides to be his wing man since Bernadette and Amy are away at a science conference together. Raj asks Sheldon to join them.

SHELDON: I want you to be happy, too. But not enough to do anything about it.

At the conference, Bernadette doesn't want to do dirty talk with Howard in front of Amy and Amy couldn't convince Sheldon she wouldn't bring home bed bugs. Needless to say, both of them needed a drink from the bar. Which two gentlemen at the bar were willing to provide them. Amy was ecstatic. (AMY: Guys are hitting on us and not just to get to Penny!) But they figured they

had to come clean because they already had significant others. Bernadette couldn't help but wonder if Amy should talk to one of them anyway. No one would blame her.

BERNADETTE: You're not married and you're boyfriend's kind of...Sheldon.

AMY: (offended) And your husband is extremely Howard. What's your point?

Bernadette tried to apologize but Amy wasn't in a forgiving mood.

How much does Sheldon miss Leonard? He wants to play Star Trek 3-D chess with Penny. She's not so thrilled, but Sheldon refused to admit he missed the way Leonard would make a smiley face on his waffles with the syrup or fix his zippers when they get stuck (yes, that one, too...which he asks Penny to fix in Leonard's absence). So Penny relents and would be happy about it...if Sheldon didn't try to prolong the game by tanking his moves. She decides to call Leonard, which of course Sheldon couldn't care less about. ("OH GOODY! PUT HIM ON SPEAKERPHONE!") But Leonard can't hear them...because of the party going on at 5AM his time. But they had to go because there was an iceberg...or at least someone yelling the word, which meant the entire crew had to take a shot of alcohol.

Raj was successful in talking to a woman at the social...who made Lucy look like a party girl by comparison. But to make things worse, Mrs. Davis, the lady from HR the guys got in trouble with last year, stopped in and was not in a partying mood given her husband left her for an undergrad. Still things could get even worse...if Raj said to her he recently read an article on the infidelity of penguins. ("So if the fact your husband left you makes you feel unattractive, penguins get cheated on, and they're adorable!")

Getting ready for bed, Amy finally relented and admitted she was flattered to have those two guys buy them drinks. Just for fun, they decided which they would have taken. Amy would have gone for the shorter one with the goofy haircut who was staring at her rack, while Bernadette thought she'd take the tall, quiet one who looked a bit standoffish and socially inexperienced because she could then show a thing or two in the bedroom. (give it a second...)

Penny was mad as hell Leonard was partying. And the worst part was..."having to process her emotional pain without vodka." (Sheldon thinks so.) Penny wants to be comforted, and we all know how good Sheldon is at that. Penny wants him to stop, particularly when he guesses she's upset because she thinks Leonard is having drunken coitus with someone else, but Sheldon was obligated to comfort her because he promised Leonard he would take care of Penny while he was gone. He was promised a sailor's hat if he did. So he goes all out, even getting her a hot beverage. ("In a to-go cup. Make of that what you will.") Penny wants to talk, so Sheldon admits he owns 9 pairs of pants and 9 pairs of underpants. Penny decides to take the lead and admit she once did a topless scene in a low-budget slasher movie about a deranged gorilla and was ashamed of herself for doing it. Fortunately, Serial Apeist never got to DVD. Which of course means Howard found it on the Internet. And showed it the guys the day she moved in. Sheldon understood how personal the talk was, so he admitted he didn't like when YouTube changed its rating system, even though he tells people he was OK with it. Penny was upset thinking that's all she got, but Sheldon's feelings were hurt because what he told her was very personal. She didn't think it was a big deal. (SHELDON: It was to me.) Penny apologized for not taking it seriously.

PENNY: How about a hug?

SHELDON: How about a hearty handshake? (they hug) Now I know how you felt getting mauled by that sex-crazed gorilla.

Raj finds Mrs. Davis and apologizes for his insensitivity earlier and says they have something in common: they're both "in the throes of heartbreak." And tells her about it. But they have a lovely conversation, and Raj told her he was at the social to pick up some post-doc girls but had a much better time as a result of connecting with her on a human level. Raj thinks they had a moment.

Oh, and we do get to see Penny mauled by the sex-crazed gorilla.

LEONARD: Yes, that's my girlfriend, I swear to God!

The Deception Verification

Season 7
Episode Number: 137
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday September 26, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Barak Hardley (Pizza Delivery Guy)
Production Code: 4X5302
Summary: Sheldon feels betrayed when Leonard returns from the North Sea and wants to spend his time with Penny instead of him. Howard's latest foray into helping his mother has some disastrous side effects.



Sheldon's need to espouse scientific discoveries doesn't stop just because Leonard is gone. He tells Penny that because of the jet stream winds, bad weather can actually make the day longer. (PENNY: There must be a helluva storm coming.) It turns out it wasn't a storm; just Leonard waiting for her in her apartment. She is thrilled but wonders why he was in there. He got home a few days early and didn't tell Sheldon so he could spend them with her.

PENNY: That is so romantic!

LEONARD: Yeah, that's why I did it.

Sheldon wanted to get Leonard something nice to welcome him home, so he asks for Stuart's advice at the comic book store. And he ends up with a \$1,200 Aqua-Man statue and a \$200 Bat-Man squirt gun. (and he wants Penny to split the cost on the squirt gun) Meanwhile, Howard has been getting quite snippy and Raj calls him on it. Howard has been trying to lose weight and just can't seem to lose those last couple of pounds.

HOWARD: I had to buy these pants in the men's section!

RAJ: Well, we've all seen your mother. That Butter-ball Turkey was bound to come home to roost eventually.

Back at Penny's, Leonard showed her the picture of him doing the Titanic on the boat...and of the crew pulling him out of the water. Penny goes to pay for the pizza and promises in lieu of a bigger tip, she won't tell the delivery guy's boss he reeks of marijuana. But she had to cover herself as Sheldon came up the stairs and saw her. (SHELDON: That's a rather earthy cologne. My uncle used to wear that.) Sheldon wants to eat dinner with her, but she wanted to eat alone. Sheldon comes in anyway and hears the toilet flush. She claims it's faulty, but Sheldon thinks he can fix it, having spent a lot of the fifth grade with his head in the toilet. The two glasses of wine were much easier to explain.

Howard gets home and Bernadette made brownies for him. Which offended him to no end because she knew he was trying to lose weight. Bernadette didn't think he was fat, but either she or the bathroom scale was lying. He had a long dinner with his mother and had to apply estrogen cream on her back. (HOWARD: We have an unhealthy relationship!) He asked for more from her pharmaceutical company since they didn't account for square footage, but she realized he was applying it without gloves and it was absorbed into his skin.

BERNADETTE: That's why you've been all bloated and moody and a giant pain in the ass!

HOWARD: But you're full of estrogen and you don't act like that.

BERNADETTE: That's because I'm a woman. I've had years of practice riding the dragon.

Howard promises to wear gloves next time, but the estrogen would still take a few weeks to get out of his system. He's all depressed, and Bernadette wants to show him how much of a man he still is. (HOWARD: Sex, really? That's your answer for everything!)

Sheldon airs his concerns to Amy, who doesn't think Penny would cheat on Leonard. But Penny beat Sheldon in a staring contest by clapping loudly and distracting him, so he thinks it's a short path from there to infidelity. The two listen in at Penny's door and do hear someone besides Penny in her apartment. Sheldon gets out his key and goes into Penny's apartment to find Leonard there. Penny is livid he barged in, so he goes back out and knocks on the door. (yes, in the famed Sheldon manner) Leonard tries to apologize and explain himself, but Sheldon isn't having it, saying he didn't realize how much of a burden his friendship with him was. And even the sailor cap Leonard brought back for him didn't mollify him, despite Penny and Amy trying to be encouraging.

SHELDON: (wearing the sailor hat) This changes nothing. Except the Halloween costume I'm wearing this year. Amy, you're going as Olive Oyl, lay off the donuts.

The estrogen in Howard would certainly not exit in time for him to ask Raj over and discuss his breasts. Howard is convinced his boobs are getting larger. Raj isn't sure, so he asks Howard to jump up and down. Still no difference, so Howard shakes them back and forth. Raj is starting to see that, but she shows that his do the same. (I am REALLY not doing this scene justice.) Raj needs to know for sure so he starts fondling Howard's breasts. And Howard checks Raj's. All while Bernadette watches in shock. (given how Melissa Rauch is built, there's something of an irony to it)

Leonard wants to know if Sheldon still needs a ride to work but Sheldon doesn't know whether or not Leonard will really take him there, given he said he'd be home the prior day and had been home for three. Sheldon continues on with this, aggravating Leonard to no end.

SHELDON: You say you're from New Jersey, but how can I believe you?

LEONARD: Why would anyone claim they're from New Jersey when they weren't?

SHELDON: OK, I'll give you that one.

Leonard has finally had enough and leaves him behind. Amy stops by to get Sheldon and tells Penny that Sheldon is mad at her, too, for being the succubus who took Leonard away. (PENNY: I don't know what succubus is, but it has "suck" in it, so that can't be good.) Penny tries to talk to him, but he feels betrayed given he let her buy feminine hygiene products with his supermarket club card. (SHELDON: Have you any idea the kind of coupons I'm going to get in the mail?) Amy tries to play peacemaker, but Sheldon tells her she's either with him or against him. At which point he can take the bus. At which point he figures there may be a third option available. (AMY: FYI, I had a donut for breakfast, you jerk.)

As it happens, there was the perfect option at the university. The estrogen-silly Howard broke down in tears at seeing Leonard and Sheldon continue their fight and insists the two of them are best friends. And that's a beautiful thing.

HOWARD: (tearful) Leonard, you know why he's mad at you? It's because he missed you! And as his friend, you should be happy for him because he has love in his life! Just like I do! This man (Raj) held my breast the other day and I love him for it!

RAJ: (annoyed) Little loud, dude. (but Leonard and Sheldon forgive each other) It wasn't anything weird; it was just to see how big they were.

Leonard gave Sheldon a full day at the barber, the dentist, and even the Los Angeles Bureau of Weights and Measures. Penny is glad they were friends again, and Sheldon was glad to give Penny his coupon for 50 cents off of Vagasil. (SHELDON: Think of me when you apply it.) Raj thinks it's great everyone was hanging out together again, but Leonard was shocked he was

talking in front of the ladies without a drink. They forgot to tell him, and Howard breaks down in tears over it. Penny hands him the coupon.

PENNY: Think of Sheldon when you apply it.

The Scavenger Vortex

Season 7
Episode Number: 138
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday October 3, 2013
Writer: Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: 4X5303
Summary: Raj plans a scavenger hunt for the group that tests their science skills as well as their life skills. This event brings out the both the good and bad in the competitors.



Raj was mad that everyone didn't RSVP to his murder-mystery dinner party. Which was last week, so he was even more mad about that. However, he soldiered on and suggested a scavenger hunt. This got a warmer reception because Howard used to do them at M.I.T. and Leonard used to do them at Princeton. And Sheldon got a good laugh at the two of them thinking those were real schools. Amy would have done them at Harvard, but she always got stuck on the first task: getting someone to be her partner. Even Penny has been on scavenger hunts with her friends...although their goal was mainly

to get beer. So everybody was in.

SHELDON: Sorry, are we really doing this or are we tricking Koothrappali like at the dinner party?

Sheldon was prepared with an entire backpack of items for the scavenger hunt, even a bowling ball since he didn't want to have to stick his fingers in one in case the hunt took them to a bowling alley. Raj was ready to introduce them to the game...complete with smoke, P.A. system, flashing lights, and Get Ready 4 This by 2 Unlimited. (As Sheldon's students once said, KMN for knowing that without looking it up.) There were to be three teams of 2. The teams had to solve 10 different puzzles to find a gold coin (coin! coin! coin!...Raj had an echo button) Couples were suggested, but then Leonard thought picking names out of a hat would be even more fun. Which Penny immediately took offense to, thinking he didn't want her on his team. (PENNY: You think I'm going to be a liability, even though I totally used the word 'liability' correctly in a sentence.) She decided to choose Sheldon. (SHELDON: Really? The first time I'm ever picked first for a team and I'm stuck with the liability?) Amy plays peacemaker and Penny asks the two of them to be a team. And drawing names out of a hat it is.

(This, of course, was an attempt by the producers to pair up characters on the show that normally don't get paired up, so Leonard and Bernadette were on a team, as were Howard and Amy, leaving Penny and Sheldon on the last team. But at least they've hugged.)

The first task was to solve a jigsaw puzzle. Sheldon didn't like the fact Penny was putting pieces together that weren't edges and made her start all over again. Amy was quite good at them, her mother having told her a jigsaw puzzle was like having "a thousand friends." (AMY: She was full of fun lies like that.) Amy figures Howard would have rather been with Bernadette, but Howard wasn't. Bernadette could get a little...competitive. (worse than Monica on Friends if you can believe it) And Leonard was finding this out the hard way. (BERNADETTE: FASTER! FASTER! FASTER! You know what that word means? MORE FAST!) The puzzle tells them to go to the comic book store, but Sheldon refuses to go until they put every last piece of the puzzle together, thinking it could be a trick and they should go to the train store. And he puts in every last piece...and it was the comic book store. On the way, Leonard laments Penny still being mad at him for not wanting to be on her team and Bernadette was even more mad at Leonard for keeping his car under Warp 9. Meanwhile, Howard and Amy tried to figure out what they had in common. Not much, although both of them liked music, so Howard let her pick the song.

AMY: Beatles? Boring. Eminem? Scary. Weird AI? How old are you? Neil Diamond?

HOWARD/AMY: (a few seconds later) SWEET CAROLINE! (BA BA BAAA!!) GOOD TIMES NEVER SEEMED SO GOOD. (SO GOOD! SO GOOD! SO GOOD!)

Raj thanks Stuart for loaning out the comic book store, and Stuart was so happy to help out at something he wasn't invited to take part in. (Raj even forgot to invite him to the murder mystery parties.) Howard and Amy arrive first and get their next clue from a cardboard cutout of The Riddler. While they look over the clue, Bernadette chased Leonard into the store. (BERNADETTE: How am I faster than you? I'm in heels, AND I stopped to take a phone call!) She wouldn't even let him apologize to Penny and Sheldon as she arrive last, but Sheldon briefly looks at the clue and already has it. Everyone else then gets it and takes off.

STUART: (everybody's gone) So, nobody's going to buy anything.

The next stop is a geology lab, where Sheldon explains how he figured out the clue so fast. (and for those whining about no science stuff on the show anymore, he went into a three-minute explanation that would take too long to type here, so deal with it!) As the clue said to leave no stone unturned, Penny and Sheldon look under every rock. But then Penny figures out the clue was behind the big Rolling Stones poster on the wall. Sheldon memorizes the map coordinates behind it, and they were off. To a bowling alley. (SHELDON: YES! MY BRAIN IS BETTER THAN EVERYBODY'S!) Meanwhile, as Howard and Amy continued to enjoy their Neil Diamond concert in the car (and checked out the geology lab singing Love on the Rocks), Bernadette took over the driving because Leonard was still moping about Penny being mad at him. He was ready to quit, but Bernadette told him if he did that, he would be exactly what Penny thought he was.

BERNADETT: How can I put this? She's been known to call you a name that usually applies to a lady part. Or a cat. Or a willow.

It motivated Leonard to rappel down the elevator shaft in their building to get the next clue. Up was a bit of a problem. (LEONARD: Yeah, Penny might be onto something.)

SHELDON/PENNY: To the planetarium! Let's go!

LEONARD/BERNADETTE: To the tarps! Let's go!

AMY/HOWARD: There's a Neil Diamond concert next month. Let's go!

They end up in the laundry room, where three bags of laundry await the teams. Naturally, Sheldon thinks it's Penny's turn to do the work. And Bernadette wasn't happy with Leonard for slowing down for that blind person, but Leonard was more upset with Penny for calling him...he couldn't say it in front of Sheldon. Penny didn't know what Leonard was talking about, mainly because Bernadette made the whole story up.

BERNADETTE: You were about to quit like a big...Sheldon, cover your ears!

SHELDON: I am not a child! I know the word ninny!

Bernadette wished she had someone more manly on her team...like Penny. (LEONARD: Hey, I'm every bit as manly as Penny!) They finally get the clothing out to discover it's all pants except for a single shirt. One of Sheldon's shirts in fact. And each shirt had a spot on it. Yup, Sheldon's spot was the final destination. While Sheldon pre-soaked his soiled shirts, everybody else high-tailed it up the stairs and dug through the couch where Sheldon always sat. Then Raj came out in a Hugh M. Hefner-like robe with a glass of brandy, telling everyone to look in their pockets. Everybody had a gold coin that Raj slipped into their pockets earlier in the day. (RAJ: Don't you see? When we're all having fun together, we're already winners!) Penny looked like she was about to go junior rodeo on Raj.

BERNADETTE: You suck...SO hard!

RAJ: Come on! I didn't want anybody to feel bad at the end of the game. And some of those puzzles were really hard and I didn't know who was going to get Penny.

PENNY: (readying the farm implements) Run...run to India.

RAJ: (running for his life) I just wanted to do something beautiful!

SHELDON: (coming up the stairs with his coin) Hey, look! I won!

Who were the real winners? Not the customers at The Cheesecake Factory, who had to endure Howard and Amy singing Cherry, Cherry

The Raiders Minimization

Season 7
Episode Number: 139
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday October 10, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Beverly Hofstadter)
Production Code: 4X5304
Summary: Sheldon plots to get even with Amy after she wrecks *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Leonard learns a new technique to influence Penny. Stuart and Raj turn to the Internet for dating help.



Ah, the familiar strings of the theme to *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. It rated a "good" from Amy. Which of course meant Sheldon was about to have a conniption. (AMY: When you said I was going to be "losing my virginity," I didn't think you meant showing a *Raiders of the Lost Ark* movie.) Still, Amy thought it was quite entertaining, "despite the glaring story problem." Sheldon thought that was so cute, given he watched it 36 times, except for the snake scene and the face-melting scene, and thought there was no way there was a glaring error. (SHELDON: Here's my jaw. Drop it.) And she does: In-

diana Jones had no direct influence on the outcome. If he wasn't in it, it would have evolved the same way. (I'll give you a minute to think about that.) Not convinced? According to Amy, the Nazis still got the ark, still would have taken it to the island, and still would have died when they opened it. (Hmmm, now there's some water cooler talk for the morning...except in Chicago, where we'll be talking about the Bears beating the Giants. :-D)

AMY: (reaching for Sheldon's jaw) Let me close that for you.

Penny and Leonard meet in the lobby. Leonard went to the comic book store alone because Sheldon and Amy were having a date night and he didn't want to make it awkward. (LEONARD: They have each other for that.) At school, Penny picked up a book for her Psych class Leonard may not like: *The Disappointing Child*. Yup, by Dr. Beverly Hofstadter. Full of every horrible story from his childhood. (PENNY: Cool! Are there pictures?) There are chapters about potty training, bedwetting, and masturbation. (LEONARD: Basically, if something came out of me, she wrote about it!) There's even a chapter on "the breastfeeding crisis." Apparently, Leonard favored the left one. (PENNY: Oh, my God! You still go left!)

Raj and Stuart were trying to upgrade their online dating profiles, and Howard's answer to the survey question about the celebrity Raj looks the most like? Halle Berry (RAJ: And thank you! I'd kill for that woman's bone structure.) Sheldon decided he would get back at Amy by

reading *Pride and Prejudice*. He planned to ruin it for Amy. (HOWARD: Because her life wasn't enough?) Sheldon explains Amy's reasoning, and now the movie is ruined for everybody. Not even Leonard reasoning Indy and Sallah having the medallion to make the correct-sized staff helped. His smiling needed work. A lot of work. Not to mention his one-word description for the profile: unobjectionable. Raj mentioned his parents' money for his best feature, so he was set.

And as if Leonard wasn't having a bad enough day, Penny insisted on knowing why a five-year-old would put on makeup and wear balloon boobies. (LEONARD: They were muscles! And the make-up was green. I wanted to be *The Incredible Hulk*.) He wanted to smash his way out of the house to get away from her experiments, like the Easter egg hunt with no eggs...which he finished in June. Penny wants to make him feel better but there really wasn't anything she could do. OK, there were a few things she could do, and Leonard certainly wasn't going to argue with her on it. (LEONARD: Just to warn you, I'm gonna go right. Don't make a big deal out of it.)

Stuart was about to take his picture for his dating profile, and Raj thought makeup would help him not look like a body they just pulled out of the river. His smiling needed work. A lot of work. Not to mention his one-word description for the profile: unobjectionable. Raj mentioned his parents' money for his best feature, so he was set. They post their profiles, and their profiles are actually being read.

RAJ: (pauses) When they read your profile, does it seem like you're exposed, like they're seeing you naked?

STUART: Well, they're not running away screaming, so no.

Pride and Prejudice wasn't going to work for Sheldon because it was too well-written, so he goes for another of Amy's favorite pasttimes: the *Marmaduke* comic strip. (SHELDON: A family has a dog so large and poorly-trained and he causes them nothing but problems. Why are they keeping him?) But Leonard figured they fell in love with *Marmaduke* as a puppy and didn't realize how big he'd get. (SHELDON: Why couldn't she just love *Ziggy*? That thing's riddled with plothes.) He thought he would try *Garfield*, only one look at the lasagna-eating cat and he was hooked himself. Sheldon asked Leonard for advice on Amy.

SHELDON: Can you think of anything she's fond of that has a bunch of flaws she hasn't noticed?

LEONARD: (tempting...tempting...) I gotta go.

And the place Leonard went was to watch a football game at a sports bar with Penny. Leonard didn't want to go, mainly because he is teased for thinking *Quidditch* is a sport. Penny wants him to go, but he was too depressed to do it. Penny thinks it's about the book and she decided they didn't have to go if it was. (LEONARD: It's TOTALLY about my mom.) So instead of going to the sports bar to watch the football game, they ordered takeout and watched the blu-ray of *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* with extended scenes and commentary track.

Apparently, playing the sympathy card is working quite nicely for Leonard, given the booty call Penny paid him at work. And Howard is impressed. Leonard explained Penny did anything she could to make him feel better whenever he mentioned his mother or her book. He admitted not being proud of it, but it does work. (LEONARD: I got her to watch a six-hour documentary on *Monty Python*! Even I was bored; I just wanted to see if she would make it to the end.) And of course Howard, being Howard, decided he would try to play the sympathy card with Bernadette, staying quiet at dinner and saying how sad his childhood was, but Bernadette wasn't taking the bait. Howard tries to press the issue but she still wasn't fooled. He confessed seeing Leonard play the sympathy card with Penny and wanted to try it himself. Nope, he still had to do the dishes while she took a bath.

Sheldon calls Amy to invite her over to watch *Little House on the Prairie*, which was Amy's favorite show as a child. Which sounded lovely to her...only they were on videochat and she was suspicious of him rubbing his hands together.

Sheldon and Amy's date was on. Sheldon started by saying the log cabin they lived in was illegally squatting on Indian land. And Laura Ingalls eating a peanut butter sandwich was a bit on the anachronistic side, given peanut butter wasn't invented until the 1900s. Amy confronted him for trying to get back at her for what she said about *Raiders*. Amy said if he was upset, he just had to tell her instead of seek revenge.

SHELDON: Are you sure? Every time my dad stayed out all night, my mom put hamster poop in his chewing tobacco.

Amy assured him she wouldn't do that, so Sheldon admitted she ruined the whole Raiders franchise for him. (SHELDON: Except for the fourth one, which was bad before you got your mitts on it.) Amy apologized and Sheldon felt better. (SHELDON: Except to tell you your precious Garfield has no reason to hate Mondays. He's a cat; he doesn't have a job.)

Leonard goes over to Penny's, and she's dressed in a little something from Victoria's Secret because she heard he was feeling bad about his mom lately. (Yeah, you know what's coming.) And she had a solution.

DR. BEVERLY HOFSTADTER: (over videochat) I understand you've been whining about my parenting in order to emotionally manipulate your girlfriend.

PENNY: (mad as hell) Bernadette told me everything, so now you don't get the left or the right! (storms off to her bedroom)

DR. BEVERLY HOFSTADTER: Now let's discuss why you continue to involve me in your sex life. When you were six years old, you walked in on your father and me naked. I was swatting his bottom with your brand new ping pong paddles. How did that make you feel?

LEONARD: Penny come back! I'm really sad now!

Oh, Raj and Stuart's luck with online dating? Zip. (STUART: I've never felt this rejected, and I had a rescued dog run back to the pound on me.) They figured they were better off getting rejected at the bar.

RAJ: (after being rejected at the bar) I was wrong, this is worse.

And the guys still couldn't come up with a way Indy was involved in the movie, not even giving the Ark to the government, given it was supposed to go to a museum.

The Workplace Proximity

Season 7

Episode Number: 140

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday October 17, 2013
Writer: Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Ayumi Iizuka (Scientist)
Production Code: 4X5305
Summary: Sheldon must decide how much "Amy time" is too much after she takes a job at his university. Meanwhile, Howard finds himself sleeping on Raj's couch after a fight with Bernadette.



Penny thinks it must be date night for Sheldon and Amy at the Cheesecake Factory, given the awkward silence, no touching, and Sheldon immersed in his mobile phone. But there's a little sex involved: Sheldon was looking up the phallic symbolism of vegetables in Renaissance paintings...or looking up cuticle scissors on Amazon, whatever.

PENNY: (sarcasm) How do you not want to rip off his clothes and take him right here on the table.

SHELDON: (to Amy) You do that and I'll scream.

Amy did have some good news. She was to consult on an experiment at the university for a few months so she could have lunch with Sheldon and even carpool. Sheldon thinks it's great, particularly since Leonard doesn't like playing car games. Amy, however, is concerned, that she shouldn't "defecate where one eats." (SHELDON: My father used to say that all the time. That, and "who do one have to orally gratify to get a drink around here?") Amy explains the idiom, which is to not have a romantic relationship at work. Yes, Sheldon was surprised. (SHELDON: That is why I have never voided my bowels in this or any other restaurant.) Amy was relieved, and Sheldon was about to be even more relieved.

SHELDON: (going to the bathroom) It's a brave new world, little lady.

Howard was on Amy's side about being cautious, but Raj admitted his parents met in the workplace. (RAJ: What started as a pap smear turned into a date, which turned into her working there, which turned into marriage, which turned into hate that continues to this day.) Leonard was good with it, since next time Sheldon got conjunctivitis, she could be the one to hold his head and put the drops in his eyes. Howard doesn't think he could spend all day with someone then be with them at night. Raj said that's what they do. (HOWARD: Yes, and it drove me into the arms of another woman.) Sheldon figures whatever time they have at work he'll deduct from their weekly quota. (LEONARD: Please let me be there when you tell her that.)

Over at Penny's, the ladies were having a similar discussion. Amy talked about her experiment, which Bernadette had done previously...on humans instead of monkeys like Amy will.

(BERNADETTE: You mean like death row inmates with nothing to lose? Why no, that would be unethical.) But this time, Penny is able to keep up with their conversation. (PENNY: That's right; my phone's as smart as you guys!) Sure enough, Sheldon knocks in only the way he can and tells Amy she can't work there. But Amy already took the job and cashed a check for it. (SHELDON: You are not going to come out of this looking good.) Sheldon explains Howard told him how tough would it be for him if he had to work with his significant other. No, Bernadette did not take that well. (SHELDON: Don't be insulted. He just thinks too much of you would be mind-numbingly tedious.) Penny defended Amy, saying Sheldon couldn't tell her what he could and couldn't do, despite Penny telling Leonard last week he couldn't go to the mall with his Wookiee jacket. Amy said they would be in different buildings, so they wouldn't have to see each other.

AMY: I'm a scientist. I'm just there to do my work, and with a little luck scare the crap out of some monkeys.

SHELDON: Are you sure your moth-like personality will not be drawn to this blazing fire that is me?

AMY: More and more sure.

Over at Leonard and Sheldon's, Howard was trying to get out of what he said...and thanks to Sheldon not backing him managed to put his foot further down his throat. He finally tried honesty, saying if they worked together and lived together they might get sick of each other. (SHELDON: But to be fair, he only said the part about getting sick and tired of you.) Yup, he was Raj's houseguest tonight. (SHELDON: If it makes you feel any better, Amy and I are fine. I mean really good.)

The next day at the university, Leonard wanted to know how the pajama party went. But Raj insisted they were only hanging out, giggling, eating cookie dough, and watching *The Princess Bride*.

HOWARD: Would you please stop talking!

RAJ: (channeling his inner Westley) As you wish.

Howard was quite ticked off for Sheldon not backing him, but Sheldon was taking Howard's advice to keep his relationship with Amy professional as she came in for lunch at the cafeteria. (LEONARD: You're taking relationship advice from a man who spent last night braiding Raj's hair.) Sheldon looks over at Amy's table as mistakes her laughing and talking to her colleagues as loneliness. He goes over and is introduced by Amy to Dr. Gunderson, who is from Sweden. (SHELDON: Ah, home to my favorite Muppet and my second-favorite meatball. OK, the Nordic reputation for no humor is well-founded. What, is his name Gunderson or No Fun-derson?) And it actually goes downhill from there as Sheldon gives every last detail about his boy-girl relationship with Amy that nobody actually requested.

SHELDON: OK, here's something new to our relationship. We apparently kick each other under the table. How would you like it if I did it to you? (and does)

Amy is in her lab showing pictures to a capuchin monkey to see where their level of fear is at. Frenchman on a bicycle with baguettes...OK. A sousaphone...fine. A crocodile with a bunch of capuchin monkeys in its mouth...a little harder to take. For Sheldon, too, as he comes in to try and get a ride home from Amy. Of course, she's still ticked at him for making fun of Gunderson earlier. (SHELDON: Maybe your friend Gunderson needs to head over to Ikea and assemble a sense of humor.) Amy is upset for embarrassing her in the cafeteria, but Sheldon being Sheldon he doesn't see it. She told him to get out...and the image of a woman giving birth was bad for both Sheldon and the monkey.

Sheldon finally made it home on the bus, although he fell asleep on it and ended up in the Little Sri Lanka section of Los Angeles. Asking some Sri Lankans on the bus about his issues with Amy only got him some mutton and coconut milk to bring home. Sheldon told Leonard and Penny that Amy was acting very strangely and still couldn't believe she thought he embarrassed her.

LEONARD: Sheldon, I've known you a long time, and I'm going to tell you this with all the love I can muster. Amy's right, you're wrong.

SHELDON: But you don't...

LEONARD: Don't have to.

SHELDON: You're not listening to my side of it.

PENNY: OK, Sheldon. What is your side?

SHELDON: Well...

PENNY: Nope, gotta go with Amy on this one.

Over at Raj's, Howard and Raj finished dinner and were playing the latest Batman game. Bernadette stopped by and admitted she may have overreacted earlier and Howard agreed he could have handled things better. Given how much Howard hangs out with his friends during the day and then at night as well (even getting a couples massage with Raj), Bernadette was upset Howard didn't want to spend time with her. He apologized and promised he would make her his #1 priority starting tomorrow. Oops...

BERNADETTE: Tomorrow?

HOWARD: Well...we're really close to finishing this new Batman game.

Bernadette storms out and Raj suggests he go after her.

HOWARD: (calls into the hallway) Should I go after you?

BERNADETTE: No!

Sheldon knocks on Amy's door and tries to explain that all relationships are difficult. "But even moreso when you're in with a person who struggles with everyday social interactions. And who, quite frankly, can strike some people as being kind of a weirdo."

AMY: Sheldon, you're not a weirdo.

SHELDON: I wasn't speaking about me.

Yes, he was still in full denial, thinking Amy gets ticked at the littlest things and that ethnic humor is still the funniest. But he tells her they were a couple and he likes her for how she is, quirks and all. She admits she likes him, too.

SHELDON: Well, I hope so. I don't see anyone else banging on this door to put up with your nonsense.

Amy slams the door in his face, and Sheldon STILL hasn't figured it out. But Penny did talk to Leonard, who promised to straighten out Sheldon and Howard. Or, they could just sit around and bust balloons skeet-style with a laser from work.

The Romance Resonance

Season 7

Episode Number: 141

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday October 24, 2013
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Andrew Hill Newman (Albert Einstein)
Guest Stars: John Apicella (Archimedes), Nick Ullett (Distinguished Scientist), Tom Fonss (Student)
Production Code: 4X5306
Summary: Sheldon makes a scientific discovery, but it ends up making him feel like a cheater. When Howard romances Bernadette, Penny decides to try it with Leonard.



No talking to Sheldon; he's in the Zone. He doesn't even know how he got to the Cheesecake Factory for dinner with everyone else. But he had been in the zone several times lately, such as figuring electron transport in graphing or who could be in his tree fort if he ever built one. (Amy didn't make the cut for some reason.) Howard and Bernadette finally arrive. Bernadette was late from work because a strain of virus jumped from raccoons and could now affect humans. (BERNADETTE: In the pharmaceutical business, we have a saying: mo' virus, mo' money.) While she washes her

hands (which hopefully don't have the virus), Howard has an idea to celebrate the anniversary of his first date with her. He wants to write her a song and asks the for gang's help on it. Everyone thinks it's a great idea and volunteers.

Leonard certainly likes the idea of Howard making a song for Bernadette, and Penny wonders why Leonard didn't do anything romantic to celebrate their first date. Given how many times she dropped him, there were several to choose from. He then turned the tables on her and asked what romantic things she's done for him.

PENNY: (very offended) I can name tons...

LEONARD: Sex doesn't count.

PENNY: ...oh.

But Penny accepts the challenge and promises to "romance Leonard's freakin' ass off." (LEONARD: That's beautiful. Is that Shakespeare?)

Sheldon is really in the zone. In fact, he hasn't said a word in hours. Deciding safety was more important than peace and quiet, Leonard asks if he was still there. Sheldon told him to prepare to be humbled and weep at the glory of his genius. (SHELDON: It's like my mind had a baby, and it's beautiful. Not like human babies which are loud and covered in goop.) Sure enough, on Sheldon's whiteboard, he had invented a method for synthesizing a new heavy, stable element.

SHELDON: (doing a dance) SHELDON AND HIS BRAIN, YEAH! SHELDON AND HIS BRAIN, YEAH! SHELDON AND HIS BRAIN, YEAH!

LEONARD: Nope, definitely better when he was quiet.

Howard consults with Leonard and Raj on playing Bernadette's song with him. Leonard will have his cello (although he still can't make that cool) and Raj will do some shredding on his ukelele. (RAJ: I'll melt her heart...AND HER FACE!) Sheldon was ecstatic; there was a team at a university in China already doing tests on his method. (SHELDON: They called it the greatest thing since the Communist Party. Although I'm pretty sure the Communist Party made them say that.)

Penny called Raj to consult with him on how to do something romantic for Leonard. She had really been struggling with it. But Raj knows the quickest way to a man's heart is through his...

PENNY: ...pants, but Leonard says sex doesn't count.

RAJ: (sympathetic) Poor thing. You have one arrow in your quiver and you just can't use it.

Raj suggested cooking a romantic dinner, but Penny wasn't much of a cook and Leonard was a bit of a picky eater. She's managed to burn a few things and leave a few things frozen (sometimes the same thing). He then suggests he always had a thing for dancing, the sexual tension between his partner and him. But his father wouldn't approve until he sees them at the big dance club. (PENNY: So what else would you love, other than being lifted over Patrick Swayze's head?) Raj also suggested she could play one of Leonard's favorite songs on a boombox outside of his window. (Yes, that's from Say Anything...).

RAJ: (embarrassed) I'm a lonely guy, I watch a lot of movies.

Sheldon invites Amy over to start archiving all of the items he was using when he discovered his synthesizing method, since he was certain the Smithsonian would like to put them on display. That includes the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics where he looked up the chemical reactions of...uh-oh. Sheldon realized he made a horrible mistake, confusing square centimeters for square meters. His formulas were off by a factor of 10,000. But the method worked, so he was right...albeit a bit lucky.

SHELDON: Sheldon Cooper does not get lucky!

AMY: You and me both, brother.

Amy thinks it doesn't matter because the element was still found by the Chinese based on his work, but Sheldon can't handle the fact the greatest scientific achievement of his life was based on a blunder. To him, it was almost like being a biologist.

Now if you think Sheldon is insufferable when he tries to take credit, you should see him when he is given it when he thinks he doesn't deserve it. Forget the cheering at work, the large government grant the university just received, and don't mention the big raise he got. He wanted to erase it like it didn't exist.

LEONARD: I don't think there's anything you can do. Once it's out there, it's out there. This thing is like the scientific equivalent of a sex tape.

SHELDON: Frankly, I'd prefer a sex tape.

LEONARD: You don't know what a sex tape is, do you.

SHELDON: No.

The gang arrives the restaurant and even Penny thinks Howard is being so romantic. Leonard teases her about someone doing something so romantic.

PENNY: (annoyed) You know what isn't romantic? Rubbing it in someone's face.

LEONARD: Actually, it can be but I told you sex doesn't count.

Amy actually agrees with Sheldon that he doesn't deserve the credit for the new element. All he did was misread some numbers on a table, and an easy one at that.

SHELDON: (touched) That's the most romantic thing I've ever heard.

PENNY: Dammit, everybody is better at this than me!

Of course, Amy was using a bit of reverse psychology to be invited into the tree fort, but there was a bigger problem right now. Bernadette was quarantined in the hospital. (BERNADETTE: When you're moving a dozen vials of raccoon virus, it's best to make two trips.) It was simply as a precaution, but Howard decided that a sealed room wasn't going to stop his surprise for her. Everybody brings the keyboard to the hospital (Sheldon against his wishes, natch), and he sets up to sing Bernadette the romantic song he wrote for her. (You'll have to YouTube it, but trust me it's worth it.) And Bernadette absolutely loved it.

BERNADETTE: (in tears) Howie, that was amazing! Look, I'm shaking!

SHELDON: She's sick. I knew it! Bye! (runs away)

Back at home, Leonard compliments Penny on her Ramen Noodles. (The secret is the flavor packet, BTW.) But Penny said it was just the beginning, because there was a crapstorm of romance heading his way. She made a trail of rose petals (shocked at how expensive they were), she had even made the bed in her bedroom, and she got Leonard a gift. A first edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. But Penny started to panic, despite what the book says, because she found it at a vintage book store the same day Leonard spotted one, and....yup. He already had it. (People hate to buy DVDs for me for the same reason.) Penny was beside herself because she still couldn't compare to all of the things Leonard did for her, like the plane ticket he bought her when she couldn't afford to fly to see her parents at Christmas, a rose he left on her windshield for no reason, a thank-you letter Leonard gave her for sleeping with him (11 pages). And Leonard couldn't believe she saved all of those things. Yup, it was incredibly romantic.

LEONARD: (looks in the box) Is that a pregnancy test?

PENNY: Just the first one. I didn't save them all.

BTW, Sheldon finally figured out why he read that table wrong: Amy had been distracting him. In fact, she had been distracting him ever since he met her. All he can think about is how much he wants to kiss her. And not on the cheek. On the mouth...like Mommies and Daddies do.

SHELDON: (back in reality) Amy, didn't you hear what I said?

AMY: Can't talk. In the zone.

The Proton Displacement

Season 7
Episode Number: 142
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday November 7, 2013
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Bob Newhart (Arthur Jefferies / Professor Proton), Bill Nye (Himself)
Production Code: 4X5307
Summary: Sheldon feels slighted when Professor Proton seeks advice from Leonard instead of him, and he seeks revenge by befriending a rival science TV host, Bill Nye. Meanwhile, Raj gets jealous when Howard crashes "girls' night."



When is Sheldon's favorite time to shop at the drugstore? When the shelves are restocked. Seriously, he's like a kid in a candy store. (SHELDON: Look, a new topical histamine with lidocaine! I can't wait until I get a rash!) But his day was about to get better, as he spotted Arthur Jefferies...aka Professor Proton... waiting in line for his prescription. So naturally, Sheldon has to go pester him. Sheldon figures Dr. Jefferies doesn't remember him because of his advanced age, but he did. Sheldon introduces Amy as his girlfriend, who is happy to see him...and even happier she's wearing the same or-

thotic shoes as him. Then Leonard reluctantly introduces himself. (ARTHUR: I remember your girlfriend. Is she here?) Sheldon wants to know what prescription he's getting filled, but then he tries to guess.

SHELDON: Give me a hint: does it involve difficulty initiating a stream of anything?

ARTHUR: Given my age, that's more than a lucky guess.

At the university, Howard finds out Raj will be joining Penny, Amy, and Bernadette for ladies' night. Howard wants to do something with him because the ladies would be making jewelry all night, but that was apparently Raj's idea. Leonard gets an email from Arthur asking for his help regarding an experiment using nano vacuum tubes. Sheldon's even more excited, though. He got two emails from Arthur: one asking for Leonard's email and one telling him that he got it. Sheldon is upset Arthur picked Leonard over him but Howard didn't think it was anything he should cry over. Sheldon claimed he didn't cry. (HOWARD: That's true. You don't cry; you rust.) Well, to be sure, he does pout and brood. And Amy still had to serve him the obligatory tea for when someone is upset. Then she asked him if he thought about why Arthur didn't ask him to participate. Amy suggested Arthur may have found Sheldon...a bit much. Sheldon thinks that's baloney because he's mastered the big three in social skills: the coy smile, the friendly chuckle, and the vocalization of sympathy. (He was still working on that last one.) Still, Amy thought she saw Arthur's reasoning but decided not to push it further.

SHELDON: Go ahead, say it. The words I've heard all my life. Say it. I'm annoying. I'm annoying. Where are you going? (starts chasing her) Come on, you know you want to say, so say it. I'm annoying. Say I'm annoying. Say it, Amy. Say it!

Thankfully, Amy had her ladies' night to go to, where she could make and wear jewelry that for once didn't list her allergies on them. Penny, on the other hand, was having trouble with the glue. Turns out she missed a few days of pre-school to date a 2nd grader. Howard comes in but was already told by Bernadette he couldn't make fun of Raj so he promised he wouldn't joke about the things Raj found fu-uhn. (There's a certain Cyndi Lauper you have to think about there.) Howard was quite impressed with the things Penny, Amy, and Bernadette were making. (Well, Amy and Bernadette; Penny was just making a mess.) But Howard suggested they could make awesome jewelry if they learned how to use a soldering iron, which he happened to have. Raj doesn't want to (mostly out of being upset with Howard), but Amy and Bernadette thought they would give it a try.

Sheldon went to Professor Proton's house to apologize, but he accidentally woke him up. At 7:30 in the evening. Amy pointed out to Sheldon he may have been annoying to Arthur. (ARTHUR: She sounds like a keeper.) But Sheldon does apologize for it and Arthur accepts it. Of course, now that they've "cleared the air," Sheldon wants in on his project because he think he can help Arthur because so many people think he's a washed-up has-been. Or dead. (ARTHUR: I should be so lucky.) Arthur decides to stick with Leonard.

SHELDON: It's because I'm annoying, isn't it. Say it, Arthur. Say I'm annoying. Say it. Say it. (gets the door closed in his face) Say it, I'm annoying. Say it. Say it.

ARTHUR: (opens the door) You're annoying!

SHELDON: Well, that hurt.

In fairness, Leonard was still a big fan, saying if someone had told him as a kid he'd be working one day with Professor Proton, he wouldn't have believed it. (ARTHUR: If someone had told me people would still call me Professor Proton when I was 83 years old, I would never have quit smoking.) And now it was time for Sheldon to seek payback, as he was also spending his day with a beloved children's show host. Bill Nye But Bill was a fan of Arthur's, too, say his show wouldn't have happened without him. (ARTHUR: That's what I told my lawyers!) Leonard was upset Sheldon did this, but Bill thought he was teaching a class. No, he was teaching someone a lesson, according to Sheldon. Still, Bill thought the experiment on nano vacuum tubes was quite fascinating.

ARTHUR: Haven't you stolen enough from me? Back off, bow tie!

Back at Penny's, she had mastered the art of making earrings. Or finding them on sale at Target. Raj was making a necklace for his mom because she was having problems with his father. Then Howard stopped by to "help put the Jew back in jewelry." (BERNADETTE: Oh, sure, it's fine when you say it.) Howard had a fun time last week, so he picked a few things up from the lab to help them. Such as a crucible, some silver, and an acetylene torch. He could even use human hairs and the hydraulic press at work to form diamonds. It's what he did for Bernadette's engagement ring. (Didn't use his mother's back hair, otherwise the diamond would be much bigger.) Raj wasn't liking the lack of attention. He was upset Howard always made fun of him for it and now he was here ruining it for everybody. (PENNY: Raj, cool it! He's going to make us hair diamonds!) Howard claimed he was just joking around, but Raj admitted it hurt sometimes. Howard apologized and they made up.

AMY: They're going to have sex before Sheldon and me. I knew it!

Arthur was enjoying working with Leonard, but he wondered why Leonard put up with Sheldon. He said they were friends, but Arthur wanted to know why. (LEONARD: Wow, you really ask hard questions.) Leonard knew Sheldon could be difficult but he wasn't doing it on purpose. And he also says Sheldon is loyal, trustworthy, and they have a lot of fun together.

ARTHUR: You do know you're describing a dog, right?

LEONARD: Well, he did bite me once. But in his defense, I did come up behind him while he was eating. Sheldon is the smartest person I've ever met, and he's a little broken so he needs me. And I guess I need him.

ARTHUR: Why's that?

LEONARD: Wow, you really won't let this go, will you.

Raj stopped by Howard's to give him a little make-up present for the way he acted. It was a Star Wars light saber belt buckle. That even lit up. Howard thought it was awesome...and then

he saw the one on Raj's belt. (RAJ: Check it out. You could wear yours and we can have little swordfights whenever we want!)

Arthur decides to go to the apartment and hand his paper to Sheldon so he could assess it. (Although by the time he got to the third floor, he was starting to see a white light.) Turns out Sheldon hacked into his email account already and read it. And despite Sheldon mocking him for having such an easy email password, he did find the paper inspiring. He invited Arthur in for some tea. Arthur turned it down...and then he saw Penny.

ARTHUR: I guess one cup wouldn't hurt. So...you have any...single grandmothers?

PENNY: Sorry, they're both married.

ARTHUR: Oh. (pause) Happily?

The Itchy Brain Simulation

Season 7

Episode Number: 143

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 14, 2013
Writer: Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Jim Reynolds, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Kate Micucci (Lucy), Morgan Hewitt (Lizzy)
Production Code: 4X5308
Summary: Leonard uncovers a situation that he is sure will make Sheldon "freak-out", but Sheldon comes up with a compromise that ends up punishing Leonard. Penny encounters Raj's ex-girlfriend and can't help herself from intruding into his love life.



How many of you have noticed the dart-board on Sheldon and Leonard's front door? They only played darts on it once...and broke a window. 90 degrees to the right of the dart board. Anyway, Sheldon was going to head to the arcade to cash in the skee-ball tickets from three years ago. Leonard found them in the box where he keeps all of his junk, like the ridiculously ugly itchy red sweater with "Lenny" sewn on it from his aunt. (She gave his brother a car.) Leonard also found a DVD he forgot to return and asked Sheldon not to get upset when he confessed he rented it on Sheldon's video

store card. Sheldon didn't get upset. Even Penny was creeped out by his lack of reaction. But it turns out it was getting to Sheldon, given how much he liked things to stay in order. It was an itch in his brain he couldn't scratch. Leonard suggested a coat hanger like he used when he broke his arm and the cast itch, but Sheldon was not amused. He thought Leonard should walk a mile in his shoes. Metaphorically, since Leonard had the feet of a toddler. Sheldon proposed Leonard wear the itchy red sweater with nothing underneath until he returned the DVD to the video store and paid the fine. Leonard agreed and went to pay the fine. That is, until Sheldon informed him the video store went out of business years ago.

SHELDON: How are those nipples feeling, Chief?

At the Cheesecake Factory, Amy and Bernadette waited for their drinks while Penny spotted Lucy, Raj's ex-girlfriend. Penny went to her and asked her why she broke up with Raj. Or more importantly, why Lucy broke up with him in an email. Lucy was hoping to get another waitress, but that wasn't going to work. She wanted answers because Lucy seemed to be acting OK while Raj was at home a blubbering mess.

AMY: We're never getting are drinks, are we?

BERNADETTE: Yeah but we knew that.

Add Raj and Howard to the list of people who think Leonard is an idiot for keeping the red sweater on. Leonard claims he was trying to prove a point. (HOWARD: Is the point that you're an

idiot?) They want to know how he'll return the DVD. Leonard figures he'll go on Monday to look up the owner's name and address and send him the DVD and fine. The rest of the weekend will be spent scratching his back against the post because of the itchy sweater.

Back at Penny's, as Bernadette and Amy feasted on what little food there was in the apartment because they never got their meals at the Cheesecake Factory, they told Penny she was wrong for telling Lucy Raj was depressed and lonely. Penny thought he would appreciate she had his back. Naturally, she was wrong and Raj went ballistic. (RAJ: Now she knows I'm a desperate mess instead of just being pretty sure!) But then Raj got a text from Lucy saying she wanted to meet with him.

RAJ: (hugging Penny) I LOVE YOU, PENNY!!!!!!!

Leonard's search for the owner of the video store was in vain. He had died. He figured he could take the sweater off since he had no other option...apart from getting some skin lotion for the insanely red rash all over his chest and back. But Howard thought he could find the owner's next-of-kin and give them the video and money back. Sheldon thought that would work, much to Leonard's anger. Oh, but it gets worse. The man had no next-of-kin; a fact Leonard discovered when he spent 8 hours at the man's funeral and was the only one to show up. That was it, the sweater was coming off. But it still got worse. It turns out Sheldon paid the fine for the movie...which was Super Mario Bros. if you didn't think Leonard had suffered enough...long ago and kept the DVD just to have as a "teachable moment" that he would bring out some day and use on Leonard. This was apparently that day. Leonard couldn't even speak, just throwing out the sweater, and applying some frozen vegetables to his nipples.

AMY: Sheldon, that was diabolical.

SHELDON: I know. And it wasn't easy. Have you any idea what it's like to wait for years and never know if you're going to get satisfaction?

Raj finally met Lucy for coffee. Despite Howard's and Bernadette's worries about him playing it cool, he's able to talk to Lucy and see if she wanted to still be friends...or maybe more. But it turns out Lucy was already seeing someone else. Back to Raj again hating Penny, who tried to make it up to him by introducing him to someone she knew from work. And that worked...not so well. Raj couldn't believe she didn't have a boyfriend...accusing her of lying, in fact...and begged to be the "other guy" in her relationship.

PENNY'S FRIEND: (to Penny) What is wrong with you!?!?

PENNY: (to Raj) What is wrong with you!?!?

RAJ: (to himself in the mirror) What is wrong with you!?!?

The Thanksgiving Decoupling

Season 7
Episode Number: 144
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 21, 2013
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Brian Smith (XXXVI) (Zack)
Guest Stars: Casey Sander (Mr. Mike Rostenkowski)
Production Code: 4X5309
Summary: Thanksgiving plans include dinner at the Wolowitz home but Sheldon is less than pleased about the location. Penny's past comes back to haunt her.



he wants that tradition to continue. But peer pressure finally made him cave. (SHELDON: OK, but if her food is delicious, Thanksgiving is ruined and it's on you.) Sheldon says now he knew how the African slaves felt, much to Amy's anger. But Penny thought a fun Thanksgiving could be had anyplace, given she went to Las Vegas one year with Zack. They gambled, had a great turkey dinner (at a strip club) and even went to one of those little chapels to have one of those "silly fake weddings." Whoops.

PENNY: But it didn't seem real.

SHELDON: Let me ask you something. At any point was Las Vegas on its side?

On the drive over, Leonard badgered Penny to get her to fix it. Probably because she married Zack on a whim whereas she shot down Leonard's every attempt to do the same. Which was pretty obvious even without Sheldon pointing it out. And that was actually an improvement over him calling himself a slave for going to Thanksgiving dinner. Amy did some research and discovered a marriage could be annulled if it wasn't consummated. (SHELDON: HA HA! Penny? Next!) Or perhaps evidence of fraud, bigamy, or want of understanding.

PENNY: "Want of understanding?" What does that even mean?

AMY: Ding, ding, ding! We have a winner!

Mike Rostenkowski arrives at the house with beer for everybody...well, now it was. He had hoped for a nice quiet day to watch the football game.

MRS. WOLOWITZ: HOWARD, THE MEDICINE IS NOT WORKING!!!

HOWARD: You just took it five minutes ago. At least let it reach YOUR FIRST STOMACH!!!

Mrs. Wolowitz's gout was acting up and her little toe was hurting...probably being crushed by the rest of the barn. Thankfully Raj was already there. (RAJ: It wouldn't be Thanksgiving without an Indian providing the food.) Bernadette wants Howard to go bond with her father. After all, he likes his son-in-law. (BERNADETTE: I do crap for you all the time. Get out there!) It went about as well as you may have expected. Even Howard making jokes about his mother didn't help. Although the bottle of wine Penny already opened was certainly helping her with the crap she was taking for marrying Zack. Fortunately, this meant Amy could help Raj with things...like get items on high shelves and keeping Bernadette away from the marshmallows. He told the two of them focus was key, but that pretty much went out the window when Amy spilled the news about Penny and Zack. And Leonard, despite getting all the documentation Penny would need to get the annulment, she was tired of him talking about it and walked out of the house.

SHELDON: I don't know the first thing about women, but I would not follow her.

MIKE ROSTENKOWSKI: (pushing Leonard from blocking his view) Listen to Stretch.

One could certainly understand Penny hating Leonard right now, given he thinks he's the victim in all of this. (HOWARD: Sounds to me like Zack's the victim here; you're sleeping with his wife.) And Mike was trying to watch the game, wondering how they couldn't get a first down.

SHELDON: (deadpan) They passed against a nickel defense. They should have run off-tackle.

MIKE: (shocked) How the hell do you know that?

SHELDON: My father loved football. He always made me watch it before I was allowed do my Calculus homework.

Suddenly Mike found someone to bond with. Enough to get Penny and Leonard out of the room, given Penny invited Zack over to sign the papers. Penny told Leonard she invited Zack (to the shock of everyone eavesdropping in the kitchen) because Leonard wouldn't shut up about her getting married. (RAJ: My, my. The plot, like my gravy, thickens!) Thankfully, this gave Mike a chance to hear how Howard loved a good blitz with some sour cream. (It sounds like blintze...work with me, people!) After Sheldon got back from the bathroom...which was filled with clown figurines and certainly explains why everyone has a hard time going in there, Mike talked to Sheldon about the '93 Thanksgiving game when Leon Lett dropped the football and let the Dolphins beat the Cowboys. Mike was so mad, he wanted to shoot his TV. (SHELDON: So was my dad. And then he did.) Mike wanted to know if Sheldon's father still lived in Texas, but Sheldon told him he died when he was 14.

MIKE: Sorry to hear that.

SHELDON: So was the man who owned the local liquor store. He cried and cried.

Mike realized Sheldon never would have had a beer with his dad, although Sheldon's dad did try to give him one at high school graduation...when he was 11. Mike thought it was time for Sheldon to share a beer and get the experience he never got with his father.

HOWARD: (meekly) I never had a beer with my dad, either.

SHELDON: Do you mind? We're having a moment here.

Howard went into the kitchen to lament that Sheldon and Mike were bonding over a beer and didn't want him around. Raj, Amy, and Bernadette were willing to listen...until Zack arrived. Then they couldn't get away from him fast enough.

Zack was actually pretty cool about stopping by since he didn't have anything else to do and he thought he should be with family on Thanksgiving. And since he has one...well, suddenly he wasn't so sure about signing it.

ZACK: I just think splitting up can be rough on the kids.

PENNY: We don't have any kids.

ZACK: Are you sure? Because you didn't know we were married until this morning.

Penny thought he knew it wasn't real because they were married by an Elvis impersonator.

(ZACK: Yeah! We couldn't afford a real Elvis!) Leonard couldn't believe she married him, but now Penny wanted to rip Leonard a new one for constantly being in her face all day about this.

ZACK: Not cool, bro. I'm starting to think you're not the kind of guy dating my wife.

LEONARD: Well yeah, she not going to be your wife for long.

ZACK: Oh, my God. Are you dying?

Meanwhile, Mike and Sheldon were hammered, and Mike couldn't believe Sheldon was going to go 3.14159 when he said he was going to burp pi.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: DID SOMEBODY SAY PIE?!?!?!?

MIKE: I don't know what's scarier; the bathroom clowns or the woman who put them there.

SHELDON: All I know is, you could only fit one of her in a car. (enter Howard) And there's the clown that came out of her!!

Sheldon and Mike toasted the best Thanksgiving they've had in years, but Bernadette had had enough from the both of them and demanded they apologize to Howard. (SHELDON: She's so tiny! It's funny when she's mad!) But Amy insisted he do so.

SHELDON: Perhaps you're right. I apologize for my behavior. I've had alcohol and it's caused me to be inappropriate. (points to Amy) Ain't she great? Now how's bout you get us a couple of beers!

And smacks Amy on the ass! (yes, she liked it)

Everyone had a great dinner. Leonard and Penny made up, and Zack admitted he was a terrible husband because he was never around. Mike wanted to throw the ol' pigskin around with Sheldon, but since it was a Jewish house, Sheldon figured they didn't have any. (HOWARD'S MOTHER: DID SOMEBODY SAY PIGSKIN?!?!?!?) But Mike said he could do a lot worse for a son-in-law than Howard, which Howard thought was the nicest thing he ever said to him. (MIKE: Well, I'm drunk.) But Sheldon seemed to be getting better.

SHELDON: (happy) I just threw up on a bunch of clowns.

The Discovery Dissipation

Season 7
Episode Number: 145
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday December 5, 2013
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Wil Wheaton (Himself), Ira Flatow (Himself)
Production Code: 4X5310
Summary: Leonard and Amy help Sheldon cope with the shame he's feeling after his accidental contribution to science is disproved. Meanwhile, Raj must stay with Howard and Bernadette for a week.



Sheldon's discovery of a stable super-heavy element has been the bane of his existence because of the accidental way he discovered it. Certainly a radio interview with Ira Flatow on NPR's Science Friday felt like torture to him. Flatow called it the "wonder blunder," that Sheldon made this discovery despite the math being so far off. (SHELDON: Could we talk about something else? Did you know that I yodel?) Ira thought Sheldon could be on his way to a Nobel Prize for Chemistry despite being a physicist.

SHELDON: (rips off headphones) It's because of bullies like you that every day,

more and more Americans are making the switch to television!

President Siebert wasn't happy with Sheldon, but Sheldon complained Siebert was the one to force him to do it in the first place. And of course, nobody can believe Sheldon can't handle his newfound fame. Amy tried to point out that doing radio interviews could help raise the university's profile and raise money, but Sheldon insisted he was not a trained monkey dancing for coins.

LEONARD: Of course you're not. People love trained monkeys.

PENNY: How can you not be happy? You're tall, thin, and famous. (realizes) Oh, my God. I'm jealous of Sheldon.

Over at Howard and Bernadette's, they were getting the apartment clean because Raj had to stay over while his building is being tented. Of course, Howard left out the little part where Raj would be staying for a week...and bringing Cinnamon over. Meanwhile, Sheldon has his trains out and is running the Embarrassment Express...with stops at Fraudville, WonderBlunderburg, and Kansas City. (It's a hub.) Amy brings Wil Wheaton over to talk to Sheldon. Wil knew what Sheldon was going through, given how much hatred there was for Wesley Crusher on Star Trek: The Next Generation. Of course, Sheldon couldn't figure out how anybody could have hated Wesley Crusher, but Wil had gone on interviews where he was treated very badly simply because

of Wesley. But he learned to live with it and moved on to a lot of things he likes to do. Sheldon said that helped and invited Wil and Amy to play trains with him. But he would be the conductor while they got to sit there silently and watch. Can't even blow the whistle, no.

Bernadette got home late, but the guys chose to wait for her to have dinner. Whatever it was she was making. Not the sort of thing Bernadette wanted to hear after working so late, but Raj played peacemaker and got her a glass of wine and offered to cook dinner because she looked tired. (HOWARD: Ah, she always looks like that.) Bernadette started telling about how bad traffic was...only to have Howard interrupt her and insist she put that traffic app on her phone. But Raj said he should listen, just like he listened to Howard when he complained earlier about eating too many jelly beans. He even rubbed Howard's belly. (HOWARD: I thought of you the whole time.)

On the good side, Sheldon was on-board with doing interviews and even told President Siebert he could thank Wil Wheaton for it. And he'd even add Siebert to his list of friends, which stood at 9. Ten if you counted Wolowitz. Then Leonard came in, and not knowing Sheldon had now decided to embrace his celebrity, told him he ran an experiment that disproved Sheldon's new element. Apparently, the Chinese added some simulated signals to the data to fake the research. No more attention for Sheldon that he hated.

SHELDON: So no more interviews? I can't believe it. (livid) You've robbed me of my greatest achievement! I'm back down to nine friends! Make it eight, I'm sick of Wolowitz, too!

Leonard couldn't believe it, given Sheldon had done nothing but complain about this discovery since making it. Penny came in at hearing them argue. Sheldon explains what Leonard did, and Penny thinks he must be thrilled.

SHELDON: That's it, I'm down to seven friends!

PENNY: (to Leonard) He's counting Hobbits and superheroes, right?

Sheldon didn't want the element, but now that Leonard took it away, he really wanted it back.

LEONARD: IT NEVER EXISTED! I didn't take it away, SCIENCE took it away! Be mad at science!

SHELDON: Don't you DARE use science against me! Science is my best friend! (realizes) Oh, good, I'm back up to eight.

Penny actually sided with Sheldon on that one. It was like dating someone you weren't really into, but then they break up with you and you want them more than ever. (SHELDON: I have absolutely no idea what she's talking about, but we're ganging up on you, so I agree.)

Leonard said he had to publish his findings, otherwise someone else would do it. Sheldon issued a retraction...the first one he's issued since he was a kid and had to concede his brother was the best ninja in Texas...and it was the perfect opportunity for Barry Kripke to meet his new favorite superhero: The Retractor! Kripke thought Sheldon might be better working in retail than physics. He could take things back for a living. Leonard tried to put a stop to it, but Sheldon insisted he fight his own battles. And he came back at Kripke's speech impediment. Kripke was really hurt by that, so Sheldon retracted it.

KRIPKE: Yes you do because you're the Retractor!

Raj was still being the ultimate houseguest, even cleaning all the dishes. Which Bernadette knew because she had seen Howard using his keys to open a bagel rather than wash a knife. He even brought everyone coffee...well, Bernadette got a latte, Howard got hot chocolate...and Raj even wished Bernadette luck on her presentation. Which Howard didn't. Once she left, Howard confronted him about making him look bad. (HOWARD: Doing dishes, getting her coffee, knowing about her life? Who does that?) But Raj thought he had come a long way given he was an only child raised by an overprotective mom. And tells him this while straightening out his clothes, buttoning his shirt, and even smoothing out his eyebrows. (Yes, by wetting his thumb and running it across.) Oh, Raj wasn't done. Another big dinner and even saying Bernadette was looking too skinny lately. Bernadette wondered why Howard didn't say sweet things like that. (HOWARD: What about last week? I asked if you were wearing Spanx and you weren't?) But Howard insisted she could do more, like the lunch Raj packed for him with a note that said "go get 'em?" They started arguing, and Raj immediately tried to play peacemaker. Howard admitted he was feeling like a lousy husband and Bernadette said she felt like a lousy wife. Then they figured it out: it was Raj's fault.

HOWARD: You made us feel like we're not trying hard enough!

BERNADETTE: Yeah, we were totally fine half-assing our marriage until you showed up!

RAJ: Look, I'm sorry that you're upset with me, but I just have to say it's nice to see the two of you on the same page.

HOWARD: (to Bernadette) Yeah, it does feel good you're backing me up for once.

BERNADETTE: (pissed) I back you up all the time!

HOWARD: When we...he's doing it again!

BERNADETTE: What's wrong with you!

But Raj could crash at Leonard and Sheldon's, except he left Cinnamon's brush behind, so they'd have to share. (PENNY: Bark once if you need me to call PETA.) Sheldon comes in with a full head of steam, already thinking Cinnamon will cause another Jurassic Park getting out of her cage and he even turns down Amy's offer to take a walk in the park. (SHELDON: Everything is just sex with you, isn't it!) Raj intervenes, telling Sheldon Amy can only be there for him as much as he's there for her. And he tells Amy she shouldn't pressure Sheldon into accepting intimacy on her terms.

AMY: You should probably go.

On Ira Flatow's Science Friday, Leonard came in to discuss how he disproved Sheldon's discovery, but Sheldon insisted on telling the tale himself, even though Ira wanted to hear it from Leonard...and didn't actually invite Sheldon to be on again.

PENNY: (listening to the train wreck on the radio with Amy) You know, if we did a shot every time they said something embarrassing, this would be one helluva drinking game.

AMY: It's a little early for alcohol, isn't it?

SHELDON: (on radio) You know, I just don't say smart things about science. I can yodel. (and does)

AMY: I'll get the vodka.

The Cooper Extraction

Season 7

Episode Number: 146

Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday December 12, 2013
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (voiced Mary), Carol Ann Susi (voiced Mrs. Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart), Brian Thomas Smith (Zack)
Production Code: 4X5311
Summary: Sheldon leaves to be with his sister for her first child's birth. In his absence, the gang wonders what their lives would have been like had he not been part of the group.



Penny and Amy were having a lot of fun skiing using the X-Box. Yes, you read that right. Penny had to step in for Leonard, who twisted his ankle. (LEONARD: I cannot walk into that ER with another videogame injury.) Sheldon didn't feel like playing because he had to go to Texas. His sister was about to have a baby and he had to be there. Everyone thought it was so cool they'd be hearing the phrase Uncle Sheldon soon. (SHELDON: I will be Uncle Dr. Cooper.) He had to fill in for her husband, who was in a motorcycle accident...lucky duck. Amy offered to drive

him to the airport, but he didn't want to be an inconvenience.

SHELDON: Chop chop, Leonard! We leave in ten minutes.

With Sheldon gone, they could decorate the tree any way they wanted. No ornament spacing template, and Star Trek and Star Wars ornaments could even go on the same branch. (LEONARD: Welcome to Thunderdome, people!) Howard never decorated a Christmas tree before, and Raj thought Howard's mother would have a heart attack if she saw her little Bar Mitzvah boy decorating one. Naturally, Bernadette has to send her a picture. Stuart also came to enjoy the fun with everyone, or avoid his traditional Christmas suicide attempt, it could go either way. Sheldon called on Skype to say hi.

SHELDON: The second I go out of town, you throw a Christmas party without me? That's so thoughtful. You guys are the best.

Unfortunately, Missy's birth had a few...changes. For starters, she was having it in her mom's house. Raj thought it wasn't a bad idea to have a birth in a safe, nurturing environment. Which Sheldon agreed to...until the bedroom floor was turned into an amniotic slip-n-slide. As Sheldon went to take a family picture (mostly before the blood messed up the shot), Bernadette brought It's a Wonderful Life for everyone to watch. Penny wondered what it would have been like if Sheldon hadn't been born.

LEONARD: (knock-knock-knock) What do you think? (knock-knock-knock) What do you think? (knock-knock-knock) What do you think?

But Amy pointed out had it not been for Sheldon, all of them would not be hanging out together or even dating.

AMY: None of you would have met me. You (Howard) would not be dating Bernadette. You (Leonard) would not be dating Penny...

Which Leonard denied because he had been going to the Cheesecake Factory before Sheldon and could have picked Penny up. After all the laughter died down, Penny told him exactly how that would have gone...

Leonard, Raj, and Howard were sitting at the same table and Leonard kept staring at Penny across the restaurant.

LEONARD: *I'm gonna do it, I'm gonna ask her out.*

HOWARD: *And I'm going to squirt chocolate milk out of my nipples. Sorry, I thought we were saying things that were never going to happen.*

But Leonard was determined...and then Penny came over and he turned into a babbling idiot. He then got it together and went to ask her if she wanted to...tell him where the bathroom was.

PENNY: *(looking down) I think you're too late.*

LEONARD: *(mad) Come on! I would not have peed my pants. (nobody agreed)*

Leonard pointed out he asked Penny out in real life, but Amy correctly stated that was due to Sheldon. Same with Howard and Bernadette never meeting without Sheldon. Naturally, Howard thought he could have gotten a date with Bernadette because she worked at the Cheesecake Factory and he was working his Beefcake Factory. So we go to Bernadette for the real story...

Bernadette observes Howard and Raj at the Cheesecake Factory. She thinks Howard is cute and was ready to go talk to him. Until...

RAJ: *Open wide, here comes the happy train!*

HOWARD: *Chugga, chugga, yum, yum!*

Yes, he was feeding Howard cheesecake. And wiped Howard's mouth off with a napkin.

BERNADETTE: *Never mind.*

RAJ: *Oh, man! That is so us!*

Leonard decided to swing back, telling Penny the type of guy she'd still be into if not for him...

Penny is at her apartment. Enter her boyfriend...Zack!

PENNY: *Did you remember to pay the rent?*

ZACK: *Even better. I bought these magic beans!*

PENNY: *OK, he's not smart. At least he wouldn't have peed himself.*

LEONARD: *I wasn't done yet...*

ZACK: *Aw, man! I peed myself!*

PENNY: *Me too!*

Sheldon calls back and is more sickly than he usually looked because he saw things...lady things. (AMY: That is not the way they usually look.) Sheldon couldn't handle the "dirty magic show," but he had little choice but to go get the mop.

SHELDON: *I've got 2 PhD's and yet somehow I'm the janitor of my sister's birth canal!*

But he did manage to send everyone a Christmas email from Texas, complete with pictures of...

LEONARD: *Don't open them, DO NOT OPEN THEM!*

PENNY: *Come on, childbirth is a natural...aagh! It's like someone sawed a cow in half!*

RAJ: *Please, my father's a gynecologist, I think I can handle it.....and now I'm gay.*

Bernadette correctly pointed out that even if they hadn't met Sheldon, Penny would still live across from them. And Amy knew what that meant...

In the laundry room, Sheldon was washing his clothes and Penny came in...wearing very short shorts and a tight top.

PENNY: (sexy voice) Hey Sheldon. Doin' laundry?

Apparently, Penny goes all Valley Girl in Amy's mind. And has to do her laundry because her clothes were so dirty. (*PENNY: Almost as dirty as the dirty girl wearing them.*)

Penny wants Amy to stop; the guys want her to keep going. So...

Penny's down to her bra and shorts. And Sheldon thinks they're a tad asymmetrical but nothing to worry about. Penny throws herself at him, literally, but Sheldon wasn't having it.

SHELDON: Penny, for the thousandth time, I'm saving myself for someone special. Perhaps a cute, bespectacled neuroscientist with hair the color of mud. (This is Amy's fantasy, remember?)

Penny goes in for the kiss...

And the guys call TMI. Except for Stuart, who was OK with it. Sheldon calls and took advantage of his mother ordering him to get towels to get out of the house and go to Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

SHELDON: (Missy screams) Excuse me, I'm on the phone! So rude...

Bernadette wondered why Leonard, Raj, and Howard never got an apartment. Howard lived with his mother...to save money. Yeah, that's the ticket. (*RAJ: Yeah, you didn't have to buy groceries because you were breastfeeding.*) Bernadette figured Howard would still be living with his mother if not for her, but Howard didn't think that would happen...exactly.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: HOWARD, WHERE'S MY LUNCH? I'M STARVING!

HOWARD: I know you're starving, the whole neighborhood knows you're starving, there are starving people in Africa WHO KNOW YOU'RE STARVING!!!

BERNADETTE: Wait, how is this different?

HOWARD'S MOTHER: You're a good boy, Howard. Such a good boy!

Only it was Howard saying those words and his mother was DEAD!

AMY: Wait, did she die or did you kill her?

HOWARD: To-may-to, to-mah-to...

And the reason why it was a good thing Leonard and Raj didn't move in together...

RAJ: Come on, Leonard. Dinner!

And a really, REALLY fat Leonard (sadly, still thinner than me) gets up and goes to the table for the feast. Raj figured Leonard would be depressed over not having a girl, and he enabled people with food. Of course, he didn't have a girl, either, so now he was fat. As was Stuart, who decided to pop in...

STUART: (depressed) I..just wanted to be in anyone's story.

RAJ: But why are you fat?

STUART: Well, Leonard was fat, and...

Penny asked Amy what she thought her life would be like without Sheldon. Um....

AMY: (holding up a cupcake with a single candle) Happy Birthday to me...Happy Birthday to me...there's tears in the frosting...(waterworks) Happy Birthday to me... (and Stuart wails on a party favor!)

STUART: (ashamed) I'll stop now.

Sheldon called again. He was an uncle of a baby boy. He was exhausted and his mother gave him some ice chips. (*SHELDON: But I figured if I could make it through the Green Lantern movie, I could make it through this!*) They tell him to go be with his nephew, but Sheldon's finding

him very annoying. He's been crying his whole life...literally. (HOWARD: Awww, he's taking after Uncle Shelly!) But Amy told him to get back in there because Sheldon always complained he never had an intelligent role model growing up and now he could be one for his nephew. The gang is impressed at how Amy was able to convince Sheldon to go back to his nephew, but Amy figured she hadn't really made an impact on Sheldon's life. Leonard shows her something: she's the screensaver on Sheldon's laptop. Which warmed Amy's heart. (AMY: He is so into me!) And then the screensaver switched to Swamp Thing, Stephen Hawking, and Spider-Man. But she was in the mix and that was good enough for her. So much so, she couldn't help smiling at him all the way up the stairs on his return.

AMY: I missed you.

SHELDON: To quote Han Solo, I know. I would have preferred you there with me. Or instead of me.

Leonard makes another attempt at asking Penny out at the Cheesecake Factory, but the guys were all fat and she already has a boyfriend who just walked in wearing a sharp suit and sunglasses. It was...Stuart! And she kissed him!

Yup, Stuart wasn't done with the Christmas fantasies. Happy Holidays from The Big Bang Theory!

The Hesitation Ramification

Season 7
Episode Number: 147
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 2, 2014
Writer: Dave Goetsch, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez, Steve Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Marcus Folmar (Security Guard), Alexandra Contursi (Girl)
Production Code: 4X5312
Summary: Penny turns to Leonard for comfort after her guest appearance on NCIS does not turn out well. She ends up putting Leonard on the spot regarding their relationship. Sheldon works on his sense of humor and Raj practices talking to girls.



Dinner at the apartment is a nice thing. It would be even nicer, according to Amy, if they actually conversed. But Leonard, Sheldon, Howard, and Raj would rather text on their phones. Penny has great news. She got a role on NCI...I...NC-STD...the one with all the letters. She gets to be in a diner scene and flirt with Mark Harmon. (RAJ: He's a dreamboat.) Although needy Leonard thinks it's better when things are left to the imagination.

AMY: (to Sheldon) He's wrong.

At the Cheesecake Factory, Raj wonders why he can't get women when he has a dog and men with dogs are three times

more likely to get dates. Letting Cinnamon lick peanut butter off of his tongue might be why, but at least that's sure to get him a date with Howard's mother. Which Sheldon doesn't find funny. Although he thought his joke about Howard's mother is so fat, she decided to go on a diet or exercise...or both...was. (The whole scene was painfully awkward and me explaining it isn't going to help.) Suffice it to say, Sheldon needs to explore how to be funny.

SHELDON: Leonard, do you think I'm funny.

LEONARD: Noooo. Do you?

SHELDON: I think I'm hysterical.

LEONARD: I take it back; that WAS funny.

Sheldon decides to develop a unified theory of comedy, thinking he can get anybody to laugh at any time...except for Germans, since that's a tough crowd.

LEONARD: Are you set on people laughing with you? Because if you're cool with "at" you...)

SHELDON: (long pause) I don't get it.

The dog theory actually worked, given an attractive girl introduced herself to Raj while he was walking Cinnamon, until he asked her if it was easier if they just sniffed each other's butts. Howard suggests if he was too intimidated talking to attractive women, he should try with a

regular woman. (RAJ: You mean like fatties and uggos?) Howard suggested he practice talking to anyone at the mall so cute girls wouldn't be as intimidating.

Everyone gathered for Penny's night on NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and Leonard was so proud of her. (LEONARD: You're going to be a TV star and you haven't left me yet. That takes a lot of guts!) Unfortunately, he spoke a bit too soon. Penny's diner scene with Mark Harmon was cut. She couldn't understand why, she thought she had done a really good job. She walks out of the apartment.

SHELDON: I've been studying comedy, and they say comedy equals tragedy plus time. (checks watch) Let's go tickle some ribs.

Apparently, it was worse than just getting the scene cut. Penny's father wanted to come out and kick Mark Harmon's ass, all of her relatives gathered to watch it with a six-foot sandwich, and they even got her brother a day pass from rehab. (PENNY: And now he's missing, the sandwich is missing, they think he went to Mexico.) Leonard tries to comfort her, saying she did get the part, but Penny was hoping this was finally her big break and that she'd get more auditions and roles.

LEONARD: You only had three lines; I don't think that was going to happen anyway.

Oops.

Penny took that exactly like you think she would: not well at all. She thought Leonard didn't believe in her. Leonard tried to backtrack, saying he didn't really mean that.

PENNY: I want you right now to give me your honest 100% opinion. Do you think I really have what it takes to make it as an actress?

LEONARD: Yes

PENNY: So you think I'll be on TV and in movies and win awards?

LEONARD: Honestly?

PENNY: Yes, honestly.

LEONARD: Uh...I don't.

Penny was livid. Leonard said she was talented and beautiful, but wasn't L.A. full of actresses who are talented and beautiful? (LEONARD: We'll come back to that.) He tried to say that no matter how much talent she had, being a success in Hollywood was still a million-to-one shot. And she went to her bedroom and locked the door.

LEONARD: I should have let Sheldon come.

Unfortunately, he was busy studying that the element of surprise can be quite humorous. Amy happened to agree since patients with lesions in their pre-frontal cortex...(SHELDON: BRAIN LESIONS!!!)...well, that actually scared Amy. (SHELDON: Maybe you have a stick up your pre-frontal cortex.) Amy thinks it's absurd that Sheldon could come up with a unified theory of comedy...although him dropping his pants and showing off his tighty-whites to Amy was a bit humorous.

Stuart and Raj head to the mall to talk to regular girls. One tiny little problem with the experiment: all the women look pretty to them. And in the case of Stuart, even the 91-year-old grandmother with the cane. Several hours later, they were down to contemplating practicing on department store mannequins. (RAJ: Nah, they're dressed too stylish. They're probably stuck up.) But they wait for someone to pass by they can talk to. Yes, the mall closed and they were still there.

STUART: You know, those two guys on the bench look kind of pathetic. Maybe we can talk to them.

RAJ: That's a mirror.

Meanwhile, Sheldon tries a few funny words on Amy, like kumquat (George Carlin liked that one) or ointment. Then Sheldon wanted to know if ointment was more funny, less funny, or equally funny to kumquat. (AMY: I don't think I want to go out with you anymore.) Given he plans to go through the entire dictionary to find which words are funniest, you can sort of see her point.

Penny, you may have guessed, was not in a good mood, and seeing other actors on shows and commercials made her mad. Even the guys rocking out in a band with erectile dysfunction ticked her off. Leonard stopped by to apologize. He told her he thought she could make it and even got her an audition for the new Star Wars movie. Which she was excited about...until she realized it was an online PR stunt that anybody could do. But Leonard thought she had an advantage because she was an actual actress.

LEONARD: Most of the people doing this are just weirdos and nerds. Wolowitz sent his in two days ago.

PENNY: (ticked off) Let it go.

LEONARD: OK, maybe it is a longshot, but sometimes longshots pay off. Luke Skywalker was only given one chance to destroy the Death Star. He had to get a torpedo into an exhaust port only two meters wide. But with the help of the Force, he...wow, I can FEEL you hating me right now.

Amy leaves Sheldon behind and goes to have dinner with Howard and Bernadette. Her "enough" line came when Sheldon started a knock-knock joke with "knock-knock-knock-AMY, knock-knock-knock-AMY, knock-knock-knock-AMY..." Bernadette suggested Amy just fake a laugh and be done with it. Which of course got Howard concerned she had faked it with him. But he figured he would know the difference. (BERNADETTE: I don't think you would.) And if you think this was a good opportunity to play out the "I'll have what she's having" scene from When Harry Met Sally.....well, you would be correct.

HOWARD: (meekly) Yeah? Well, I fake my orgasms.

A drunk Penny goes to Leonard, who apparently can only afford 3 long-stemmed roses, and apologizes for calling his audition for the new Star Wars movie idiotic. (Well, she meant to do that earlier.) Leonard repeated that she would make it, but she was upset she blew what she thought was her one chance to make it and she had been out in L.A. for ten years with nothing to show for it. Leonard said at least she had him.

PENNY: You're right. I do have you. (long pause) Let's get married.

She wasn't kidding. She got down on one knee...very carefully...and asked Leonard to marry her.

LEONARD: Umm....

PENNY: Did you seriously just say "umm..."? What, you don't want to marry me?

LEONARD: No, I love you, but you're drunk right now and...

SHELDON: WHO'S IN THE MOOD TO LAUGH??

Leonard told him it was a bad time, but Penny was already out the door.

SHELDON: So a sandwich, a rabbi and yo momma walk into a bar...

Later that night, Leonard was up late and Sheldon asked why he wasn't sleeping. Leonard told him about turning down Penny's marriage proposal.

SHELDON: Does that mean the relationship is over?

LEONARD: I don't know.

SHELDON: Why don't you ask her?

LEONARD: Because I'm...afraid to know the answer.

SHELDON: Well, I'm sorry.

LEONARD: That's it? Not going to make some dumb joke or some inappropriate comment?

SHELDON: No. You're my friend, and I'm sorry. (pats him on the back)

LEONARD: Did you just put a "kick me" sign on my back?

SHELDON: No, that wouldn't be funny at all. (removes it)

We do get to see Howard's audition tape. He senses Vader...on this moon...

BERNADETTE: Why can't you replace the toilet paper when it's empty?

HOWARD: I'm in the middle of something.

BERNADETTE: So am I!

The Occupation Recalibration

Season 7
Episode Number: 148
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 9, 2014
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Steve Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Josh Peck (Jesse), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian Posehn (Bert), Ian Scott Rudolph (Captain Sweatpants)
Production Code: 4X5313
Summary: Sheldon is ordered to take some time off and finds relaxing challenging. Leonard continues to support Penny as she reevaluates her future. Stuart and Bernadette work together to replace a comic book for Howard.



Last week, we left off with a drunk Penny proposing to Leonard and he hesitated. He thought she would break up with him, but we'll hold off on that because Sheldon has an even bigger problem. The university wants him to use his vacation days! The horror! While he went off on his usual tangent.

SHELDON: Oh, this again! So Penny proposed, you didn't say yes, and you think you may have lost her love forever. How does this compare to me being forced to relax for a few days?

LEONARD: (ready to kill him) IT DOESN'T!!!

SHELDON: Thank you!

While Sheldon goes to put on his pajamas and read a book to contend with his 'nightmare', Leonard goes to talk to Penny. (**LEONARD:** If you're going to break up with me, just say it. I take it back, don't say it! Just hate me but stay with me. It worked for my parents.) She thanked him for turning her down. And once he was done crying, she admitted she felt so frustrated that her career was going nowhere, and Leonard promised to support whatever she would do. She was considering quitting the Cheesecake Factory and concentrating on her acting career. Leonard thought that was a big decision and thought before she made any rash decision...

PENNY: I already quit.

LEONARD: ...and I support you!

After Leonard left for work...and made Sheldon stay on the stairs and not follow him (yes, like a dog)...Bernadette went to the comic book store, much to the shock of Stuart. But not because she was a woman; that any customer would show. She accidentally destroyed one of Howard's comics and had to get it replaced. (Bat-Man got his ass kicked by her curling iron) She needed it replaced right away so Howard wouldn't be proven right about being more careful with her curling iron (for her very straight hair), and she was willing to hook him up with some anti-depression medications if he could work fast. But Stuart was good in that department (perhaps a

bit too good). Stuart did find a copy at Capitol Comics, only the guy there was a real jerk and was always putting Stuart down. But Bernadette still wanted the address. Stuart figured he could go there and make sure she didn't get ripped off, even though he would lose business...never mind.

Howard and Raj go to Amy's lab to see if she was free for lunch. Given her only plans would have been with the vacationing Sheldon, she was in. But one of her colleagues from the Geology department, Bert (who looks NOTHING like the guy who wanted to horn in on Raj and Lucy's date at the library last season [/sarcasm]), wanted to give her a piece of rare quartz he found. Right away, Howard and Raj correctly guess Bert likes her, and the fact he brings her a pretty rock every day did sort of clue her in. She denies he's her boyfriend.

RAJ: Are you sure? He's tall, pale, and awkward. Sounds like your type.

AMY: Should someone as lonely as you really be making fun of me?

Howard thinks Bert might be hitting on her because he didn't know about Sheldon, so Amy figures she has to let the guy down gently.

RAJ: And does Sheldon know you're dating Sheldon?

AMY: And I'm sorry, who are YOU dating?

Sheldon, still whimpering on the stairs because Leonard told him to stay, perked up (yes, the way you think) when Penny let him go run errands with her. (PENNY: Come on, boy! Come on! Get in the car!)

At the cafeteria, Leonard was telling the guys (with Amy substituting for Sheldon) that Penny really quit the Cheesecake Factory but he supported her 100%.

LEONARD: She's a great actress and I'm proud she's taking this risk.

AMY: (touched) That's nice.

LEONARD: You bought that? Great! Now I gotta call her before I forget how I said it.

He finds her at the Cheesecake Factory.

LEONARD: You got your job back. That's great news. I didn't want to say anything, but I think that is the right choice. I mean, to put yourself into debt right now would be literally insane.

PENNY: Yeah, I'm just returning my uniform.

LEONARD: (foot deeply in mouth) And I support you!

Sheldon's attempts at meditation over his iPhone failed because breathing in and out seemed too obvious. Penny returned to the car rather ticked off and without Sheldon's lemonade. (SHELDON: A fitting swan song to your career as a waitress: to forget my order one last time.) Penny asked him if quitting her job was a mistake. Surprisingly, Sheldon said it wasn't. He said the best way to achieve a goal is to dedicate 100% of your time and energy to it. He did it when he decided he wanted to be a physicist, even when Ms Pierson wanted him to be chalk monitor. Which helped her a bit, but she couldn't understand why Leonard couldn't see that.

SHELDON: Because he's not like us, Penny. We're dreamers.

PENNY: Yeah, I'm going to have to start cracking a window when I leave you in the car.

Bert stopped by, and Amy stopped him before he could invite her to a rock and mineral show in Santa Monica by telling him she had a boyfriend. But he figured that's what all women say because he had an off-putting personality. (AMY: That's not true. My boyfriend has an off-putting personality, too. Like, way worse than yours.) But Bert wasn't buying that. He thought he was a monster, which guilted Amy into saying she'd go to the rock and mineral show with him. Naturally, he was elated he had a date.

AMY: (shocked) No, it's not.

BERT: Too late!

How to tell someone she wasn't interested? She needed some experts in the field. Yes, Howard and Raj. They were even both rejected by the same counter girl at Starbucks. Amy thought she had no choice but to be honest. (RAJ: You can't do that. He'll be so upset, he'll climb up the Empire State Building and start swatting at planes.) They volunteered to do the dirty work for her.

RAJ: So we tell him she's a lesbian?

HOWARD: Of course we tell him she's a lesbian!

Capitol Comics looked just like Stuart's comic book shop...with more comics, sci-fi memorabilia and actual customers. Even Bernadette was impressed. Jesse, the owner, sounded like that arrogant douchebag kid whose parents were rich and he liked to remind you of that on a daily basis. He commented on how gray Stuart's skin had gotten and sympathized with Bernadette for thinking she could get a comic in Stuart's store. But it was a nice store; even Captain Sweatpants

was there. ("Free popcorn") Jesse offered Bernadette a coffee and Stuart directions to the nearest soup kitchen. That crossed the line for Bernadette, who gave Jesse both barrels and chose not to buy the comic book from him. She leads Stuart out of the store.

STUART: You know, Jesse, I have something more important. Friendship! (turns away) Which I would trade in a heartbeat for all of this.

Bernadette came back later to berate Jesse more for insulting Stuart. Yes, she bought the comic book. And had a cappuccino and a chocolate chip scone. (they didn't have blueberry)

Penny actually convinced Sheldon to do some yoga to relax, mainly because he thought she said Yoda. But Sheldon was on board. Shame they would not get as good as some yogis who have such control over their bodies, they could actually take in water through their genitals. (SHELDON: It seems like a good way to drink a milkshake without getting brain freeze.) Leonard comes in and wonders how she convinced Sheldon to do yoga, but unlike Leonard, Sheldon supports her. Leonard tries to explain he supported her, even though he pissed her off on the phone earlier.

LEONARD: Fine, I'm not sure you should have quit, but if you care so much about it, why didn't you ask me before you quit?

PENNY: (livid) Now I need your permission to quit my job? Would you have asked me before you quit your job?

LEONARD: Yes! I thought we were in the kind of relationship where we make decisions together. But if I'm wrong, maybe we need to talk about the kind of relationship we're actually in.

PENNY: Well, maybe we do!

SHELDON: I'm in if you guys are.

Sheldon, clearly not getting the fact that Penny and Leonard are trying to plan their own lives together and refusing to give them some privacy, demanded to know where their relationship was going, if they were going to get married, and if so where would the three of them live? Neither Penny nor Leonard knew how it got off on this tangent, but to refocus, Penny admitted what she was doing could be reckless but she had to take her shot.

SHELDON: No kidding! Despite what it says on her resume, she is no longer 22!

Leonard again tried to say he was on Penny's side but she wasn't buying it. Nor was Sheldon.

LEONARD: I could never do what you're doing. I would be terrified. My point is, just because I couldn't do it doesn't mean you shouldn't, and I am so proud of you.

That helped. Penny thanked him, and Sheldon thought they should celebrate with a milkshake. (SHELDON: Penny, you'll need a straw.)

Well, Raj and Howard did tell Bert about Amy...and now they were his date for the mineral and rock show.

The Convention Conundrum

Season 7
Episode Number: 149
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday January 30, 2014
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Adam Faberman, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, David Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: James Earl Jones (Himself), Carrie Fisher (Herself)
Production Code: 4X5315
Summary: The guys fail to get tickets to Comic-Con and debate whether to buy them from a scalper. Sheldon refuses to and decides to start his own comic book convention and he targets James Earl Jones as a potential panelist. While the guys are occupied with "childish" endeavors, the ladies decide to do something "grown-up".



Leonard, Sheldon, Howard, and Raj were at the ready. The anticipation was killing them; Leonard had butterflies. (SHELDON: Don't go soft on me, Hofstadter; I'll slap those glasses right off your face!) Penny came for coffee and asked what they were doing. Leonard explained they were trying to get tickets for Comic Con and all of them were trying to get in the virtual line...(SHELDON: GOOD LORD, THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR FLIRTING! Keep it in your pants.) The ticket window opened, and...

THE GUYS: (enthusiastic) REFRESH!
REFRESH! REFRESH!

(after the commercial break)

THE GUYS: (not-so-enthusiastic) refresh...refresh...refresh...

PENNY: Yeah, this is not going to be enough coffee.

Only Leonard managed to get in a queue and was 15,000th with only Thursday and...sorry, only Sunday tickets left. And then those were gone, too. Sheldon actually cried. (PENNY: This is really sad...and in a different way than it was 20 minutes ago.) And after all the time all four of them worked on their Hulk costumes (really? Howard was going to be the Lou Ferrigno Hulk?) the guys were depressed. But Sheldon gathered himself and decided he was going to start his own convention. Of course, he could have bought scalped tickets like the other guys planned, but Sheldon was afraid of getting caught by the Comic Con Police and be banned for life. (SHELDON: You're going to feel pretty silly when you're 80 years and have to drive me down there and then sit in the car for three days.) The guys weren't convinced Sheldon could pull off his own convention.

SHELDON: You know, there was a time when Comic Con didn't exist at all, until one lone dreamer with a unique vision made it happen. And you mark my words: I'm gonna rip that guy off.

He could certainly try, although getting Robert Downey Jr. wasn't going to happen. Sheldon couldn't even get Wil Wheaton because Wil thought he wasn't a big enough star to carry a convention on his own. (that, and he had to shampoo his beard that day) This in spite of the fact it would be at a Marie Callender's and every panelist would get a free slice of pie. As for getting Stan Lee, Leonard Nimoy, and Bill Nye, he would need Leonard's help; the restraining orders were quite detailed on Sheldon not talking to them.

Penny relays the story of Comic Con to Amy and Bernadette, unable to grasp how the guys could spend so much money on tickets. Even though she spent even more on a dress the other day, but in her defense that dress could get her into a lot more places than just Comic Con. It baffled Bernadette, too, given she had to advance Howard some of his allowance and good luck getting him to pick up his toys now.

AMY: Why can't they do something sensible like Sheldon and start their own comic book convention? (pause) Also, who would like to throw me out that window?

Bernadette thinks they should counter their Peter Pan syndrome by going out and doing something grown up, like go to a museum. Penny was on-board going anyplace grown up...other than a museum. Bernadette knew of an afternoon tea a local hotel had, and the ladies agreed. Penny was even going to put on clean underwear...once she got some from Target.

While the guys decided to change their costumes from the Hulk to the Fantastic Four (the Invisible Girl is standing right next to them, they swear), Sheldon had a plan for snagging a huge guest for his convention. Surprisingly, it didn't involve duct tape or chloroform: it involved doing some research and finding out that James Earl Jones would be dining at his favorite sushi restaurant tonight. Leonard begged Sheldon not to stalk James Earl Jones. He wasn't going to, and the guys should have been more concerned about being arrested for theft for buying scalped tickets. After all, Sheldon planned to warn James Earl Jones about the dangers of posting his location on Twitter; there are some weirdoes out there.

As the guys waited for the scalper to arrive...and contemplated he might be coming to steal their money or their kidneys or make suits out of their skin... Penny, Amy, and Bernadette discovered the afternoon tea at the hotel was really designed for the younger crowd. About 6-10 years old, perhaps?

PENNY: I can't believe we thought this would make us feel grown up.

BERNADETTE: I can't believe the waiter thought I was your daughter.

But Amy's tiara was turning a few heads, and it was like the tea party she held with her hamster, teddy bear, and Raggedy Ann. Until her hamster ate all its babies. (AMY: It got less cute really fast.)

James Earl Jones meeting Sheldon was as scary as you would think.

JAMES: I've been in other movies, but you don't care about those, do you. (Sheldon nods) I've only got one thing to say to people like you...I like Star Wars, too!

James invites Sheldon to sit down. Sheldon explained Leonard thought he would be a creepy stalker if he bothered James, but James thought Leonard was a real weenie for saying that. (SHELDON: He is, Mr. Earl Jones! He is!)

Back at the apartment, the guys were waffling about getting the scalped tickets, given Sheldon was right about people being arrested over it. (RAJ: If I go to jail dressed as the Human Torch, that might send the wrong message.) Suddenly, Leonard says that they always chicken out at the last second, that they're so afraid of getting into trouble, they never do anything wrong. Even Bat-Man breaks the rules. (RAJ: You know I struggle with Bat-Man.)

Sheldon was slowly discovering James, as fun and as friendly as he was, was a bit...out there. When he read the script for Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back and found out Vader was Luke's father, he thought they were lying. (SHELDON: Me too!) But the night was still young, James' wife was in New York, and he had a The Lion King residual check burning a hole in his pocket. Sure enough, they hit an ice cream parlor, go on a Ferris Wheel, and they even sing The Lion Sleeps Tonight at a karaoke bar!

SHELDON: (at the top of the ferris wheel) Hey Los Angeles! I'm on a Ferris Wheel with Darth Vader! And he's nicer than you think!

JAMES: I AM!

The ladies find the bar in the hotel for some more grown-up drinks. And a good philosophical question from Penny: when did they start feeling grown up, since Penny didn't feel that way? Laughing at seeing an old man slip and fall the other day wasn't making her feel grown up at all.

Bernadette admitted she didn't feel like much of a grown-up herself even after getting married. Of course, getting her wardrobe from Gap Kids didn't help. As for Amy, she found it hard to feel like a grown-up when she hadn't ever been with a man.

PENNY: OK, sex is not what makes you a grown-up.

BERNADETTE: Yeah, otherwise you'd be the oldest one here.

PENNY: (pissed off) Really? That's how you talk to your mother?

They finally concede the guys have the right idea. They were probably doing something way cooler. Well, if you count them turning off the lights and hiding from their scalper cool...

As for Sheldon and James Earl Jones, then end the night in a sauna after playing Ding-Dong-Ditch at Carrie Fisher's house. (CARRIE: It's not funny anymore, James!) Sheldon finally tells him about not getting tickets to Comic Con, and James invites all the guys to be his guests. After all, San Diego is just across the border from his favorite city on Earth: Tijuana! But given Sheldon asked how much it was to get the strippers OFF of his lap, he wasn't up for it.

JAMES: So Beau Bridges is on my shoulders and Jeff Bridges is on Marlon Brando's shoulders. And remember, we do not have permission to be in this pool. Hey Sheldon, wake up! And Angie Dickinson is about to sic the dogs on us, and I go under the water and Marlon goes under the water, and the water raises about 2 feet and sloshes over the patio and the dogs freak out and run like hell and then we run like hell. Oh, that was a lot of fun!

SHELDON: Who's Angie Dickinson?

The Locomotion Manipulation

Season 7

Episode Number: 150

Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Thursday February 6, 2014
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Alex Ball (Waiter), Eric Petersen (Eric), Tania Raymonde (Yvette)
Production Code: 4X5314
Summary: Sheldon and Amy take a train ride to Napa Valley with Howard and Bernadette on Valentine's Day. Leonard and Penny take Raj's dog to the vet when she accidentally eats some chocolate.



Just like the President has a State of the Union address, Amy and Sheldon have a State of the Relationship forum. And Sheldon hasn't held up his end of the bargain coming up with a pet name for Amy. (Flaky, Gollum, Princess Corn-cob, and Fester were rejected.) Amy saved the worst for last, according to Sheldon: Valentine's Day. But Amy had an idea.

AMY: I propose we spend a weekend at a bed-and-breakfast in Napa Valley.

SHELDON: I hate every word in that sentence. Including "in", "at", "we", and "a".

But Amy had this covered. Howard and Bernadette would be joining them so he wouldn't have to eat breakfast with strangers, he would have his own room, and it doesn't have a claw-foot bathtub to allay his fears of bathing inside of a monster. Best of all, they'd be going on a vintage train. An Alcoa FA-4 diesel locomotive leading a train of restored 1915 Pullman luxury coaches.

SHELDON: Wow, I feel like hugging you. (closes his eyes) and 1...and 2...alright, Gollum, we're good.

Raj asked Leonard and Penny to take care of Cinnamon because he had Valentine's Day plans. And since there was no way Penny could say that without it sounding insulting, they took him while Raj went to make observations on the telescope at work. Leonard and Penny were just going to have a quiet weekend and exchange gifts. Penny got Leonard some flowers and candy, while Leonard got her a beautiful jewelry box. CONTAINING LAKERS TICKETS! (OK, that doesn't sound as good given their record, but Penny was all for it. Seriously, they had to play a guy who had fouled out last night.) They enjoy a lovely evening, although Penny drew the line at having sex on Sheldon's spot (didn't she propose that the first time they went out?). Off they go to the bedroom, and despite Raj begging them to let Cinnamon watch so one of them saw some action that night, Cinnamon stayed out in the living room and ate the chocolate candy. Leonard and Penny return and discover this. They immediately take Cinnamon to the vet.

Sheldon was quite taken by the restored Pullman luxury coach. He liked it. (SHELDON: I'm prepared to say I love it as soon as I confirm there are no hobos on board.) They sit down for

dinner, but Sheldon needed to know if the train had the original link-and-pin coupler or the Miller hook & platform? Their waiter didn't really know, but someone at the next table did. It was neither: it was an AAR-E coupler. Which, according to Eric, you could tell by the click-psssshhh-thunk when the locomotive disconnects from the other cars. Suddenly, Sheldon has a companion to talk to at dinner. He goes to join Eric, who does imitations of trains like Sheldon. (BTW, kudos to Sheldon for muting the whistle on the Amtrak Wolverine coming into Chicago; it travels underground like a subway the last mile and change.) Eric had been on many trains since a box fell on his head at UPS six years ago and he just rides them while collecting disability. (SHELDON: Wow, your life is amazing.) Amy was depressed, as you could imagine. Bernadette goes to take care of it. (HOWARD: Just make sure it looks like an accident.) Bernadette tells Sheldon to go back and be with his girlfriend. Sheldon admits he was being insensitive so he goes back to the table. And brings Eric with him.

BERNADETTE: Great. Now there's two of them.

Leonard and Penny were not fans of the vet, Yvette, for letting Cinnamon eat the chocolate, particularly when Leonard found out Penny got them free with the flowers at a gas station. (Although in her defense, gas is a lot more valuable these days than Lakers tickets.) Raj arrived and was out of his mind. (RAJ: If she needs new organs, I'll buy any dog necessary and scrap them for parts!) Thankfully, Cinnamon wasn't throwing up, so Yvette could take her in the back, put her on fluids, and give her something to get rid of the toxins. Raj asked Yvette if she could sing Katy Perry to Cinnamon. (not Fireworks, though)

Sheldon joining everybody else at the table didn't mean he'd pay any attention to them. He continued his conversation with Eric, oblivious to the fact he was ticking off Amy, Bernadette, and even Howard. Eric tells him they could visit the engine room, and Sheldon wishes this day would never end. (AMY: It's feeling like it never will.)

Back at the vet, Raj was still upset with Leonard and Penny, but Penny promised they weren't away from him very long. Although Leonard thought they were. Well, however long 9 minutes is, Yvette came back and told Raj that Cinnamon would be fine. He asked if he could visit her so she knew he was there. (RAJ: Yes, I sleep with my dog and sometimes we spoon.) Yvette could sympathize, as she slept with her dog as well. She took Raj to the back, grateful neither Leonard nor Penny owned a pet. And she did sing Katy Perry to Cinnamon and thought she crushed it, despite what the parrot said. Leonard and Penny weren't happy with each other, but at least they saw that Yvette was interested in Raj.

Amy was getting more and more depressed. And Howard and Bernadette getting romantic with each other really wasn't helping. Sheldon finally returned, happy that he had the same pocket watch as the conductor. And the conductor was going to come to the B&B to play his banjo as soon as he was done with work. That was the last straw. Howard and Bernadette high-tailed it to the car with the glass roof, and Eric took the hint after Amy told him to get lost. Sheldon gets upset with her for being so rude. She gave Sheldon both barrels about him acting rude, but Sheldon wasn't sure how he was being rude since he never spoke to her the entire trip. She said they were supposed to be having a romantic Valentine's Day weekend, but Sheldon countered by saying the trip would be something they could both enjoy.

SHELDON: Did you mean that, or were you just trying to trick me?

AMY: (defeated) Fine, it's true. I deserve romance and I didn't know how else to make it happen.

SHELDON: Well, if you want romance, then let's have romance! Oh, look! There's wine! (takes a sip) Grape juice that burns! Now let's gaze into each other's eyes. (gets close and stares into her eyes) You blinked, I win! Let's see what's next. Oh, kissing's romantic!

Then Sheldon puts his lips on hers...AND STAYS THERE. Even leaned into it and put his arms around her. And stayed close to her after it was over.

AMY: (totally shocked) That was nice.

SHELDON: (equally in a fog) Good.

Sheldon then asked Amy if she wanted to join him in the locomotive, since the conductor was going to show him how to put the train through a crossing. She agreed.

ERIC: Hey, guys! Wait up!

It turns out Leonard and Penny were right about Raj and Yvette. Yvette wrote on Cinnamon's prescription that she dreaded Valentine's Day and thanked him for spending it with her. And

gave Raj her phone number. (RAJ: If I knew it was that easy, I would have considered poisoning you months ago!) Meanwhile, Sheldon returned and Leonard asked how the trip went.

SHELDON: Wonderful! I made a new friend who likes trains as much as I do, I kissed Amy on the lips, and the conductor played his banjo for me.

Leonard wanted more details, and Sheldon gave him more about each.

LEONARD: Hang on. Are all those things equal to you?

SHELDON: (thinks) It never occurred to me to pick a favorite. I can't answer that without collecting more data.

LEONARD: (proud) Additional data. You dog!

SHELDON: I'm not sure how listening to other nine-fingered banjo players makes me a dog, but alright.

The Table for Polarization

Season 7
Episode Number: 151
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 27, 2014
Writer: Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Gay Linvill
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (voiced Mrs. Wolowitz), Casey Sander (Mr. Rostenkowski), Christopher Neiman (Dr. Dreyfus), Michael J. Massimino (Himself)
Production Code: 4X5316
Summary: Leonard buys a dining room table which causes Sheldon to reevaluate the changes in his life. Meanwhile, Howard is offered a chance to go back to space and Bernadette struggles with whether or not to encourage him.



Apparently there is a thing about the way Raj says mustache that Howard and Leonard find funny. Bernadette thinks they're being childish, and Sheldon agrees, given that they're old enough to grow their own mustaches. (AMY: Hey, you were funny on purpose. Good job!) Penny returns from her audition and everybody says she'll do better next time. You know, instead of finding out first how it went. Penny goes to sit on the floor, turning down Raj's offer of his seat, when Bernadette and Amy realize they have enough room for a dining room table and a nice place to put it up by the window.

(RAJ: Oh, sure. I sit on the floor for years and nobody cares. Then the pretty white girl sits there ten seconds and suddenly we're all running to Ikea.) Sheldon shoots the idea down, explaining Chaos Theory that one little change to the conditions, even an unknown one, in a non-linear formula, can have a cataclysmic effect.

PENNY: Translation?

LEONARD: WAAAAAHHHH, I don't want a table!

Leonard decides he wants to get a new dining room table with Penny, and Sheldon decided he wanted to use that space for his old desk and to relearn Windows 98. (SHELDON: I can't talk right now, I have several thousand updates to download.) He was like Arthur Dent in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, lying in front of the bulldozers to stop them from destroying his house, even though the Vogons blew up Earth anyway. Sheldon dares him to name one thing in that part of the apartment they could live without, and Leonard takes his picture and says Sheldon should check his inbox.

Howard had Raj over where both of them could enjoy the new magic wand remote. Bernadette didn't enjoy it so much when Howard waved it at her and said "mute" but whatevs. Howard

gets a call from NASA, asking him to go back to the International Space Station and repair the telescope mount he built and installed for them the last time. Bernadette, you may suspect, was none too happy about Howard going back up there, mainly because of all the complaining and crying he did the last time it happened.

Penny and Leonard check out a few tables. One made of reclaimed wood wouldn't work because Sheldon would be too afraid of the original owners coming back. Penny was getting a bit tired of Sheldon being in on the decision, particularly since Leonard was paying for the table himself and it was his apartment. Leonard agreed, since Sheldon chose the TV shows they watch, the food they ate, even what Leonard's favorite Hobbit was. (Sheldon chose Frodo, so Leonard was left with Sam.) They found a table and brought it home. Sure enough, Sheldon didn't like it and wanted it out because the Roommate Agreement stated any changes in furniture had to be approved by the Furnishing Committee, which met every other year...and was comprised of only Sheldon. Penny demanded Leonard stand up for himself (which he did in the only way Leonard could...badly), and Sheldon finally figured out the problem. Penny had reshaped Leonard from "an acceptable conduit" for Sheldon into something completely different thanks to her newfangled ideas and her fancy genitals. Penny said that's what happened in relationships and the same thing had happened to Sheldon since he started dating Amy.

PENNY: When I first met you, you were incapable of TOUCHING another human being, and now you're holding hands, you're going on dates, and you even made out with her on a train.

Sheldon realizes Penny was right in that Amy had made a huge impact on his personality. (LEONARD: Sheldon, you never had a personality. You just had a few shows you like.) He had no choice: he had to break up with Amy.

SHELDON: Amy has made me a more affectionate, open-minded person. And that stops now!

Penny calls Amy, who is prepared when Sheldon arrives and takes out his iPad to have her sign the dissolution of their Relationship Agreement. She had already moved on, she knew the breakup had nothing to do with her, and she was even happy to take the survey form offered at the end. Sheldon was surprised, but Amy said this was simply about Leonard taking the focus off of the ugly table they just bought by sowing discord into their relationship. She hated the table and completely sided with Sheldon on this, but it was irrelevant now since she'd never see it anyway. Amy said Leonard was manipulating him like he always did.

SHELDON: Wait. How do I know YOU'RE not manipulating me right now?

AMY: I would think if I were manipulating you, you'd be smart enough to see it.

SHELDON: How do I know you're not saying that as part of the manipulation?

AMY: You'd be smart enough to see that, too.

SHELDON: (pause) OK. Sorry to give you such a hard time, but I had to be sure.

Bernadette decided an intervention was in order for Howard since he was completely ignoring all of the trouble he had the first time he prepared to go into space. She brought Raj, her father to talk Howard out of it. Mike Rostenkowski reminded Howard he asked him to shoot him in the foot to get out of it, but Howard played that off as a joke. Raj told him about Howard throwing up during zero gravity training and then re-swallowing his vomit...several times. Howard was OK with that. Then Massimino told Howard he'd have to go through survival training again. That worked. Only Howard needed a medical excuse to get out of it. The doctor said he was completely fine, but one call to Howard's mother, and his blood pressure shot up into the stratosphere.

Sheldon and Amy returned to the apartment still together. Sheldon said that Amy pointed out that Leonard was trying to manipulate him.

AMY: Which you figured out by yourself.

SHELDON: Which I figured out by myself.

Sheldon wasn't having it, but Leonard pointed out the spot Sheldon loved to sit in only happened because Leonard bought the leather couch when he first moved in. How was that OK but buying the dining room table wasn't?

AMY: You don't need to explain yourself to him.

SHELDON: (to Leonard) I don't need to explain myself to you!

AMY: You're sick of his nonsense and ready to move in with me.

SHELDON: Keep the table! We don't use the space!

AMY: (realizing) Damn it, I got cocky.

Everybody was enjoying dinner at the new table...except Sheldon, who insisted on sitting in his usual spot, and Amy, who would have looked like an idiot if she sat there. But Sheldon like

to do things like they always did them, but if those days are gone, everyone else could eat at the table. That guilted Bernadette into joining them on the couches, followed by Howard, then Penny, then Leonard. And Raj?

RAJ: Screw that! I sat on the floor for seven years. I'm staying right here!

BERNADETTE: Come on. It's not the same without you.

Raj caved and took his traditional spot on the floor. And Sheldon thought it was nice.

SHELDON: Sometimes the baby wins.

The Friendship Turbulence

Season 7
Episode Number: 152
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday March 6, 2014
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily), Gilda Stratton (voiced Flight Attendant)
Production Code: 4X5318
Summary: Howard takes Bernadette's comments seriously about he and Sheldon's bickering and invites Sheldon to fly with him to NASA at Houston. Penny's career luck continues its downward slide while Raj asks Amy to be his wingman on an online dating service.



The gang was gathered for dinner, and Bernadette was nice enough to fix the tag on Raj's shirt. Which he claimed to be the closest to sex he's been in 2 years. Which grossed her out. Which made it even more realistic for Raj. Raj wanted a change of topic, and Sheldon was more than happy to volunteer Penny's non-burgeoning acting career. Leonard tried to defend her, saying chasing her dream was a good thing in his book but got called out for it right away.

HOWARD: Is that book called Lies I Tell to Get Sex?

RAJ: Is that book real, because I'd to-

tally read that book.

AMY: Can I borrow it when you're done?

Apparently, she turned down appearing in the sequel to Serial Apeist, where she'd be brought back from the dead and have her DNA mixed in with the ape's, so she would only have ape hands and feet and go on a killing spree. (SHELDON: Am I missing something, or does that part something she was born to play?) Leonard wondered why she didn't take the part and get the money as opposed to what she was doing now, which was nothing. Nothing, coincidentally, would now be what he was doing later that night. Sheldon was actually disappointed because everybody wanted to leave over the sudden tension, and he wanted to move on to the next failing career: Howard's.

HOWARD: I work at the same university you do.

SHELDON: And Hawkeye's one of The Avengers but you never hear anyone saying "Help, Hawkeye!"

Bernadette demanded to know why Sheldon picked on Howard all the time. And after Penny and Leonard went off to have a fight after more foot-in-mouth wisdom from Leonard, Sheldon had a perfectly-logical explanation for why he insulted Howard all the time: Howard started it. When Howard first met Sheldon 10 years ago, Howard said he looked like a cross between C-3PO and

Pee-Wee Herman. (SHELDON: He called me C-3Pee-Wee Herman.) He also replaced the slides in one of Sheldon's lectures with a bunch of nude fat women bending over. (HOWARD: The lecture was on cosmic gas clouds. It was funny!) And the insults and pranks have continued to this day. (SHELDON: To this day, I still get a monthly copy of Granny On Granny. Which apart from its suprisingly-fun puzzle page is complete filth.)

The next day, Howard stopped by Sheldon's office to say that they should stop pranking and be better friends. Bernadette gave him a very good reason for not doing it. Actually, she took off her bra in bed and gave him two good reasons. Howard thought a good place to start would be for both of them to stop insulting each other. (SHELDON: That's a great idea. And in the spirit of our new arrangement, I will mask my surprise that you came up with it.) Howard also invited him to go to NASA in Houston since he had to give a speech there and Bernadette couldn't make it. Howard figured Sheldon could visit his mother and get a tour of the space center. Sheldon did have one question: was this a prank? Would they land in Houston and find Sheldon's face on wanted posters with a Spanish name and he ends up getting deported? The answer was no.

Raj stopped by Amy's lab because he wanted to ask her for a favor. Nobody had been writing to him on his online profile, so he had given up for some time. But he found someone online he thought would be ideal for him (she never had an Adam's Apple, and Raj liked that in a woman), and he wanted Amy to give her opinion of what he wrote.

RAJ: "Emily, your face is like a precious, dew-kissed flower..."

AMY: Wow. Um, you're supposed to be yourself. Not all desperate and creepy.

RAJ: OK, I'm getting some mixed messages here.

Amy suggested just he just say he saw her profile and thought she was interesting and ask to meet for coffee, and Raj thought he could say he was jealous of the cup touching her ruby lips. Raj asked her to write it, to pretend to be his online wingman. She agreed, only to have Emily tell her she thought Raj was too shy and passive because he made her write the note. Raj claimed he wasn't shy and passive. (RAJ: You write her back and tell her I said that! You know, when you have a second.) Amy would try again because she was meeting Emily for coffee. They had a lot in common, having both gone to Harvard, liking Geoffrey Chaucer, and really being into quilting.

Now that Howard and Sheldon were friends, the teams had to change up a bit when they played Risk. Which was probably good, because Raj was annoying the hell out of Howard trying to get him to complete his sentences. Leonard would have to put Risk on hold because Penny needed to talk to him. Her car died and couldn't be fixed. (But Sheldon was grateful the "check engine" light had finally gone out!) She couldn't drive to auditions and the part in Serial Apeist II was already given to someone else.

PENNY: (crying) Now that girl's gonna get discovered and become famous and go on Letterman and talk about how she got her big break on some cheap monkey movie all because some stupid girl thought it was beneath her!

LEONARD: At least they talked about you on Letterman.

Leonard offered to drive her to auditions, but Penny pointed out he worked, and now she would have to go back to being a waitress for the rest of her life.

SHELDON: (interrupting) Leonard, could you wrap it up? We're waiting on you.

PENNY: (ready to kill Sheldon) I'm sorry, is the fact that my life's falling apart interrupting your board game?

SHELDON: It is.

Leonard decided the least he could do was take Penny over to the Cheesecake Factory to help her get her job back. Clearly she wasn't thrilled to do it; her last words to the staff there being "I quit! See you at the Oscars, bitches!" But Leonard decided to let her drive. Only it wasn't Leonard's car. It was a car he bought for her. It wasn't anything fancy, but it ran quite well, and Penny was ecstatic.

Howard wasn't happy that he was being made to take Sheldon on a trip, but Bernadette wasn't taking the blame. She didn't tell him to take him on a romantic getaway. (HOWARD: How do I know what you said, you and your noise-cancelling breasts.) But Sheldon was excited to be going to NASA and get a tour with a real astronaut. (SHELDON: Who's the real astronaut?!?) On the plane, Sheldon kept getting up to go to the bathroom (yes, he had the window seat and Howard was in the aisle), except he would never use it because it didn't seem safe without a seatbelt. Howard decided he had had enough of Sheldon's insults that Sheldon didn't think were insults and wouldn't let him go. Sheldon was confused until Howard pointed out that he was

a real astronaut and Sheldon knew that. Sheldon was just jealous, and Sheldon admitted to it. Sheldon idolized astronauts growing up and wished he could have been one. And to see Howard do it was difficult...

SHELDON: ...because it made me realize they'll just send anyone up there.

The plane starts getting a little turbulent, and Howard got a little smug at how scared Sheldon was of it. And then there was a lot more turbulence, and suddenly Howard wasn't nearly as smug.

At the coffee shop, Amy tried to convince Emily that Raj was a decent and sweet guy who would make a good date, and then Raj comes in uninvited and sweaty to undo all of the good Amy just said about him. (RAJ: Would a passive and shy guy barge in here just to say "hey dew-kissed flower, what's up?") And that not only sealed Raj's fate, now Amy didn't have anybody to go to a Chaucer reading Friday night.

RAJ: Not my best first date, but not my worst either.

As for Sheldon and Howard, they got through the turbulence by holding each other's hands and apologizing for every last mean thing they did to one another. (SHELDON: If I lost you there'd be a hole in my life. Kind of like when Firefly was cancelled. Only not as big!)

The turbulence eventually faded. The hand-holding? That took a few more minutes.

The Mommy Observation

Season 7
Episode Number: 153
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday March 13, 2014
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary), Kevin Sussman (Stuart)
Production Code: 4X5319
Summary: While Sheldon and Howard continue their bonding holiday to Houston Texas Sheldon's surprise visit to see his Mommy forces him to start addressing a new reality. Meanwhile the rest of the gang are subjected to a surprise Koothrappali "Murder Mystery" party that leads the gang to speculate where they might all be in 20 years from now.



While Sheldon was in Houston with Howard... and so well-behaved that he got a Buzz Aldrin bobblehead doll and astronaut ice cream...the rest of the gang was having dinner from that Thai place Sheldon refused to let them eat at. And they found out why. But no matter, Raj was enjoying sitting in Sheldon's spot as opposed to the floor, which Leonard advised against because he knew Sheldon had a very sensitive butt. (LEONARD: It's true. Once I saw him sit on a bunch of loose change and add it up.) Stuart stopped by, and Bernadette hoped they could plan something; otherwise she'd have to visit Howard's mother. Fortunately, Stuart would assist in this by

keeling over and dying. According to Raj. Who whipped out his mobile phone and played a dramatic murder mystery-type beat. And everybody groaned because it was time for another of Raj's murder mystery dinner parties.

PENNY: Are you really going to lie on the floor and pretend to be dead all night?

STUART: What do you think I was going to do at home?

Amy decided it might be fun to pretend to be another character. Except Raj indicated they would all be portraying themselves. He handed out their character cards, one of which indicated who the murderer was, and everybody had to figure out who it was. They were to be their own Byomkesh Bakshi, which was the Indian version of Sherlock Holmes (Holmes came first, so...). And Bernadette may not want to stand too close to Stuart since he would stay there the whole night and could see up her skirt. Everybody could ask any question they wanted of their fellow suspects.

PENNY: Got it. Hey, who's the murderer.

RAJ: Any question but THAT.

PENNY: Sorry. Hey, who's NOT the murderer?

On the way to see Sheldon's mother, Howard was wondering if Sheldon was going to bring her a nice gift. And Sheldon said he already had it covered; he was bringing the gift of knowledge. (Did you know camels didn't exist in the Middle East during the time of the Old Testament, even though they're mentioned?) Howard figured the flowers and pie he brought would be a slight improvement over Sheldon denigrating his mother's religion. Until Sheldon took the flowers and pie to give to her. They got to the house, and Sheldon made a beeline back to the car.

SHELDON: (completely freaked out) I saw Mommy with a naked man and she was trying to be a mommy again!

Back at the apartment, we discovered Raj's penchant for murder mysteries. He weighed 200 pounds as a kid and didn't have any friends. Organizing these mysteries were what got him through, and he vowed to ask his friends to participate if he ever got friends one day. And given Leonard had seen pictures of Raj as a kid, in none of which was he fat, he called BS on Raj. Bernadette found a receipt for a coffee shop with a date from 20 years into the future. It was a clue towards Raj's murder mystery. Penny wasn't having as much luck finding clues in any of the beers in the refrigerator.

LEONARD: So one of us comes into the past to murder Stuart? Does the svelte gazelle realize he's just ripping off The Terminator?

RAJ: Does the smart-ass know that Terminator was actually ripped off from an *The Outer Limits* called *Demon With A Glass Hand* by Harlan Ellison?

LEONARD: Does the gazelle know that, according to Harlan Ellison, it was NOT ripped off from *Demon With A Glass Hand*, but from another *Outer Limits* script he wrote called *The Soldier*?

PENNY: (going for the refrigerator) I'm going to need another clue!

(BTW, do you think that was put in there as a sort of *beep* you to the people who complain the show is about nothing but relationships these days?)

How freaked out was Sheldon? He was downing beers with Howard at a nearby tavern. (Yes, Lone Star Beer, which actually exists. But it's made by Pabst Brewing Company, so buyer beware.) He wasn't drunk enough to talk about it. But one sip later, he was. Howard couldn't imagine seeing his mother ravish someone...unless ravishing a brisket counts, then he's all in. Since Mrs. Cooper never saw Sheldon at the window, Howard told Sheldon to just pretend it didn't happen. (SHELDON: I have to tell her. How can we have a healthy relationship if I don't tell her how disappointed I am in her and will never forgive her?) Howard figured Sheldon needed to tell her that in person, but Sheldon first chose to call and warn Mary Cooper (this time) they were on their way. Howard wondered if it was really Sheldon's business what his mother did, given his father had been gone for many years.

SHELDON: I beg to differ. I used to live in those genitals. If someone wants to move into my old room, I should at least get a vote.

Raj puts everybody in a "time machine" (just a strobe light and more musical effects) and takes them 20 years into the future. And they're still bored. Although Penny is happy her beer is not flat and her rack is not sagging. He hands out some cards about how everybody is in the future, which should have clues about the murderer. According to Amy's future, she won the Nobel Prize for Physiology and with the prize money she bought Stuart's bookstore to shut it down so Sheldon would pay more attention to her. (AMY: Not the worst idea.) Leonard and Penny drifted apart after their respective careers took off; Leonard moving to Stanford and Penny going to London. Raj became boy toy to the wrinkled but still-flexible Madonna. As for Bernadette, we'll have to wait until Leonard and Penny finish their argument. Penny assumed Leonard would give up his life in science if she was making lots of money, which he would not.

LEONARD: You don't go into science for the money.

BERNADETTE: Speak for yourself. Last month, my company both invented and cured Restless Eye Syndrome. Ka-ching, you blinky chumps!

Penny was not happy about Leonard not following her if her career took off, and suddenly everybody else was enjoying the drama...of the murder mystery, yeah that's the ticket. Raj tried to play peacemaker by changing their backstories to both of them living in New York, married, and with three kids. (PENNY: Really? You think I'm putting this body through three kids?)

Sheldon goes into the house to confront his mother. (SHELDON: I saw you having naked sex.) She tells him to sit down, but he needed a surface she hasn't had coitus on. She wasn't amused...and advised they sit at the table. Mary Cooper's paramour was named Ron, she knew

him from their prayer group, and this had been going on for a few months. (SHELDON: And of those few months, how long have you been a demented sex pervert?) Mary was very upset and ordered Sheldon to his room. Sheldon protested, saying he was a professional scientist, a grown man, and had the moral high ground. (yes, he went to his room)

The murder mystery was still on hold because Leonard and Penny were still fighting over their future careers, and everybody wondered why they had never talked about it before. Amy said she didn't have to worry about that with Sheldon because their Relationship Agreement covered many scenarios, even an intelligent dog uprising. (AMY: FYI, We plan on selling out the human race hard.) Stuart thought Leonard and Penny would be together in twenty years, and that they were the best couple he knew. Which offended Amy and Bernadette to no end.

STUART: Well, I feel like you guys make each other better. Penny brought Leonard out of his shell, and it seems like Leonard makes Penny think more deeply about the world. Together, you two kind of make one awesome person.

PENNY: (touched) Aww, Stuart. Now I feel bad for murdering you.

RAJ: Oh, COME ON!!!!

BERNADETTE: (elated) Penny did it! I win! SUCK IT, JACKASSES!

Howard knocked on Sheldon's door, and since any man was now welcome in the house, Sheldon let him in. Apparently, if a Jewish person sits in front of a house in Texas long enough, "for sale" signs start to go up. Sheldon wasn't sure how he was going to get past this, but Howard went through something similar. (SHELDON: Howard, we've ALL seen your mother naked. That woman needs to learn how to tie a robe.) It turns out Howard's mother started seeing someone a few years after his dad left, and he acted like a jerk toward her because of it. (HOWARD: Let's just say it was the most vicious bar mitzvah speech ever heard at Temple Beth-El.) His mother stopped seeing the guy, and she had been alone ever since. Howard thought Sheldon shouldn't get in the way of his mother's happiness.

SHELDON: I love my mother, even if she fornicates like a demonic weasel.

Sheldon goes to talk to his mother. And once she puts a blanket on the couch, Sheldon sat down. Sheldon admitted the part that hurt him the most was the hypocrisy, given she violated all of the rules she raised him on his whole life. She agreed, and she admitted she was struggling with it. (MARY: I'm not perfect, Shelly, but that man's booty is.) Sheldon remained confused but didn't want to get in the way of her happiness. He planned to condemn her internally while keeping an outward appearance of acceptance. And she said it was very Christian of him. Still, Sheldon was worried about how she was conducting her life.

SHELDON: You're going to need to be careful. You used to be protected by your pre-Enlightenment mythology. But now you're going to need a stronger friend, named latex.

MARY: (shocked) Are you having the sex talk with me?

SHELDON: Well, someone has to!

MARY: Oh, dear Lord.

SHELDON: No, don't look to Him. He's mad at you right now.

Raj was still pouting (sorry, brooding) over Penny ruining his game, but Bernadette thought the time-travel element was inspired. (LEONARD: It was, by Terminator.) Still, Bernadette hoped they would all be friends in 20 years, and Leonard proposed all of them meet in front of the apartment building exactly 20 years from now at 8PM and have dinner, regardless of whether they were friends or still lived in the same area. Everybody put it in their phones.

20 years later....

STUART: (the only one there) I knew it.

The Indecision Amalgamation

Season 7

Episode Number: 154

Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday April 3, 2014
Writer: Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Dave Goetsch, Steve Holland
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: Wil Wheaton (Himself)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily), Fernando Rivera (Salesperson), Rod Keller (Customer)
Production Code: 4X5320
Summary: Raj wrestles with dating two women at the same time. Penny is offered a part in a trashy movie and Sheldon can't decide between two gaming systems.



To pee or not to pee. That is the question plaguing Sheldon... and simultaneously annoying the crap out of Leonard. Sheldon can't decide between getting an X-Box One or a PS4. Believe it or not, there is a scientific principle put forth by Mirjam Tuk saying people with full bladders make better decisions. (LEONARD: Why did I pee before deciding to move in here?) But Sheldon remained strong despite the "fishtank in his pelvis". That is, until Penny described how she could now cry on cue at an audition...and get out of any ticket she needed, and Sheldon couldn't hold it in anymore.

Bernadette had her own problems. In fairness, she honestly mistook a Get Well card for someone who had been in an horrible car accident as a retirement card. But perhaps writing "Hey Vivian, you deserve this. And with you gone, no one will be stealing my yogurt from the refrigerator" may not have been her best moment. (and an LOL with a smiley face) Speaking of not having best moments, Penny lost the audition she tried for but the Serial Ape-ist 2 offer was again available. Even Leonard could put a positive spin on the script, although he did try saying it was a family film because Penny and an orangutan would be oil wrestling...in bikinis. (yes, both of them) But he did encourage her, saying she could rise above the horrible script and still do a good job.

PENNY: (reading the script) Sometimes I feel like I can control the killer gorilla instinct inside of me. But then I see these bananas, and then I just want to eat them and kill people. (exasperated) What am I going to do?

LEONARD: For one thing, I wouldn't eat the bananas.

Raj got a second chance. He ran into Emily at a coffee shop and apologized for acting like a total nutjob the last time he saw her. She admitted he wasn't the weirdest date she ever had from an online site, but Raj promised all he needed was some time. And she was willing to give

it to her. He decided to practice for his next date and asked to borrow Penny to see what she thought. Raj thought laying some romantic astronomy stories on Penny might tear her away from Leonard, but he thought she was safe. Then Raj talked about two of the brightest stars in the sky, Altair and Vega, who were deeply in love but were too far apart, except for once a year when Vega cries so hard, all the magpies fly up and their wings build a bridge for the two stars to reunite for a single night of passion. (LEONARD: OK, that's enough.)

Sheldon discussed his dilemma with Amy, who really didn't care, but she wanted him to pass her the butter, so she had no choice to pretend to be excited. Difficult, to be certain, because Sheldon couldn't figure out why Microsoft went from X-Box to X-Box 360 to X-Box One.

SHELDON: The PS4 is more angular and sleek-looking.

AMY: No way!

SHELDON: But the larger size of the X-Box One keeps it from overheating.

AMY: Well, you wouldn't want your gaming system to overheat!

SHELDON: You absolutely would not! Plus now, the X-Box One comes with a Kinect included

AMY: INCLUDED?!?!

This goes on for a while, with Amy increasing the ham factor past Shatner levels.

AMY: This is like a nightmare! How will you ever make a decision?

SHELDON: You see? I don't know! What should I do?

AMY: PLEASE PASS THE BUTTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(BTW, the audience was laughing so much at Amy's overreacting, they didn't even WOO! when Sheldon kissed her goodnight. On the lips, although it was more just put them together and stay there for a few seconds.)

Raj's relationship issues have hit a snag. Other than that he actually HAS relationship issues, Lucy texted him and wanted to get back together. So Raj was in a bit of a quandary. Howard figured he could date two women at once, but Raj disagreed. (RAJ: Zero women. That's my sweet spot.) Penny figured until he slept with one of them, he was OK to date both. Raj couldn't believe it, but both Howard and Bernadette agreed at the same time. Oops. Neither of them said they were dating others while they were going out, and Penny assured Leonard she wasn't seeing anyone else while they were dating. And then Leonard waited for her to ask him the same question. (PENNY: Come on, really?)

Leonard and Penny decided to talk to Wil Wheaton about her situation. (BTW, YouTube his name for a really nice moment he had at a recent convention concerning a young girl in the audience who was being teased at school for being nerdy.) Wil freely admitted he had taken a number of jobs he had been embarrassed by in the past. (PENNY: I wouldn't exactly call Star Trek embarrassing.) Professionally, Wil admitted it was tricky. You had to like the projects you were working on, but you also had to pay the bills. Sometimes, working on something you know sucked could be soul-crushing.

WIL: I was in Stand by Me as a kid and it was a huge success. The terrible movies I did came after that. You can imagine how that feels. I'm telling you, this business is brutal. To this day, I HATE going to auditions. I walk in, and I can just feel them thinking, "he was such a cute kid! What happened to him?" And then I don't get the job, and I can't find out why. Then I get so depressed, there are weeks when I can't even get out of bed.

LEONARD: OK, this was helpful.

Thankfully, Wil was OK. He found himself in the TVGuide crossword puzzle as 12-down. As for Penny, she still didn't know what to do. But Raj decided he was going to say "yes" to everything in life to be more adventurous. Yes to life, yes to love, yes to whatever. (HOWARD: He's going to die alone, right?)

Sheldon and Amy headed to the store, and he was completely confident he had made the right decision. Of course, he was also completely confident when he made his father buy a Betamax instead of a VHS. He was also certain HD DVD would win out over Blu Ray, and he bought a Zune.

AMY: What's a Zune?

SHELDON: Exactly. An MP3 player made by the same people who made this X-Box!

Amy was upset because Sheldon did plenty of research and polled many people, only to still be waffling. Amy decided she would flip a coin and see if Sheldon was excited or disappointed by the outcome. Heads it's PS4, tails it's X-Box One. Sheldon flipped it.

AMY: What is it?

SHELDON: A quarter. (and tosses it away)

AMY: Could have given it back to me. That was a choice.

Sheldon took so long to make a decision, they got kicked out of the store and couldn't buy either one. Amy took the crying Sheldon to get some food.

AMY: What do you want? Thai food? A burger?

SHELDON: (screeches) I DON'T KNOW!!!!

It turned out Raj couldn't keep up the deceit on his date with Emily and admitted he was seeing Lucy on Saturday. He didn't think he was getting back together with her, but he wasn't completely sure. Emily wasn't sure, either, but she was promised some weird on her date so they went through with it. Raj said Lucy and he only hugged twice and kissed once, but there was a handshake loaded with sexual innuendo. Emily couldn't believe Raj felt guilty about Lucy sending him an email when they never slept together, and she actually thought it was adorable.

RAJ: Are you sure? This is the part of the night when I say something stupid and the girl usually leaves.

EMILY: I'm still here.

RAJ: But now you make me wonder what's wrong with you.

EMILY: We just met. You don't need to tell me about other people you're seeing.

RAJ: Really? Because 'I'm dating two women' is basically the only cool thing I can say about myself.

As for Penny, she went through with Serial Ape-ist 2: Monkey See, Monkey Kill. She wasn't happy...until she met the orangutan. Played by Wil Wheaton.

The Relationship Diremption

Season 7
Episode Number: 155
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 10, 2014
Writer: Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Jim Reynolds, Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily), Stephen Hawking (Himself)
Production Code: 4X5321
Summary: Raj and Howard double-date and the latter is flushed with embarrassment after Raj's girlfriend reveals a secret she knows about Howard. Meanwhile, Sheldon is at loose ends when he begins to believe he's wasted his life trying to prove string theory.



Big news from astrophysics: the Primordial Wave Discovery could very well change our entire view of the cosmos. Leonard loves it, and Raj thinks being an astrophysicist right now is like being a rock star. Only without the sex, according to Howard. And Raj still agrees. Sheldon, on the other hand, couldn't care less because he wants to know what the average man on the street gets out of it. Translation: he's so jealous, he's more green than the Hulk. More than likely, that was because he had spent 20 years on trying to prove String Theory and may never be able to, while the origins of the universe

and the Higgs boson may have been discovered. Which of course gave Kripke a chance to dig the knife into Sheldon's pride. Sheldon claimed he had been sidetracked by all of the good television on these days, while Kripke, also a proponent of String Theory, was wise enough to spend his grant money on liquor and women. But Sheldon should cheer up: Game of Thrones is awesome!

Penny sees Sheldon in the morning and discovers he didn't sleep the whole night. Not because of his *The Walking Dead* pillowcases, but that he had spent all of his time and effort working on String Theory and he had nothing to show for it. Penny understood...not the physics stuff, but how one could put so much time and effort into something only to have it not come to fruition. (SHELDON: Like your acting career? Your relationship with Leonard? Your failed attempt to go back to college?) Penny meant that Sheldon had been in a relationship with String Theory and knew it couldn't go anywhere. (SHELDON: I said Leonard, you said no.) Penny meant Sheldon needed to have the courage to end his relationship with String Theory. To break it off, shake hands, and walk away.

LEONARD: (coming out of the bedroom and blowing his nose like a trumpet) Baby, have you seen my good inhaler?

SHELDON: (conspiratorially) Break it off, shake hands, walk away.

Raj tried dating two women, but it was quickly down to one. Emily was cool with Raj dating Lucy, but Lucy wasn't as cool with Raj dating Emily at the same time, and she was less cool when Raj pointed out to her that she wasn't as cool with Raj dating Emily at the same time. Howard wanted to meet her as soon as possible, but Raj insisted Emily wasn't going anywhere. (HOWARD: Oh she is, but I like the attitude.) Raj agreed to a double date with Howard and Bernadette but some ground rules were necessary.

HOWARD: Like when it turns out she's made of rubber, I don't say anything?

RAJ: She's very real.

HOWARD: That's what it says on the box. Right next to 'dishwasher safe.' (Raj is not happy.) I promise I'll be on my best behavior.

RAJ: You better be. No jokes about how close I am with my dog. Or the truth about how close I am with my dog.

Sheldon took Penny's advice and treated his work in String Theory as a relationship and took steps to break up. He did a lot of research from the foremost expert on how to get over breakups: Cosmopolitan. (Well, every issue DOES have an article on getting over a breakup.) He asked if the guys wanted his books on String Theory, because burning them like Cosmo suggests reminded him too much of East Texas church picnics. The next step: a new haircut. And Sheldon's really down the rabbit hole now because he was letting Penny cut his hair. (I guess Mr. D'Onofrio didn't pull through.) Sheldon suggested a Bill Gates-meets-Nikola Tesla style. (LEONARD: So, business in the front, science in the back?) And if Penny did a good job, Sheldon would share Cosmo's 10 Dynamite Tips for Enjoying your PMS. Penny makes some changes, and even Leonard thinks it works.

SHELDON: (looking at himself in the mirror) I suppose I could see myself in a scientific boy band. Of course, I'd be the dreamy one and the smart one.

Amy arrived and most decidedly disagreed with Sheldon's new look. Penny thought it was cute.

AMY: Yeah, it's cute. That's the problem! I don't want the other girls see him walking around like sex on a stick!

SHELDON: She's right; I'm too hot.

At the restaurant, Bernadette couldn't believe Howard thought Raj would blow his date with Emily. (HOWARD: It's Raj. That's his thing. Beckham can bend it, Ralph can wreck it, Raj can blow it.) But it turns out Howard has much bigger problems than that. He had seen Emily before, and it was a very bad thing. Emily thinks she had seen Howard before but he denied it. She asked if he went to a spin class, and he jumped at the easy one. Which Raj torpedoed. (HOWARD: Oh, now who doesn't know how to listen?)

Sheldon's next step was to find a new field of study. And wondered how a Geology book got into their apartment. (SHELDON: Leonard, did you throw a children's party while I was in Texas?) Leonard suggested he study standard model Physics. Sheldon refused to study something even less advanced.

SHELDON: Why don't you break up with Penny and start dating a brown bear?

PENNY: Like you could get a brown bear.

LEONARD: I've got a good job. I could buy salmon. You don't know.

Amy suggested taking up the calculations of nuclear matrix elements, but Sheldon thought he could go with something that was even less of a fad. Like getting a tramp stamp. And Loop Quantum Gravity? Never mind, that just brings out the Duchess in his head.

AMY: I hope he's this distraught if he ever breaks up with me.

LEONARD: If he does, I'll see if my bear has a friend.

Penny advised not rushing into something new, that perhaps the right field will find him. And Sheldon agreed because that's how String Theory found him. He was hit over the head with it. Literally, as a bully chased him through the library and hit him with the biggest book he could find. And they celebrated with grape juice that had been pre-digested by a fungus. (aka wine)

Emily won't let go where she had seen Howard. And Raj kindly volunteered Howard being an astronaut...a bit too late. Emily figured it out. They were set up on a blind date four years ago, and Howard came to her apartment. Howard asked to use her bathroom because his stomach was acting up. (HOWARD: One roll of toilet paper and 20 minutes later, I was so embarrassed, I snuck out the window and never saw her again.) Oh, if only that was the end of it. Emily never got her security deposit back, but in Howard's defense, she didn't have a plunger and the water

was spilling out everywhere. (EMILY: Right. Just water.) But it worked out for the best because Emily loved telling the story to her friends, who branded Howard Clogzilla.

BERNADETTE: Howie...

HOWARD: It's not like cotton candy comes out of you!

In fairness, the rest of the night went well. Emily was a dermatology student because she liked using knives on people, and this was the only non-Dexter way to do that. But Howard couldn't get over his embarrassment, so he went to get some fresh air. (EMILY: Been there.)

A drunk Sheldon was being led to his bedroom by Amy because he was drunk. Sheldon claimed he drank as much as Penny. (AMY: Yeah, that's what I'm saying.) In the morning, Sheldon felt like death warmed over, was completely naked, and found an open Geology book next to him.

SHELDON: Oh, my God. What have I done?

It was quite the walk of shame.

LEONARD: Are you going to introduce me to your friend?

SHELDON: (covering the Geology book) This is not my friend.

LEONARD: I don't know, you were reading pretty loudly last night.

And like Howard, oh if only that was the end of it. Apparently, Sheldon drunk-dialed Stephen Hawking. (SHELDON: It's Sheldonoscopy! How come you didn't pick up the phone? Oh, right.) Needless to say, both Howard and Sheldon needed each other's company at the cafeteria. No such luck, Kripke heard about Sheldon's drunk dialing and not even Clogzilla was going to stop him.

BTW, Sheldon believes in quantity over quality when it comes to drunk dialing.

SHELDON: It's me again. I gave up String Theory. You should give up black holes and we totally solve crimes together!

(next message) You know what's great? Geology! Look at this Geo! That's fun to say: gee-ode. Gee-ode.

(next message) Gee-ode, gee-ode. I kiss girls now.

(next message) Hey, guess who I am? Beep-bop-boop-bop! I'm you! Get it?

(next message) Are you mad at me? Oh, no! You're mad at me! I'm so sorry! Beep-bop-boop-bop!

(next message) Thiospinel sulfide. Thiospinel sulfide. That's even more fun than gee-ode. Hey, did you see the new Lego movie?

STEPHEN HAWKING: What a jackass.

The Anything Can Happen Recurrence

Season 7
Episode Number: 156
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 24, 2014
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Adam Faberman, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role: Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily), Kimberly Hebert Gregory (Ms. Davora)
Production Code: 4X5322
Summary: Problems arise between Amy, Penny and Bernadette because Sheldon tried something new and spontaneous. Howard provides assistance to Raj regarding his date Emily.



Penny's movie does not appear to be going well. That is, if you go by the fact the director has no problem with her turing into an ape and growing hair everywhere except her breasts. And making her go across the street to the gas station bathroom...and still not be the scariest person in it. Sheldon asked Leonard for advice on the field he should pursue, and Leonard suggested some interesting research was being done on dark matter right now. Which Sheldon promptly erased from the whiteboard.

PENNY: Sheldon! What did we say about being a nicer friend?

LEONARD: Thank you.

PENNY: Leonard! What did we say about being a gullible weenie?

Leonard suggests they shake up the status quo by reinstating Anything Can Happen Thursdays. Penny wondered why they got rid of it, to which Leonard promptly replied that she made fun of it. Which she conceded but she was all-in this time. Trouble is, Sheldon still isn't all that good about thinking outside of the box. Instead of ordering pizza, he suggested calzones that they cut open and eat like pizza. That wasn't going to fly. Nor was going to Griffith Park to see a live theater group re-enact battle scenes from *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. So he had to put away his Gandalf hat. They decide to just take a walk and see what kind of restaurant is out there. Although Sheldon wasn't much for Asian Fusion, given his work status. (SHELDON: Fusion AND Asians? I'm trying not to think about science.) However, they have a bigger problem than Sheldon worrying about Anything Can Happen Thursday turning into It Won't Stop Coming Up Friday. Amy and Bernadette were in a cafe enjoying wine. The problem with this was Amy had told Sheldon she was sick and Bernadette had told both Penny and Howard she was working late. Needless to say, neither Penny nor Sheldon was happy about this. They go to confront Amy and Bernadette. Amy admitted she needed a night off from hearing Sheldon go on about what he wanted to do after *String Theory*, and Bernadette was tired of hearing Penny complain about the movie she was making.

AMY: But that doesn't mean we don't love you.

PENNY: (ticked off) I haven't been complaining that much about the movie. (turns to Leonard) Have I?

LEONARD: (sheepish) I also love you.

Penny storms out and takes Sheldon with her.

PENNY: Come on, Sheldon. We're gonna have Anything Can Happen Thursday. You're going to tell me about your science stuff, and I'm going to complain about my movie, and we're going to support each other because that's what friends do!

SHELDON: OK. 'Cause if I had to pick now, I'd probably go with dark matter...

PENNY: Shut up!

Raj stops by Howard's house to ask a favor. He wants to watch a DVD. Thankfully he had one in mind because otherwise the choice would be a DVD of Howard's mother's colonoscopy. Raj brought over House of 1000 Corpses because Emily wanted to watch it with him the following night, and Raj wanted to make sure he knew what he was getting into. Howard thought it was a good idea. After all, he could sit through his mother's colonoscopy now, but seeing that prune pit the first time really scared him.

RAJ: Thank you. You're a good friend. I owe you one.

HOWARD'S MOTHER: HOOOWARRRRDDD! HELP ME GET OUT OF THE TUB!!!

RAJ: Not that one.

After Howard gets his mother out of the tub...and is one horror up on Raj at the moment...Raj looks at the DVD and can't believe people would watch a movie that was full of murders, satanic rituals, and cannibalism. Freaking out over a human hair being on the DVD didn't really man Raj up very well. They watch it, and it freaks Raj out. He couldn't believe Emily liked this.

RAJ: Why can't I be in a relationship with a girl who likes The Sound of Music?

HOWARD: Raj, you ARE the girl in the relationship who likes The Sound of Music.

The Asian Fusion place does not go over well with Sheldon. (SHELDON: I don't understand my food. It's Chinese noodles, Korean barbecue, and a taco. My mother would lock her car doors if she had to drive through this hodgepodge of ethnicity.) Penny asked Sheldon if she talked too much about the movie. He didn't think she did, but then he ignores most of what she says. He admitted being upset with Amy, but that still didn't help him. But perhaps the answer was in the fortune cookies they got at the end of the meal.

SHELDON: Penny, there's only one cookie with something in the middle that solves life's problems, and that's an Oreo. Or a Nutter Butter if you're in a pinch.

PENNY: (reads hers) People turn to you for guidance and wisdom. That's a good one.

SHELDON: No it's not. Clearly that cookie is mocking you. You'd never get that kind of sass from a Nutter Butter.

PENNY: Since you're paying for dinner, I'll let that slide. (hands him a cookie) Read.

SHELDON: Your warm and fun-loving nature delights those around you.

PENNY: (hands him the other cookie) Nope, try again.

Leonard, left behind with Amy and Bernadette, tries to figure out how to make up for what happened. Bernadette didn't feel that guilty about taking a night off between Penny's gorilla movie and Howard's gorilla mother. But her solution for making things up with Howard probably wouldn't work for Amy: dressing up in a Catholic schoolgirl uniform. (LEONARD: He'd probably give you homework.) Bernadette would have to break it out tonight, since Penny ratted her out to Howard. But Leonard was thankful he had a relationship with Penny that was built on honest...which got a derisive snort from both ladies.

LEONARD: What? I don't lie to her.

BERNADETTE: Oh, we know you don't lie to her.

Amy did admit she was a bit jealous of Penny for having a closer relationship with Sheldon than she did, but Leonard tried to reassure her it took a lot of time. (LEONARD: Penny grew up around horses, so she knows how to approach him without making him skittish.) Leonard told her it took him a long time for Sheldon to be comfortable with him, so she didn't need to worry so much about it.

BERNADETTE: (coming back in) I have to go; Penny ratted me out to Howard. By the way, she's buying you a watch for your birthday with money she took from your wallet.

On the way home, Penny and Sheldon pass by a psychic, and Penny invoked the Anything Can Happen Thursday clause to take Sheldon inside. Sheldon, of course, thinks all of it is baloney,

and the psychic saying he had a romantic problem with a woman with dark hair didn't assuage this doubt, as most people had dark hair. (SHELDON: Even you at one time.) The psychic says Sheldon was having problems being close to this woman and he should give himself to the relationship. Once he committed to Amy, all his other pursuits will come into focus.

SHELDON: (upset) You know what this is? And I reserve this word for only those instances when it's truly deserved? This is MALARKY!

PENNY: (shocked) You really struck a nerve. I never heard him say the M word before.

The next night, Raj confesses to Emily that he saw the movie already just to prepare himself and couldn't understand why anybody would like a movie like this. Emily admitted the movie kind of turned her on.

RAJ: Annnnd, play.

Amy trying out the Catholic schoolgirl uniform on Sheldon?

SHELDON: Unless you have Gravity on Blu-Ray under that skirt, I don't know where you're going with this.

The Proton Transmogrification

Season 7
Episode Number: 157
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday May 1, 2014
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Bob Newhart (Arthur Jefferies/ Professor Proton)
Production Code: 4X5317
Summary: Professor Proton pays Sheldon a visit after Sheldon suffers a tragic lose. Meanwhile, Leonard can't help competing with Penny when they reach a milestone in their relationship, and Amy and Bernadette treat the guys by making the a Star Wars Day gift.



It's Star Wars Day. The guys are excited, naturally. But Leonard did have to explain to a confused Penny that the date was May 4th, as in May the 4th Be With You. (PENNY: No, no. This face wasn't because I didn't get it.) But it turns out Star Wars Day may have to be put on hold. Leonard knocked on Sheldon's door to tell him he read online that Arthur Jeffries, better known as Professor Proton, had died.

LEONARD: (gives Sheldon a hug) Sorry, buddy.

SHELDON: What are you doing?

LEONARD: Comforting you?

SHELDON: Your heart might be in the right place but your head, chest, and arms certainly aren't.

Leonard told him the funeral was Sunday, which was Star Wars Day. Leonard asked if Sheldon was OK, and he said he was. Which shocked Leonard a bit, given Sheldon cried when they changed the Raisin Bran box. But Sheldon wasn't completely immune; he was at Amy's apartment watching old Professor Proton videos. Although Professor Proton would have preferred better writers regarding his lecture on owls. (Even the owl gave him crap about it.) Amy asked if he wanted her to accompany him to the funeral but Sheldon wasn't going. (SHELDON: All those people blowing their noses? I won't be able to tell the sick from the sad.) He thought mourning the inevitable was a waste of time.

AMY: And watching a bunch of goofy space movies you've seen hundreds of times isn't?

SHELDON: If we were in a physical relationship, you just lost sex tonight.

Howard and Raj were preparing a Star Wars-themed breakfast, but Penny didn't want anything, not even R2-D-Caff, Cafe Au Leia. Or Tea-3-PO. (PENNY: Oh, I get it. Like C-3PO. What HAPPENED to me?) Sheldon was very quiet, and it wasn't because he was rebooting. Penny offered to take him to the funeral with Leonard, but Sheldon said there was nothing he could do about it.

SHELDON: When Darth Vader struck down Obi-Wan, did Luke cry like a baby and go to his funeral?

PENNY: No, he went and blew up the Death Star. WHY DO I KNOW THIS?!?

But they had to take off and turned down Raj's doggie bag of Attack of the Scones. (PENNY: Clever, like Attack of the Clones....we are leaving RIGHT NOW!)

If Amy couldn't get Sheldon to mourn, at least the Death Star cake Bernadette and she were making could cheer him up. It combined two of his favorite things: chocolate chips and the ability to destroy a planet with the push of a button. Bernadette was doing it because Howard didn't think she took his interests seriously. It was a very nice spherical cake...which should never be left unattended, as they found out the hard way.

At Arthur's funeral, Penny had to admit to never attending one. She had a pet pig as a kid, but they didn't have a funeral when it died; they had a barbecue. Penny was very sad because she really liked Arthur and thought she was going to cry, which Leonard didn't discourage. Although staring at her to see if she actually cried kind of discouraged it. She asked Leonard to get it started, but he was not a crybaby. Wait, Toy Story 3? (LEONARD: The toys were holding hands in a furnace!) Leonard did admit that Arthur was his childhood hero, but getting to work with him was one of the highlights of his life.

LEONARD: (breaking down) It was...a gift.

PENNY: (crying) Thank you for being the emotional one in this relationship!

LEONARD: (really crying) I got your back!

Back at home, Raj suggested they do the Machete Order: Watch episodes 4, and 5, skip 1, watch 2 and 3 as a flashback, then end with 6. That gets rid of most of Jar-Jar, the trade route talk, and the boring Senate hearings..."which felt like C-SPAN with monsters. Sheldon is livid; he doesn't want everything changed. How would Palpatine get Chancellor Velorum kicked out of office? How would he get himself elected?

RAJ: It was just a suggestion.

SHELDON: (losing it quickly) You know what else was a suggestion? Why don't we change the Raisin Bran box! And you know who else got hurt by that? Every single person who eats breakfast! (storms out)

The guy don't know whether to go console him or watch the movies. (yeah, right) Sheldon falls asleep in his room, only to find himself at his computer, visited by Professor Proton. Mostly to tell Sheldon he didn't crack up at a joke Sheldon told him. Sheldon thought he was dead, and Arthur was. He was enjoying not having to go to the bathroom every five minutes. However, he wasn't sure why he was there; he thought he was going to get to haunt his ex-wife.

SHELDON: I know why! You've come to me because...you're my Obi-Wan!

ARTHUR: I'm...not familiar with that. Is that an...an Internet?

SHELDON: Wow, um, you're dead, so I'm going to let that slide. Obi-Wan Kenobi is a character from Star Wars. After his physical demise, he comes to Luke Skywalker as his mentor in spirit form.

ARTHUR: Well...that, that clears that up.

Sheldon figures Arthur was there to give him advice...and the Obi-Wan robes Arthur was suddenly wearing seemed to confirm that. (ARTHUR: Oh, this is weird. Most of my robes open...open in the back.) But he did think the light saber was really cool. Maybe a little too cool. (ARTHUR: I'm uh...I might need a band-aid.)

As far as funerals went, Penny thought her first was a bit of a bummer. Leonard could sympathize and promised she could get a bouncy castle for his. Which struck her as odd. She asked if he thought about death, but he said he was more concerned with having regrets, like not traveling more, taking more risks, and saying no when she asked him to marry her earlier in the season. Penny said it wasn't the right time...nor was right now. (PENNY: I know that face; that's your propose face.) Leonard was in complete denial, especially since he was down 2 to 1 with her on proposals. Penny couldn't believe it. She asked if he wanted to to propose again to even the score and Leonard agreed.

PENNY: Leonard, will you marry me?

LEONARD: Hmmm.....

PENNY: No, you reject me right now and tie things up!

Working on their second Death Star cake, Bernadette admitted not seeing Professor Proton, but that was because her dad controlled the TV. (BERNADETTE: Unless someone was a Texas

Ranger, Jake, or a Fat Man, we didn't see it.) Amy asked how she got into science, given Proton was Sheldon's inspiration. Bernadette admitted she was always the smallest person in school, so she became a scientist so she could invent a way to make herself taller. And she thought it was working until she found out her brother was just lowering the pencil marks on the doorframe. As for Amy, it started with the Girl Sprouts. (yes, I spelled that correctly) Amy's mother didn't want her to be a Girl Scout and sell cookies on the street like a whore. So Amy went to the library and got a biology book to see what whores did.

As Leonard continues to annoy Penny with whether or not to accept her proposal, Sheldon again finds himself with Professor Proton, only they're on Dagobah, where Luke was trained in the ways of the Jedi. (ARTHUR: Too bad, I thought this was Florida.) It was where Obi Wan gave Luke all sorts of advice, so Sheldon was dying to hear what Arthur had for him. (ARTHUR: Always get...get a pre-nup?) Sheldon didn't know why Arthur was there, but he figured it had to do with his recent passing.

ARTHUR: Is this the first time you've lost someone close to you?

SHELDON: Oh, no. I've already had to say goodbye to eleven Doctor Who's.

ARTHUR: Yeah, I've...I've outlived a few of my doctors, too.

Sheldon said he had lost his grandfather when he was 5 and his father when he was 11, and now he lost Professor Proton, who was another person he looked up to. Arthur said it was OK to be sad about them, just to appreciate those who were still there for them.

SHELDON: But I do appreciate them.

ARTHUR: Then, what am I doing in this swamp? Dressed like Friar Tuck? Appreciate them, Sheldon.

Sure enough, Leonard knocks on Sheldon's door to see how he's doing, and Sheldon says he's OK. And proceeds to hug Leonard. Leonard invited him to go watch Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi, and Sheldon would be happy to...right after he made the guys watch I through V first. They were not happy. Even Penny thought Jar-Jar Binks was stupid. (RAJ: Hey! We can say it; you can't!) But the completed Death Star cake that Amy and Bernadette brought over lifted everyone's spirits. And they missed very little of the movies!

BERNADETTE: (under her breath) Son of a bitch.

Sadly, Arthur had a problem. He was there whenever Sheldon needed to dream about him. And now since Sheldon fell asleep watching Star Wars, he was now dreaming he was watching Star Wars.

ARTHUR: Don't you see a problem there? How you're spending your limited time on Earth?

SHELDON: Not at all.

ARTHUR: (gives up) OK, good luck to you.

The Gorilla Dissolution

Season 7

Episode Number: 158

Season Episode: 23

Originally aired:	Thursday May 8, 2014
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan
Director:	Peter Chakos
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Recurring Role:	Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz), Wil Wheaton (Himself)
Guest Stars:	Laura Spencer (Emily), Steve Valentine (Kenneth), Beau Casper Smart (Travis), Kalika Kauahi (Marta)
Production Code:	4X5323
Summary:	A trying day at the movie shoot leaves Penny with questions about her life choices, so she decides to act on it; and caring for a bedridden Mrs. Wolowitz proves a challenge for Howard and Bernadette. Meanwhile, Sheldon offers relationship advice to Raj after he sees Emily at the movies with another man.



It was time for Mrs. Wolowitz to get some exercise; doctor's orders. To that end, Howard and Raj managed to drag a treadmill box up the stairs and were ready to put it in Howard's old bedroom. How to get Mrs. Wolowitz to exercise on it? Well, Howard is an engineer, so something involving a fishing pole and a honey-baked ham came to mind. Howard figured he would have no problem setting it up. Although it would have helped if they had gotten the box all the way up the stairs. Yes, it fell back down and injured Mrs. Wolowitz. She would be laid up for six-to-eight weeks, and Howard contemplated

hiring a nurse to take care of her. (HOWARD: Preferably someone from a third-world country who is used to suffering and unpleasant smells.) Bernadette couldn't believe Howard would hire a stranger to take care of the woman who raised him, but Howard admitted to being a putz. And now Mrs. Wolowitz had to go to the bathroom, so someone far more caring and loving had to take her there. (BERNADETTE: You ARE a putz!)

Penny decided that she was going to put her best effort into the movie. (PENNY: There's no reason why I shouldn't be the best bisexual go-go dancer slowly-transforming-into-a-killer-gorilla anyone's ever seen.) Although Leonard admitted the bisexual go-go dancer slowly-transforming-into-a-killer-gorilla from Schindler's List would be tough to beat. (and let's not even get into Sheldon trying to explain the joke) However, on the set things were a bit different. Penny tried to give her all in a scene with Wil Wheaton and the director couldn't care less. Penny asked to retake a scene so she could do better and the director told her the movie was a piece of crap. If it was good, she wouldn't be in it. Leonard, who was on the set, came to defend her honor, which earned him an insult of his own (the standard Penny-is-too-hot-for-him insult) and the director

ordered him to leave. At which point Penny defended him...and got herself fired. Wil stepped in to defend Penny...and got fired as well.

Sheldon and Raj went to see *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*...only to find Emily there on a date with another guy. Raj couldn't handle two hours of Spidey knowing Emily was there on a date, and Sheldon had a melanoma scare because he went out in the sun the previous day, so he wasn't up for the movie anyway. Although he insisted on making Chai Tea for Raj because he was upset, despite Raj not wanting it. (SHELDON: I'll just make you some English Breakfast. They destroyed your culture, so close enough.) Sheldon wanted to know how bothered Raj was, and Raj admitted Emily and he weren't exclusive, but seeing her with another guy still upset him.

SHELDON: Have you two had intercourse yet? (they hadn't) Then stick to your guns, because there will be a lot of pressure.

Raj and Sheldon continued their conversation. Raj claimed he had money, was intelligent, and has been told he was cute, but couldn't figure out why women didn't want to be with him. Sheldon said it was a tough question...and wanted him to leave. Raj couldn't believe Sheldon was leaving him alone, but Sheldon said that was his problem.

SHELDON: How many women have you had dates with?

RAJ: Eleven.

SHELDON: And how many of those women did you think would become your 'perfect companion'?

RAJ: (concedes) Eleven. Wait, do I count the 200-pound Sailor Moon girl Howard and I had a threesome with at Comic Con? Eh, I'll stick with eleven; she liked Howard better.

Raj finally figured out what Sheldon was saying. Instead of desperately clinging to whatever woman showed the slightest interest, Raj thought he should conquer his fear of being alone. (SHELDON: I was trying to suggest chemical castration, but whatever gets you out the door is fine.)

Howard and Bernadette trying to take care of his mother was going about as well as you'd expect. Apparently, Mrs. Wolowitz gets hungry every single hour. Despite Howard's dislike of taking care of his mother, Bernadette pointed out this was exactly what taking care of a baby would be like: the hourly feedings, the crying, the burping, the pooping, everything. And she had no intention of doing all the work. Howard claimed if they had kids they would step up. He considered himself quite paternal.

MRS. WOLOWITZ: (crying) I'M STILL HUNGRY!!

HOWARD: I'M COMING, YOU BIG BABY!!!!

Penny, Leonard, and Wil were drowning their sorrows in a bar after getting fired. (PENNY: The only thing worse than doing a movie where they glue monkey hair to your ass is getting fired from a movie where they glue monkey hair to your ass.) Wil told her she just had to move on.

PENNY: Easy for you to say; you used to be famous.

WIL: (offended) Hey, I just lost a job for you.

PENNY: (exasperated) Fine, you're still famous.

Wil told her not to settle for crap jobs like the gorilla movie. It was about the art...the passion...the craft...and the offer he got on his phone to do *Sharknado 2: The Second One*. Out the door he went, but he promised to pay them back for the beer if he got the role. Leonard tried to cheer her up by telling her about her Anne Frank play (above a bowling alley) and her commercial for hemorrhoid cream. (LEONARD: I got itchy and swollen just watching you.) It wasn't helping.

Things were not going well with Howard and Bernadette. She took a long time to get groceries, but that may have been because she stopped to get a mocha. Howard was ticked because she was the one who talked him out of a nurse, and she was mad about killing herself for two days helping him. And now she didn't regret eating the brownie she originally got for him while he went to rub his mother's belly to get her back to sleep.

Emily came over to Raj's apartment to apologize. The guy she was with had been asking her out for months and he did her last tattoo, so she felt obligated. It was only a single date, but Raj was over it. She admitted she would have been upset if Raj had been with another woman. (RAJ: Thank you...not just for being upset but for believing that could happen.) Emily promised she wasn't seeing anyone else, and Raj inquired about her tattoos. He didn't have any but he may have a hole in his belly that could be a piercing. He wasn't sure. Emily told him about her

tattoos: one on her shoulder, one not on her shoulder, and one REALLY not on her shoulder. And she offered him a 'look'.

RAJ: OK, but before I take my shirt off, I need like ten minutes to do some crunches.

Penny and Leonard came home, and Penny admitted she needed to start making some smart decisions with her life. The first one: saying they could get married.

LEONARD: So I'm like a 'smart decision'? So I'm like a bran muffin?

PENNY: No, that's not what I'm saying.

LEONARD: No, that is what you're saying. I'm the boring thing you're choosing because it's good for you.

PENNY: What does it matter? The point is I'm choosing you.

LEONARD: It matters a lot! I don't want to be a bran muffin! I want to be a...Cinnabon, you know? Or a Strawberry Pop-Tart! You know, something you're excited about even though it can give you diabetes!

Penny was getting upset Leonard was turning her down, but he said she was just doing this because she just got fired and was feeling sorry for herself.

PENNY: Look, it may look that way, but getting fired from that movie was the best thing that could have happened to me. I finally realized I don't need to be famous or some big career to be happy!

LEONARD: Then what do you need?

PENNY: YOU, YOU STUPID POP-TART!

At that, Leonard "guessed he was in," although Penny thought that didn't sound all that enthusiastic. But then her replying "cool" wasn't exactly romantic, either.

LEONARD: So, is that it? Are we engaged?

PENNY: (thinks about it) Yeah, I guess so.

LEONARD: Well, it just feels a little anti-climactic.

But then, Leonard did have something to make it a little less matter-of-fact: an engagement ring he had been holding onto for several years.

LEONARD: (on one knee) Penny, will you marry me?

PENNY: (tearing up) Oh my God, yes!

LEONARD: (puts the ring on) This would have been so much more romantic if you didn't have monkey hair on your fingers.

Fortunately, Howard and Bernadette made up in the morning. And got a caretaker for his mother.

HOWARD: Welcome to Team Putz.

The Status Quo Combustion

Season 7
Episode Number: 159
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 15, 2014
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Beverly Hofstadter), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Debbie Wolowitz (voice)), Monica Garcia (Maria)
Production Code: 4X5324
Summary: The realization of Leonard and Penny's engagement and future without him suddenly sinks in to Sheldon, and the stress it adds to his already failing career induces panic. Meanwhile, Howard and Bernadette desperately search for assistance caring for Howard's mother.



The whole gang was gathered for dinner. Howard and Bernadette were having trouble keeping nurses around to take care of his mother. Two had quit so far, not eaten by Mrs. Wolowitz as they may have thought. Leonard and Penny announced their engagement and everyone was excited. Raj told everyone he slept with Emily and everyone was even more excited. Much to the offense of Leonard and Penny.

BERNADETTE: You guys get engaged all the time. This NEVER happens!

Even Leonard and Penny had to concede that and joined in on the celebration. It wasn't easy for Raj, though. It wasn't like riding a bike: he fell off a few times.

Sheldon, on the other hand, was dealing with a crisis. President Siebert told him he couldn't switch his studies from String Theory to Inflationary Cosmology because Sheldon was hired for String Theory and his grant money was earmarked for it. Sheldon was tempted to leave the university, and Howard had a job already lined up for him...if Sheldon was looking for a career in homecare for the old and fat. Still no luck on his part finding a nurse that would stay longer than a day. (**HOWARD:** Maybe it's time we just released Ma back into the sea.)

Now it was time for Leonard and Penny to tell their respective families about the engagement. Leonard skype'd with his mother (Christine Baranski), asking her to keep any concerns she had to herself before he said it. Of course, Sheldon already told Beverly about the engagement. Leonard wasn't happy as you may have guessed, but it turned out Sheldon spoke quite fondly of her. So if Penny was good enough for Sheldon, she was good enough for Beverly. Which really wasn't good enough for Leonard.

BEVERLY: Leonard, would it make you feel better to hear that your mother approved of your life choices?

LEONARD: Yes, it would.

BEVERLY: Yeah, well, you should work on that.

Things were going much more smoothly on the phone with Penny telling her mother. After all, Leonard was the same guy she had been going out with for two years. And best of all, she wasn't pregnant. Which was a first for the family. Bernadette, having gone through marriage already, wanted to make sure Penny knew she was marrying not just Leonard, but his whole family. Penny thought Beverly liked her. (BERNADETTE: It doesn't matter if she's OK with you. The question is can she go to the bathroom by herself.) Amy asked about living arrangements, and Penny figured she would eventually move in with Leonard. Given Penny wasn't currently working, it made good financial sense. And it was a godsend to Bernadette, who had the perfect job for her. She was willing to pay anything, but apparently the rubber gloves Penny was smart enough to bring would not be sufficient. (BERNADETTE: I could have ridden a bull longer than that.)

Leonard found Sheldon typing up a letter of appeal to the faculty senate to let him change his emphasis of study, and somehow Sheldon managed to make it to the last sentence before insulting the crap out of them. But Leonard wanted to talk about the living arrangements. Sheldon had already been thinking about it and was willing to let her stay one day a week. (SHELDON: Now, obviously, not when she's made cranky by the shedding of her uterine lining.) But Leonard meant living with Penny and not Sheldon. Which Sheldon didn't understand. Leonard thought she could move in with Penny, or Penny could come over to their apartment and Sheldon could live in hers. (SHELDON: Across the hall?!?! Did you take a marijuana?!?! Did you get hit on the head with a coconut?!?! Obviously neither of those things happened; Leonard loved Penny and wanted to give her the life she deserves.

SHELDON: I see, you're putting your future bride's happiness over mine.

Sheldon goes over to Amy's house to complain about what Leonard was doing, and Amy was kind enough to make him some Strawberry Quik. Amy thinks it might be for the best, given he has always complained about what a terrible roommate Leonard was. He keeps the temperature up like the Amazon...and not the good one with one-day shipping...and he has four entire keys on his keychain. Amy thinks it'll be good for Sheldon to live alone, and if he doesn't like it, she could live with him. Uh, no.

SHELDON: You're not moving in, Leonard's not moving out, everything stays the way it is. By the way, I saw you make this Strawberry Quik with syrup and you're supposed to use powder.

AMY: It tastes the same.

SHELDON: No, the syrup tastes better, and I don't like it!

Leonard surprised Penny with a homemade dinner, which may have been just him preventing himself from having one of her home-cooked meals. They were trying to pick a date for the wedding, but to accommodate her brother, 12-18 months depending on good behavior sounded golden. Amy stopped by because Sheldon stormed out and she couldn't get him on the phone. Leonard admitted Sheldon had a few rough days given the university wouldn't let him change his studies. Leonard figured Sheldon needed some alone time, which Amy wouldn't grant the two of them despite them having a romantic dinner together. Until Penny stopped beating around the bush and told her to get out.

Sheldon stopped by the comic book store, only to find it burnt to the ground. Apparently, Stuart was cooking on a hot plate and forgot you can't go across the street to take a shower at the self-service car wash and leave a hot plate on. Needless to say, Stuart's life sort of falling apart.

SHELDON: YOUR life? The university is making me do string theory. And my girlfriend loves me so much she wants to live with me! And now, the place I need to go when I'm sad is damp and it smells funny!

Sheldon was sick and tired of things changing, and he was determined to get Stuart back on his feet. By buying a comic book. For \$1...because of the water damage. Back at home, Leonard hacked into Sheldon's cell phone, a precaution he took ever since Sheldon wandered off at a swap meet chasing a balloon. (PENNY: He can take care of himself. We went over 'stranger danger' and bought him that whistle.) Leonard tracked Sheldon to the train station. And given it was dark out, Leonard figured Sheldon wasn't there because he liked trains. The two of them took off to find Sheldon.

Raj and Howard stopped by the comic book store, and AGAIN Stuart had to explain he didn't burn down the store for the insurance money. Stuart asked if he could crash at Raj's, but Raj would have to cancel on having sex with Emily to do that. Howard, however, had a great idea for Stuart to have a place to live and earn money.

HOWARD: I just have to warn you, it will involve humiliation, degradation, and verbal abuse.

STUART: So what's the catch?

Leonard and Penny found Sheldon. (SHELDON: Boy, you chase one balloon for three miles...) Leonard pointed out he didn't even have a change of clothes or a toothbrush, but Sheldon planned to live off the land...at shopping malls. He had reached his breaking point and had to leave. Leonard begged him to come back home, even promising to take him to Lego Land.

SHELDON: Lego Land is not the solution for everything! And it's too much of a scene since that movie came out.

LEONARD: Then what can I do?

SHELDON: Leonard, I am overwhelmed. Everything's changing and it's simply too much. I need to get away and think.

LEONARD: Come on, you know you're overreacting.

PENNY: Leonard...(pulls him aside) maybe we need to let him go. It might be good for him.

LEONARD: He can't take a trip like this by himself!

PENNY: He's a grown man.

LEONARD: No, he LOOKS like a grown man. You've seen Freaky Friday, sometimes little kids end up in big person bodies.

PENNY: Leonard, we can't protect him forever. He'll be OK. You taught him well, Padawan.

SHELDON: (overhearing) Good Lord, Padawan was the student, not the teacher!

PENNY: Seriously, let him go.

Leonard finally concedes that Sheldon has to do this. Penny kisses Sheldon goodbye and tells him to call.

LEONARD: Sheldon, I'm going to miss you.

SHELDON: Of course you are.

LEONARD: (eyeroll) Just made that easier.

Good news: Mrs. Wolowitz's new caretaker was doing great. And Mrs. Wolowitz was quite happy as well.

MRS. WOLOWITZ: Stewie, are you coming in to watch Wheel of Fortune with me?

STUART: Coming, Debbie! (to Howard and Bernadette) Thanks, guys. This job is a dream come true.

HOWARD: Was that a little weird?

BERNADETTE: There was definitely something about it that was...unnatural.

Over at the apartment, Amy got a call from Sheldon, who checked in as promised. It sounded like Sheldon was doing OK, and both Penny and Leonard thought it was for the best.

AMY: (assaults Leonard with a pillow) HOW COULD YOU LET HIM GO!!!!!!!!!!

Season Eight

The Locomotion Interruption

Season 8
Episode Number: 160
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Monday September 22, 2014
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: David Barrera (Officer Hernandez), Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz (voice)), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom), Stephen Root (Dan)
Production Code: 4X6751
Summary: Amy and Leonard take a surprise road trip to Arizona to retrieve Sheldon, while Penny goes on a job interview at Bernadette's company, and Howard has problems wrapping his head around Stuart's relationship with Mrs. Wolowitz.



45 days ago, Sheldon said goodbye as he embarked on his train trek across the country. And now, he's stuck in a train station with one sock, a shirt, and his tighty-whiteys. He tried to get help from people in the train station he was at, but the one lady wasn't knitting him a pair of pants, another guy wouldn't let him use his mobile phone because he refused to wear pajamas ("the sleep pants of The Man"), and when Sheldon challenged a third person to ask him the difference between a boson and a fermion to prove he wasn't deranged.

SHELDON: BOSONS HAVE FULL INTEGER SPIN! FERMIONS HAVE A HALF-

INTEGER SPIN! (the man runs away) Why are my legs cold? Why won't anyone help me?

Penny and Leonard were together, she had her new haircut, and she was doing yoga. She wanted Leonard to join her, but he needed to get some caffeine in him first before he turned her down. Sheldon called, having finally made it to the police station in Kingman, AZ, where they loaned him a pair of pants and a phone. He wants Leonard to drive down there...and bring him a pair of pants. Not to mention his mail, a toothbrush, and a good comeback for his new nickname "Chicken Legs." Because apparently, saying "I know you are but what am I?" doesn't really work that well. Not to mention, the cops there weren't really interested in trying to locate his stuff. Penny couldn't go with because Bernadette got her an interview at her pharmaceutical company to be a sales rep. Leonard asked her if there was any reason he couldn't invite Amy to drive with him, and Penny didn't have one. (LEONARD: Come on, you didn't even try!) And given Amy spent the six hour drive to Arizona complaining that Sheldon didn't say goodbye to him and called Leonard instead of her, you could understand why.

Howard and Raj made a quick detour to see Howard's mother. Howard was worried that Stuart was still living there and thought they were getting too chummy. In a creepy way, like Raj and his dog.

RAJ: She..feeds him out of her own mouth?

HOWARD: I mean, he calls her Debbie, she calls him Stewie, and they're all giggly around each other. And believe me, when food goes in that mouth it does not come out.

Raj wondered if Howard was upset Stuart was replacing him as her son or was becoming her lover. Howard vehemently denied being replaced as a son. ("I'm her little matzo ball.") And he thought his mother was too old to have a sex life, despite Raj trying to convince him otherwise. But Howard may have a point, as Stuart originally planned to move out once Debbie got her cast off, but both of them decided otherwise because they were having too much fun together. Which did not sit well with Howard, obviously.

Penny was feeling nervous about not having gone on an interview in years, and Bernadette tried to tell her she talked Penny up to, Dan, the HR person at her company. (BERNADETTE: You're cute, you're flirty, and...there was really going to be three things.) Aside from a bikini car wash in high school, Penny didn't think she was much of a salesperson, but Bernadette reminded her she used to push the fish tacos when she was a waitress before they go bad, only now she'll "push anti-depressants before the FDA finds out they cause rectal bleeding." Penny still wasn't convinced because she didn't know much about pharmaceuticals.

BERNADETTE: Oh, I understand. You really want to do something you're good at. I know! Why don't I get you a job at the "sitting around all day in yoga pants" factory!!

PENNY: (sheepish) They're really comfortable.

Leonard and Amy made it to Arizona, and Sheldon must have been truly desperate because he hugged Leonard. And didn't hug Amy. She didn't miss that, and she really didn't miss him asking why she was there.

AMY: Don't you have anything to say besides "Why did you come?"

SHELDON: I do...but I feel uncomfortable saying it in front of these police officers.

AMY: (intrigued) OK, whisper it.

SHELDON: (gets close to her ear) Shotgun.

While Amy stewed in the back seat, Sheldon talked about his trip. He visited New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Denver, Seattle...well, the train stations, anyway. He never left a single one of them. (SHELDON: Why would I? That's where all the cool trains are.)

Penny's interview with Dan went about as well as a community college student who spent most of her career as a waitress would go. She couldn't get a single question right and finally gave up, apologizing for wasting Dan's time. She asked Dan not to mention how badly the interview went to Bernadette because she scares her a bit. (DAN: You're scared of Bernadette? I thought I was the only one!) Apparently, he was too afraid to tell Bernadette they cut the funding for one of the medications she was working on. And Penny got a job bonding over their shared fear of Bernadette.

Amy was quite mad, and Sheldon playing "guess what ketchup was at the hot dog stand in each train station" was making things worse. She was upset that Sheldon left her without saying goodbye and then called Leonard when he needed help. He asked her for some privacy with Leonard, and she put her fingers in her ears.

SHELDON: (whispers) Leonard, as soon as we get home, I want to have coitus with Amy. (audience goes wild) OK, she can't hear. (crowd is PISSED!)

He tells Leonard he didn't want to call Amy and thus have to admit he couldn't make it on his own. Leonard couldn't see the big deal.

SHELDON: Of course it's not big deal to you. You idolize me, and nothing could ever knock me off that pedestal you put me on.

Leonard tells him to tell Amy what he just said, and Sheldon does. Amy was touched that he was worried about that.

AMY: Sheldon, it's OK with me that you're not perfect.

SHELDON: (asks for privacy again, which Amy happily grants) Amy hurt my feelings. I want to break up with her.

They arrived home, and both Leonard and Amy convince Sheldon he still made quite an accomplishment. If anybody had heard Sheldon would leave to travel across the country on a train, everybody would say he couldn't do it...right after they said "yay!" Sheldon's confidence was boosted as he entered the apartment. He's ready to take on any change that comes his way.

SHELDON: (enters and sees Penny) Your hair is different! You changed your hair! I can't take this! I'm out!

But not before he showed pictures from his iPhone he saved in the cloud...of the seat he didn't use on the train because it had cracker crumbs...and the train bathroom...and the bottle of Immodium A-D he bought because he saw the train bathroom...and the Des Moines train station...which was on fire but he refused to leave...although the Immodium A-D stopped working right around then...

The Junior Professor Solution

Season 8
Episode Number: 161
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Monday September 22, 2014
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Regina King (Janine Davis)
Production Code: 4X6752
Summary: When Sheldon is forced to teach a class, Howard surprises everyone by taking it. Meanwhile, the tension between Penny and Bernadette gives Amy a chance to play both sides.



This could be a leftover from Penny's failed acting career, but Sheldon noted that Joseph Stalin once tried to breed human women and gorillas to make a supersoldier. Leonard thought that might work with hippos, since they're supposed to be the deadliest creatures, but as Howard correctly pointed out, they could be stopped with marbles if they were hungry-hungry. Sheldon decided without letting Raj have a chance that koala bears would make the best supersoldier because they'd be too cute to fight. Although the gang was eating dinner, Bernadette wondered why Penny hadn't

started studying her job material for her new role as a pharmaceutical rep on Monday. Penny figured it was three weeks of training so she'd learn everything then. That didn't sit well with Bernadette, but Penny didn't want to become a teacher's pet. Bernadette thought it couldn't hurt to impress the trainer.

LEONARD: I don't know. Who here has been hurt because they were the teacher's pet? (Everybody except Penny and Bernadette raise their hands.)

SHELDON: It's like the rest of the class WANTED Mrs. McDonald to forget the quiz.

Sheldon visited Mrs. Davis to continue their discussion about Sheldon being forced to continue String Theory. The discussion was going "please—no—please—no—please—no—", so it was Sheldon's turn. ("Please?") But Mrs. Davis came up with a solution in his absence. If the university promoted Sheldon to junior professor, he could study whatever field he liked. The downside, of course, being Sheldon would have to teach a class.

SHELDON: So your solution is to promote me and pay me more money so that I can impart my knowledge to the next generation of scientists? You people are SICK!

Penny joined Amy at her workplace, although Amy wasn't too thrilled the starfish she was stimulating the pleasure center of was having a better day than her. Penny didn't want to have lunch with Bernadette because she wouldn't stop bugging Penny about the new job. Amy figured Bernadette wanted to do her well, particularly given how bad Penny was as a waitress, but Penny

thinks she's going overboard and asked Amy if she agreed. Amy felt uncomfortable talking about Bernadette when she wasn't there. (AMY: Usually when someone's being talked about behind their back, it's me and right in front of my face.) Then again, there was research to show talking negatively about a third party could be a strong bonding force between two friends. (AMY: So I'm saying in the spirit of science, what is that skank's problem?)

While Sheldon complains to the guys about having to teach a class, despite his affinity for telling people they're wrong, handing out grades, and listening to the sound of his own voice, Amy goes back to stimulating the starfish to measure its serotonin levels. (AMY: Yeah, you like that, don't you. Come on, say my name.) Bernadette skypes her and asks to have a drink sans Penny. Bernadette was a little frustrated with her, and Amy correctly guessed it was because she got Penny the job and thinks she should be working harder to prepare for it.

BERNADETTE: So it's not just me! You see it, too!

AMY: (playing both sides) Yes, I do! I see it!

BERNADETTE: It's driving me crazy. This afternoon, I saw on Instagram that instead of studying, she went out to lunch and got a manicure!

AMY: That's outrageous!

Amy was clearly happy to have another session of talking about someone behind their back so she could bond with Bernadette.

The guys check in to see how Sheldon's class is going, only nobody signed up for it. (SHELDON: I called the department's secretary. Apparently, I have a reputation for being obnoxious.) Not really sure where that came from. He even brought Fig Newtons for the class...which he was going to throw away in front of them the second one of them said they were named for Isaac Newton and not the Massachusetts town. Howard offered to take his class. He had been thinking of getting his doctorate, but Sheldon thought Howard wouldn't get a single thing discussed in a graduate-level physics class. Howard was quite offended and firmly stated he was smart enough to take his class. Sheldon laughed it off, but Howard wasn't backing down. Sheldon asked him how to determine the ground state of a quantum system with no solution, and Howard knew to guess a wave function and vary its parameters until he got the lowest wave solution. Integrate X^2 times e^{-X} without looking it up? He'd use Feynman's trick and differentiate under the integral sign. The correct interpretation to quantum mechanics? Not only did Howard know every interpretation gave the same results, he knew Sheldon's favorite was the Many Worlds Interpretation, so that was his answer.

HOWARD: Now do you think I'm smart enough?

SHELDON: (laughing it off again) Nooooo.

HOWARD: (pissed) Oh come on! You know, you might have gone to school a couple of more years than me but engineers are just as smart as physicists.

SHELDON: YOU TAKE THAT BACK!!

HOWARD: (mocking Sheldon) Nooooo.

Amy tells Sheldon the story of how Penny is complaining about Bernadette to her and vice versa, and Sheldon wants to know why she's interrupting him planning his lesson for Howard. (AMY: Because it's taken fifteen years, but high school is finally AWESOME!) Sheldon is annoyed because she's getting in the way of him trying to figure out how to emasculate a friend of his.

AMY: You better watch that attitude, buddy. You're dating the popular girl now!

Sheldon's lesson planning drags late into the night. He had stuff up on his whiteboards even he couldn't understand. Leonard was annoyed and wanted to know why Sheldon was doing this. Sheldon claimed he was a teacher and it was his job, but Leonard figured it scared Sheldon that someone may be as smart as him, if not smarter. Sheldon gives that some thought...and asks Leonard how he could use Howard's peanut allergy against him. Leonard decides to tell Howard, and Howard arrives at the class the next day to say he wasn't going to take the class if Sheldon was going to intentionally make it hard just to embarrass him. But if Sheldon really wanted to teach the class, he'd stay. Sheldon was touched. He thought both of them could benefit from this experience. He asked Howard about the Brachistochrone problem and how it related to the calculus of variations. Howard knew it was an inverted cycloid. Then Sheldon wanted to know about Euler-Lagrange theorems, and Howard admitted being a little fuzzy about that.

SHELDON: HA!! I knew it! We have a lot to cover before your first test. Which, by the way, is in eight minutes. The good news is, I'm grading on a curve, so you're pretty much guaranteed a C.

And Howard puts on the headphones. Sheldon is offended, but if Sheldon was going to be a crappy teacher, then Howard was going to do a crappy imitation of Ludacris. Since Sheldon wouldn't back down and demanded Howard treat him with respect, Howard decided to make a straw and shoot a spitball. Landed in Sheldon's mouth, too. (HOWARD: Is that going to be on the test, because I don't think I can do it again!)

Amy called Penny to invite her out for some Pinot Greege (her efforts at sounding hip were pathetic), but Penny wanted to stay home and go over the material Bernadette gave her. Amy figured she wanted to get the nag off her back, but Penny really wanted to try and learn the new job. Amy wanted her to call back if she decided "she (Bernadette) was a bitch or somethin' ", and she calls up Bernadette to try the same thing, except Bernadette was going over to Penny's to help her study. Amy tried to bring up the manicure story that ticked Bernadette off previously, but Bernadette said they had talked and had made up.

AMY: That's great! Glad you talked. Because when you aren't getting along, that puts me in a really weird position.

And now that they would be nice to each other, she only had her boyfriend, who couldn't talk because he was dying from a spitball...and Leonard couldn't find it. (LEONARD: I promise: your uvula does not have an STD.) Howard comes in with a full head of steam because Sheldon reported him to human resources. He dropped Sheldon's class and could prove he could ask Sheldon a bunch of questions he didn't know the topic on and do to Sheldon what Sheldon did to him. Howard throws a bunch of engineering questions at Sheldon, but he gets the first two. But then he starts panicking on the third. Howard thinks he has him, but Sheldon only stopped to cough up the spitball. (SHELDON: And now I can quit checking my stool!)

Studying went well, although it won't surprise me to go on the IMDb board and see certain people think Penny actually slept with a 75-year-old. They decide to call Amy for a drink...who has to high-tail it away from Penny's door before they hear her ringtone, as she was eavesdropping on their study session.

On the good side, the guys seem to have made up since they were answering science questions for some early Halloween candy.

The First Pitch Insufficiency

Season 8
Episode Number: 162
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday September 29, 2014
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler)
Guest Stars: Michael J. Massimino (Himself), Malcolm Foster Smith (Roy), Michael Araujo (voiced Stadium Announcer)
Production Code: 4X6753
Summary: A nervous Wolowitz is thrown for a loop when NASA asks him to toss out the first pitch at a Los Angeles Angels baseball game. Meanwhile, Sheldon brags that he and Amy are a better couple than Leonard and Penny, so they set out to prove he's way off base.



Something new for the X-Box (or was it PlayStation? I forgot which one Sheldon bought): baseball. Howard has to practice because it was Space Day for the Los Angeles Angels (seriously, you're in Anaheim; you might as well call them the Chicago Brewers and Chicago Bucks if you're going to pull that crap) and they needed an astronaut to throw out the first pitch. Ten or twenty rejections later, and Howard's their man! He needed to practice, and Raj needed to practice heckling him. (SHELDON: He's right. Given you're still waiting to be picked for a game you played in fifth grade, you probably do

suck.) Penny was impressed...that Howard got to throw out the first pitch, not his ability to. And being the third-best Quidditch team in Griffith Park doesn't help.

Sheldon had a few dates to make up for because of the time he was away. Sadly, him ordering Cornish hen in order to lecture to their waiter about the town of Cornwall still counts as a date. They came home to find Penny and Leonard hanging out, and Sheldon thought it would be good if the four of them went on a double date. Until Amy informed him that it wouldn't count as two dates.

At least Bernadette was supportive, even giving Howard a rubdown. (yes, an actual rubdown like pitchers get) She played a lot of softball in school, so she offered to help him with his throwing. And maybe butch up his run when he heads out to the mound. (her demonstration of Howard's running style was hysterical) They head to the gym with Raj and measure off 60 feet. Which Howard can't believe he has to throw that far. (HOWARD: You realize this isn't one of those times I want you to exaggerate how long something is!) And yes, practice goes about as well as you think. Actually, it's even worse than that (a few homages to The Honeyymooners aside). Even Michael J. Massimino tells him not to do it. If Howard is successful, nobody would care, and if he failed, he's a YouTube joke for life (true, just ask 50 Cent or Google the term "butt fumble").

Sheldon chose a pub for the double date, mostly so he could go a full hour on the history of Yorkshire because the pub served Yorkshire Pudding. Amy even agreed; it passed after a lively debate by a 2-0 margin. (LEONARD: Nice to see a couple keep the spark of bureaucracy alive.) But Sheldon was not amused. In fact, he said Amy and he had a far better relationship than Leonard and Penny. (PENNY: Isn't this when he says 'bazooka'?) Actually, according to Sheldon, Leonard and Penny were the worst couple of the group, outdistanced by Amy and he, Howard and Bernadette, Raj and Emily, and even Penny and chardonnay.

LEONARD: There isn't any ranking. And if there were, we wouldn't be at the bottom.

PENNY: Yeah, and actually, I drink Sauvignon Blanc.

LEONARD: THAT'S the part you have a problem with?

PENNY: (ticked) Just relax.

AMY: (shaking her head) There they go fighting again. You'd never hear her talk that way to Sauvignon Blanc.

OK, Leonard had to know why Sheldon thought Amy and he made the better couple. Sheldon claimed they loved to spend time together, which Leonard instantly calls BS on (particularly given the season premiere, but I'm saying that, not him). But both Sheldon and Amy thought that counted.

LEONARD: That's called parallel play. Toddlers do that.

SHELDON: Not as well as we do.

Sheldon even stopped having a problem taking food off of other people's plates, although his food is still off limits. Leonard still can't believe Sheldon thinks he can quantify a relationship, but Sheldon can quantify anything, even numbers.

SHELDON: French fries? A seven. Spider-Man? Nine! The number Nine? Oddly, only a four.

LEONARD: How ridiculous is he?

PENNY: A hundred.

I have to agree with Leonard on this one, particularly when Sheldon gives curly fries a two. But Sheldon has done research. Well, Berscheid, Snyder, and Omoto did, and they claimed you can quantify a relationship. Yes, it's a real thing. The Relationship Closeness Inventory. (Google it, I swear it exists.) Sheldon dared Leonard and Penny to take the test, which admittedly got Leonard curious. But Penny shot that down quickly and not-so-nicely. She walked away, and Leonard followed her to see what was wrong. She was upset that they were about to get married and they had nothing in common. She was scared, and Leonard admitted he was, too. (PENNY: You being blindly infatuated with me was the rock we were building this relationship on!) They go back to the table, and Leonard defends them, saying just because they didn't have much in common doesn't mean they were a bad couple. Sheldon told them the answer was a simple test away. Now Penny wanted to take the test to get it out of the way, but Leonard held his ground.

PENNY: Why, because you know we're going to do bad?

LEONARD: No, because it doesn't matter. I don't care if we're a ten or a two!

SHELDON: (interrupting) Or a one. A one is possible.

LEONARD: Marriage is scary. You're scared, I'm scared. But it doesn't make me not want to do it. It makes me want to hold your hand while we do it.

Penny loved that.

AMY: (depressed) It would make me so happy if you said things like that.

SHELDON: We got an 8.2. Trust me; you're happy.

Out at Angel Stadium, everybody was there to see Howard throw out the first pitch. Even Sheldon, whom Amy promised to buy him cotton candy and a bobblehead if he stayed for the whole game. They gave Howard the microphone, and he admitted he practiced and practiced for the first pitch and was completely scared he couldn't do it. But because it was Space Day at Angel Stadium, he had a better idea. He would have the Mars Rover deliver the first pitch. Which sounded like a great idea. Until he figured out he didn't really adjust the speed on it to be fast enough to get it down to home plate. They even came back from commercial and the rover still hadn't even traveled halfway.

The Hook-Up Reverberation

Season 8
Episode Number: 163
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Monday October 6, 2014
Writer: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily)
Production Code: 4X6754
Summary: Penny receives the cold shoulder from Raj's girlfriend after he tells her some information about their past history. The boys think about buying into Stuart's comic-book emporium.



Could a chicken and a dinosaur be genetically combined? Sheldon wouldn't mind it...if only for the chicken salad dinosaur sandwich. At the cafeteria, Raj thanks the guys for inviting Emily to dinner, mostly because now he could prove he has a girlfriend. Sheldon took the opportunity to say that social science research has suggested when a man finds a romantic relationship, he loses an average of 2 friends as a result. Raj doesn't think that will happen, and Sheldon agrees...mainly because he thinks Raj is crazy about him. Howard, however, is confused about two things. 1) Sheldon has held Amy's hand and kissed her, yet he didn't lose any

friends. (LEONARD: I've seen them do it. It's not romantic.) And 2) since when does Sheldon read the social sciences?

SHELDON: I use the bathroom just like everyone else.

As everyone gathers for dinner, Amy asks...or makes the mistake of asking...how things were going with Howard's mother and Stuart. Howard would rather not talk about it...other than the fact he never even had cable TV as a kid and Stuart gets to enjoy 7 HBO channels with Debbie. (BERNADETTE: 37) Sheldon is fascinated when he finds out Emily is a dermatologist. He had some suspicious freckles on his butt and wondered if he could make an appointment.

AMY: Three years with me and nothing. Two minutes with Emily and he's already taking his pants off.

Penny wasn't nearly as thrilled to meet with Emily. Somehow, she got the feeling Emily didn't like her very much. Both Amy and Bernadette were surprised that nobody had ever told Penny they didn't like her to her face. Penny admitted she thought her P.E. teacher in high school didn't like her much. Turns out, she liked Penny TOO much. But hey, one Melissa Etheridge concert and she aced P.E. But Emily did agree to help Penny practice her sales pitch for the new job, so Bernadette thought it couldn't be that bad.

AMY: You really went your entire life without anybody saying "I hate you" to your face?

PENNY: Yeah.

AMY: I'd say it now, but look at those cheekbones.

At Capitol Comics, the guys were reminiscing about Stuart's comic book store. With the loud music and exposed brick walls, Sheldon thought it felt like a rave at the third little pig's house. And Howard agreed. Which Leonard called BS on.

LEONARD: Him I believe because he's an 80-year-old man in a 15-year-old's t-shirt, but you're just upset about Stuart and your mom and all their HBOs.

Howard couldn't deny it; the two of them even ruined Game of Thrones for him. And Raj didn't help matters by saying the insurance payout wouldn't be enough for Stuart to reopen the store. Well, Howard only had two choices. Put up with his mother buying Stuart four-ply toilet paper or give Stuart the money to re-open the store. Suddenly that wasn't a bad idea. Even Sheldon was on-board, saying they could re-open Stuart's store, spread the word that Capitol Comics gave you genital warts, and buy a big bag to hold all the money that would roll in. And Leonard didn't even roll his eyes at that.

But how to make it successful? They thought they needed to get the younger crowd into the store. Howard certainly wished there was a way he could get a rid to the comic book store back when he was a kid. And Raj had it! Get a van and drive by schools and parks to pick up the kids! Howard and Sheldon thought it was an awesome idea!

LEONARD: (not believing this) So, your idea is to get a van and cruise the streets looking for kids to pick up? And are you going to use candy to lure them in?

RAJ: We are NOW!!

At Emily's office, Penny was all set to go with her presentation, even bringing coffee, a latte, and chai tea for Emily, figuring if she was dating Raj she might like tea now. She gives the pitch for the company's birth control medication, which was more effective with fewer side effects than the competitor. Other than acne, which Penny figured only helped in birth control. And it turns out she was right about the vibe of Emily not liking her. Emily wasn't happy that Penny and Raj had hooked up. Penny was shocked Raj talked about that, but he was having a conversation about past lovers with Emily, and leaving Penny off the list would force him to "play fast and loose with the word list."

Penny was quite upset, but she did have to admit Emily wasn't the first girl to hate her. (and she liked that) Bernadette said she could turn it around, but Penny figured you can't force someone to like you.

AMY: What if you just hang around and act like her friend until you just wear her down? Next thing you know you're in her apartment eating her food and drinking her wine.

PENNY: That won't work.

AMY: You're right. (raises wine glass) Cheers!

Bernadette told her to put her sales training to use. But instead of selling a drug, she'd be selling Penny.

PENNY: It's stupid.

BERNADETTE: (not happy) Well, maybe people would like you more if you didn't crap all over their ideas.

AMY: I'm gonna go with Penny on this one. Then again, why wouldn't I? I mean, we go way back...

PENNY: Oh, my God. I didn't used to like you...

AMY: (strokes Penny's cheek) Shhhh, Amy's here now. Shhhh.

At Capitol Comics, Sheldon was getting more excited about owning a comic book store so he could interact with the customers. And by interact, we mean telling them to buy it or get out. Leonard, in full overanalyzation mode, wondered if Penny had left anyone off her list when they had talked about past lovers. Sheldon thinks she had to, otherwise she'd still be going through the list.

LEONARD: (pissed) Will you stay out of this!

SHELDON: Huh, if only Penny had said that once in a while.

Howard figured complete honesty may not be the best policy in a serious relationship, but Sheldon pointed out he would run it by a wife or fiance if they were about to spend a lot of money. But he did have to agree on the complete honesty thing, given Amy wasn't happy he once described her hair looking like a duck that had been through an oil spill. (SHELDON: I

was also right about her hair. It did everything but quack.) Leonard starts the conversation with Penny, explaining they were engaged and it was a big financial deal. And Penny wondered if he would feel mountains of credit card debt was a big financial deal. Meanwhile, Howard discussed (NOPE!) the investment opportunity (NOPE!) with Bernadette (NOPE!). Finally, she hears him out and she thinks it's a risky investment with them saving up for a house. But Howard said there was a more important reason.

HOWARD: Before me dad left me and my mom, he used to take me to the comic book store. It was one of the few things we did together. I don't like to talk about it.

BERNADETTE: Oh, baby. (Takes his hand) That story's made up, isn't it.

HOWARD: (shrugs) That's how much buying a comic book store means to me.

Sheldon, despite not having a wife or fiance, still runs the idea by Amy, insisting she keep an open mind, because anything short of her complete enthusiastic agreement will throw their entire relationship into question.

AMY: (treading carefully) Can you see how a grown man, an accomplished scientist, invests in a store that sells picture books about flying men in colorful underwear might be wasting both his financial and intellectual resources?

SHELDON: No.

AMY: Then I think it's a terrific idea.

SHELDON: (still clueless) Great! Wait 'til you hear about our van!

Emily and Raj come over to Penny's apartment. Emily apologized for being rude to her at her office, and Raj loved the fact that the two of them could get along.

RAJ: (to Penny) And by love, I mean as a friend. (to Emily) And way too soon, I know.

Raj admitted making a bigger deal about it than he should have and Penny pointed out it happened years ago and she was engaged to Leonard. Emily admitted she wanted to put it behind her but then she saw how pretty Penny was. Penny was touched and thought Emily was gorgeous.

RAJ: It's true, you're both gorgeous. Kind of says something about the man who could bed you both. (Yeah, that went over well.) You get why I've been alone most of my adult life?

But all is well, and they even agree to go out to dinner some night. Emily left and Penny closed the door.

PENNY/EMILY: I hate her.

Howard and Bernadette went over to visit Stuart, although he wished they had called first. Bernadette wanted to talk about investing in the comic book store, but Stuart was already getting the money from Debbie.

STUART: I told her it was too much, but she said she was happy to help out her bubula.

HOWARD: (storms up the stairs) Mom, you are cancelling that check and Stuart is not your bubula. I'm your bubula. You can't have more than one bubula!

STUART: I don't know who he's talking to. She's at Target buying me shirts.

So the guys miss out on getting their own comic book store. What a shame they didn't have a place to call their own with comfortable seats where they could read comic books all day long.

The Focus Attenuation

Season 8
Episode Number: 164
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Monday October 13, 2014
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Adam Faberman, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Bill Murray (Dr. Peter Venkman (archive footage))
Production Code: 4X6755
Summary: Amy and Bernadette accuse Penny of being a 'buzzkill' after she gets an email from work during their Vegas weekend. Meanwhile, the guys try to invent something cool, but only come up with new ways to procrastinate.



Did you know they invented a device that can convert your footsteps into energy, thus allowing you to charge your mobile phone by walking? Apparently the guys did because they came up with the idea in 2007. So why didn't they invent it?

SHELDON: You thought of it September 22, 2007. Two days later, Penny moved in, and so much blood rushed to your genitals your brain was a ghost town.

Leonard called BS, but Sheldon claimed that was around the time he made his annual poem dedicated to the passing of Dr. Seuss. (Yes, the poem is as

bad as it sounds.) Sheldon demanded to know what Leonard's greatest accomplishments were since meeting Penny.

RAJ: Easy, sleeping with Penny.

HOWARD: Getting Penny to go out with him again after she dumped him.

RAJ: Tricking Penny into getting engaged.

HOWARD: And a few weeks ago, he almost did a pull-up!

But Sheldon did have to concede even had been distracted since the ladies arrived. As proof, he showed the guys a text of Amy telling him to have a good day. (SHELDON: Who has time for this constant sexting?)

Leonard and Howard did admit they weren't as focused as they used to be, and Raj suggested a science retreat. Not in a cabin in the woods. (SHELDON: Did you see the movie The Cabin in the Woods?) Not at a hotel. (SHELDON: Did you see The Shining?) And not at a house by the lake. (SHELDON: Did you see The Lake House?)

Leonard ran the idea by Penny, Bernadette, and Amy... who all ran to plan a Las Vegas weekend away from the guys. So Leonard figured they were OK with it. The guys got themselves ready; even Raj arrived. Since Raj had an actual girlfriend now, Howard figured he needed to

lower some food to her down in the pit. It was time to put the thinking caps on, and Raj thinks it's like the Facebook movie. (RAJ: And I swear I'm not saying that just because Justin Timberlake is in it.) Suddenly the interest was away from innovation and towards The Social Network. But Leonard got them back on-task. Howard remembered they kept a journal of all the possible ideas they've had over the years. Given most were from Howard, they involved either a robotic girlfriend or a robotic hooker. (HOWARD: There are some things you just don't do with your robot girlfriend.) The journal didn't work, but Sheldon thought they should concentrate on sci-fi. After all, the geosynchronous satellite was inspired by Arthur C. Clarke, the famous Motorola flip phones were inspired by Star Trek, and the idea of a black president clearly came from the movie Deep Impact. (Sorry, David Palmer) Raj then realized the future in Back to the Future Part II was only a year away, and how cool would it be to invent Marty's hoverboard from that movie? Screw that, they decided to watch the movie instead.

In Vegas, Amy is really interested in the cover band playing in the hotel lounge: Fairly Manilow. Immediately rejected by Penny and Bernadette. Penny wanted to get a bucket of margaritas, go dancing, get sick on a roulette wheel and watch it go everywhere. (PENNY: That's why they give you the bucket.) Unfortunately, Penny got a text from her new boss. Her field write-up was now due on Monday instead of a week from Monday, so she had to get some work done. She told Amy and Bernadette to go have fun and she would catch up with them. Oh, and Penny staying behind did not mean Fairly Manilow was back on the table.

Back at the apartment, the guys were ready to come up with ideas on how to power the hoverboard. After they figure out the flaws with the timeline in Back to the Future Part II. Howard didn't understand how Biff could have stolen the sports almanac in 2015, give it to his younger self in 1955, and yet go back to the exact same spot in 2015. Wasn't history changed? But apparently, this wasn't Hot Tub Time Machine; they did their research. Young Biff didn't place his first bet until 1958, the day he turned 21, which meant old Biff had a three-year window to get back.

SHELDON: Wait, whoah whoah. Is 'placed' right? Is placed the right tense for something that would have happened in the future of a past that was affected by something in the future?

LEONARD: (confused) HAD will have placed?

SHELDON: (happy) That's my boy.

Leonard shows that the alteration of the timeline wouldn't have happened yet. (or had would have happened or...) Anyway, Sheldon disagrees, saying since the time when Marty and Doc took the time machine to 2015 DID occur after young Biff placed his first bet, then that timeline would not have existed. Or had not had existed...OH WATCH THE DAMN EPISODE YOURSELF!!!! (j/k)

RAJ: He's right. Also, what kind of a name is Biff? Sounds like the sound a can of Pillsbury dough makes when you open it.

Which makes Howard think of wieners rolled in Pillsbury dough. Which makes Sheldon think of the etymology of the word wiener, named for the capital of Austria. Which prompts Raj to show them a map of Austria to show how it looks like a wiener. Yeah, the focus is definitely lost.

In the hotel bar, Bernadette and Amy were feeling no pain drinking margaritas bigger than their heads. Although they were proud of Penny for being so responsible with her new career, Amy would rather talk about how good they look.

AMY: I mean, look at you! Your body's banging!

BERNADETTE: Amy!

AMY: Come on, don't Amy me! We're always talking about how hot Penny is. Scientist to scientist, just how big are those Hadron Colliders?

Fortunately, the guys came up with a way to eliminate distractions: work in Leonard's lab. It seemed to be working, as Sheldon needed to look up some information about quantum coupling for their hoverboard idea.

HOWARD: I can't argue with him. It's right there on the screen. Austria really does look like a wiener.

And before they decide to see just how hung Florida is, Leonard begs them to get back to work. Sheldon agreed, even suggesting to use operant conditioning, which was even used to teach pigeons how to play ping-pong. (Yup, they watched pigeons playing ping-pong on YouTube. Yup, it exists, although the ball never bounced.)

Bernadette and Amy return to the room — sheets to the wind. (AMY: We had someone complain about pooping on a party in there!) Bernadette even showed the \$100 chip she won playing

craps.

PENNY: That's a dollar.

BERNADETTE: Then guess who wildly over-tipped a cocktail waitress!

AMY: Come on, Penny. We found this place with Australian male strippers.

BERNADETTE: We want to see if they twirl their junk in the other direction!

Penny was tempted, but she still had studying to do. Amy couldn't believe how nerdy Penny was being. But Penny told them to go have fun and find a policeman if they get in trouble. (PENNY: And if he's taking his pants off, he is NOT a policeman.) But Amy had the solution: they could help Penny finish. Amy borrowed Penny's laptop...and ran away with it. Right into the walk-in closet.

To stay on task, the guys decided to use negative reinforcement. They placed strips of duct tape on their arms. Except Sheldon asked how would they know if someone went off-topic. Leonard said they would vote if it wasn't obvious...and ripped a strip off of Sheldon. Leonard goes back to talking about quantum coupling, and Sheldon rips a piece off of him because saying "quantum coupling" reminded him of *Quantum Leap* and he was distracted. Howard voted that wasn't a tangent and Leonard took a second one off of Sheldon, who proceeded to take one from Howard, who proceeded to take one from Raj for laughing at him. Leonard admitted negative reinforcement wasn't working. Although technically, what they were doing was positive punishment, as negative reinforcement was the removal a positive stimulus. A mistake Bill Murray made at the beginning of *Ghost Busters*. (Yes, they looked it up online. And technically since the first scene in *Ghostbusters* was the librarian finding the ghost, Sheldon was also wrong calling Bill Murray's mistake the first scene.) But the guys did have to admit that movie never got old.

In Vegas, Penny was up early and ready to hit the pool (and gave a little F.U. to the haters out there in her pink bikini). Amy and Bernadette both had quantum-level hangovers, but Penny decided to go to the pool on her own...and leave the sun streaming in through the big window. And no, neither Amy nor Bernadette had the ability to shut it.

The Expedition Approximation

Season 8
Episode Number: 165
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Monday October 20, 2014
Writer: Steven Molaro, Dave Goetsch, Tara Hernandez, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: 4X6756
Summary: Sheldon and Raj test whether they could survive a dark-matter research expedition in a salt mine by simulating the conditions in a steam tunnel. Meanwhile, Leonard and Penny seek advice from Howard and Bernadette when they argue about money.



One of the perks of Penny's new job: very sharp suits. Which, thankfully for her, feature blouses open enough to show off ample cleavage while trying to convince doctors to buy pharmaceuticals. Speaking of new jobs, Bernadette was curious how Sheldon was doing in his new field of dark matter. He thought it was the most exciting time for that field...because he was now in it. But he wasn't entirely wrong, as the government was giving out a number of grants to study dark matter, except these involved long hours doing observations in salt mines. Raj thought they could team up and make important

contributions to both physics and astrophysics.

PENNY: You guys are going to work in a mine? You had a panic attack when we went through the car wash!

SHELDON: Perhaps the emotion you were referring to was shock at you having something cleaned.

Penny and Leonard had a romantic dinner together, only Penny couldn't get her mind off of work. Mostly because Leonard wouldn't stop telling a story about how the videogame *Shadow of the Colossus* had finally come out on the PS3 but it just wasn't as good as the PS2 version. (seriously, can you blame her on that one?) But she did have a present for him. She handed him an envelope full of money. Since she received a company car, she sold the one Leonard bought her last year and wanted to give the money back to him. Leonard was taken aback, saying that car was a gift. Penny figured he was one of those boyfriends who would rather have a picture of them in front of the car in a pink frame labeled "best fiancé ever"...and she got him that, too. He was less taken aback now, but he still wanted her to keep the money. But she insisted he keep the money because she could afford to pay for dinner and her clothes and everything else. Both of them agreed they didn't want this to turn into a fight, so Penny happily put the envelope in front of Leonard.

At the university, Raj cleared up some of Sheldon's multitasking from solving the Penrose conjecture, and writing his Nobel Prize acceptance speech for solving the Penrose conjecture by letting him know how mermaids have babies. Raj was worried the underground conditions might be too rough for them, but Sheldon wasn't concerned. Constantly 100 degrees and humid? Sheldon was from Texas and Raj was from India, thus neither were strangers to the 'fragrant armpit'. A live mine where they might hear explosions? Sheldon had a lactose-intolerant roommate who liked ice cream. Work going 12 hours at a time? You have to be somewhere. No toilets, so you have to go in a bucket? And Sheldon was out. Raj thought they could do like Howard did when he prepared for space: go through simulations. Sheldon thought that was a good idea, so he went to Google "hot, dark, and moist" to see what came up. (SHELDON: Hey, there's all sorts of videos!)

Leonard came up with a solution for the money: they could put it in a joint checking account. Penny thought that was a fabulous idea. Leonard wanted to be supportive because this was Penny's first time at being financially independent, and Penny understood that this job changed their relationship and she was being sensitive to it. Annnnnnd, we're back to awkward again. Penny thinks he's scared because she's less reliant on him now, and Leonard thought Penny didn't want the money because of her control issues.

PENNY: (getting mad) Or maybe now that I'm no longer an out-of-work actress who can't pay for her own dinner, that makes you a little insecure.

LEONARD: (upset) I can't believe you'd say that. You know how insecure I am about my insecurities.

They apologize to each other, agreeing they shouldn't fight over money, and they hug.

PENNY: Get that envelope out of my pocket or I'll break your fingers.

Raj thought they could do like Howard did when he prepared for space: go through simulations. The university had a series of steam tunnels beneath it where they could practice. Amy joined them, being very familiar with steam tunnels, as she had to pledge a sorority by going in one...and being left there for three days. Thankfully the steam tunnels were a better option than the steam room, where they wouldn't see any of their co-workers naked. (RAJ: I love Howard, but the dude needs a little shame.) Sheldon gave Amy a walkie-talkie to use. And the instructions were clear: rescue him first and come back for Raj only if there's time. They make it down there, and it was 102 degrees. Raj said that was as hot as the mines would be, and Sheldon noted in his log that Raj's stating of the obvious was already getting on his nerves.

Leonard and Penny decided to consult a couple of experts on how to settle things in a marriage: Howard and Bernadette. (Yeah, how could that possibly go wrong?) After Howard quickly dismissed the concept of the two couples swinging (for those who miss pervy Howard), Bernadette starting things off by saying she made way more money than Howard was probably not the wisest choice, because right into the argument they went. Howard claimed he brought a lot of significant assets into the relationship. (BERNADETTE: Like what? Your incomplete set of Star Trek collectors' plates?) But Howard did find the last one on eBay, which he claimed cost less than falconry school. (HOWARD: For the tenth time, that was a Groupon!)

Sheldon wasn't doing so well. He was getting a bit claustrophobic, but he thought a mining song would help. Apparently, the only mining song he knew made Gordon Lightfoot's Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald a Disney tune.

RAJ: (giving Sheldon a weird look) OK, how 'bout a little Miley Cyrus next.

SHELDON: Who's he?

Meanwhile, Howard claiming Bernadette cost them a big late fee for paying a credit card late didn't sit well, nor did defending himself with his chore chart (no, Leonard and Penny couldn't believe he had one of those), which was pitifully lacking in stars, except for the pity star Bernadette put on it.

BERNADETTE: Well, don't come crying to me when you don't get your allowance.

HOWARD: (emotional) It's not an allowance; it's a stipend! And we said we weren't going to call it an allowance in front of my friends! (storms off)

LEONARD: (very awkward) Usually I don't like lemon bars but these are really good.

The mining song didn't help much for Sheldon but learning about Hannah Montana was a bit helpful. So much so, he wanted Amy to go get season 1 of the show...although Raj recommended season 2 because that's when the show found itself...along with some Funyuns, York Peppermint Patties and some Dr. Peppers, a portable DVD player, since he can't understand how Hannah

can take off her wig, attend school, and nobody recognized her. (RAJ: Oh, but you're OK with superman concealing his identity just by putting on a pair of glasses?)

Bernadette apologized to Leonard and Penny for the fight she had with Howard. She knew Howard was thrilled for her career success but it was still eating at him she made more money and there's so much pressure on guys to be the providers. Penny was worried the same thing might happen with Leonard and her if she got sales bonuses for being really successful.

LEONARD: Not a problem. I grew up with a mother who emasculated my father financially...and in every other aspect of his life...so, really it's what I think love looks like.

Bernadette went to check on Howard and Penny thought talking to them was a good lesson in what not to do. They agreed to have it figured out before they got married, and just in case they couldn't...

HOWARD: (from the bedroom) I'm not being a baby; I'm a grown man! I made the bed, now give me my star!!

LEONARD: Should we go?

PENNY: Hang on. I want to see if he gets the star.

Sheldon was definitely not liking the closed-in space of the heat tunnels, and Raj didn't realize fanning himself would only make him hotter. Sheldon was freaking out over more than just the claustrophobia. He spent his entire life working on String Theory but he didn't know any better because he was a child prodigy. But now he was in his 30s and effectively starting his career over again. Raj tried to tell him that he was scared when he came to America for the first time and didn't know what to expect...but he realized Voyager (the satellite, not the TV show) went well beyond its original mission of studying Jupiter's and Saturn's moons and is still out there. But Sheldon didn't pay attention to it because of the two giant rats over Raj's shoulder.

SHELDON: (running up the ladder) It's too late for Koothrappali. Let's go!!

AMY: (watching Sheldon come up the ladder) 11 minutes. That's longer than I thought.

RAJ: (from below) THEY'RE IN MY SHIRT! THEY'RE IN MY SHIRT!

Leonard and Penny found a solution for the money; they did a little Indecent Proposal by spreading it on the bed and having sex on it. Bernadette apologized to Howard and agreed to work to make their marriage a partnership. And Howard promised to be more adult about things...except for his birthday party. (HOWARD: Laser tag!) As for Sheldon, he had Amy transcribe his notes, including when Raj comes in and berates him for leaving him down in the steam tunnels to be eaten by rats.

RAJ: You call yourself a friend!?! I was trying to help you and at the first sign of trouble, you ran away leaving me to fend off a family of rats!!! You are a completely selfish human being and a physical and a moral coward!!!

SHELDON: (for Amy to transcribe) His statements of the obvious continue to annoy.

The Misinterpretation Agitation

Season 8
Episode Number: 166
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday October 30, 2014
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Annie O'Donnell (Mrs. Lorvis (voice)), Billy Bob Thornton (Dr. Oliver Lorvis)
Production Code: 4X6757
Summary: Penny's flirtatious sales pitch leaves a doctor-client smitten and the guys must pitch in to help her deal with him, while, Bernadette and Amy debate whether female scientists ought to play the sexuality card.



It had been a while since we knew what Amy was up to. The monkeys were gone, and now she was studying one-celled organisms to find the neurochemicals that would lead to shame. According to Penny, they're shamed by the same thing everyone else is: getting out of a car with no underwear. Which led to Bernadette announcing she was going to be featured in a magazine article about the 50 sexiest female scientists in California. Penny thought it was awesome, but Amy was actually quite offended. She wanted to know what kind of message would that send to be known for her looks instead of her scientific accomplishments? (PENNY: I think

the message is 'check out the rack on that scientist'.) Amy wasn't persuaded, and Bernadette wanted to know what was wrong with being known as both smart and pretty? Penny didn't think it was a big deal because she flirted a little to close a sale with a physician in her new job. (PENNY: Laugh at their jokes, touch their arm, maybe crank up the A/C in the car beforehand to wake up the girls.) Amy thought that was fine for sales, but women were having enough difficulty being taken seriously in science as it was. Bernadette was psyched about the article but now she was feeling guilt.

PENNY: I think you should do what you want. I think if fashion magazines had more scientists in them, I would have become a theoretical physicist. (getting a drink from the refrigerator) Stop smirking at each other!

Well, Penny was about to find out what happened when you flirted with the wrong guy. Sheldon let in someone downstairs with a bouquet of roses. Mistaking him for a delivery person, Sheldon kept a conversation going up the stairs about how having stuff delivered meant he could avoid more human contact. However, the man was a doctor. A urologist, to be specific, and he tracked down where Penny lived because he thought they had a "moment" while she was on a

sales call at his office. And that tracking her down and showing up unannounced would impress her. Sheldon was a bit surprised when he knocked on Penny's door, but he was more concerned with Leonard not getting him enough peanut sauce for his dinner. Oh, and BTW, there was a man with flowers knocking on Penny's door. Leonard goes out there to talk to him. Apparently, Penny winked at him, held his arm for two WHOLE Mississippis (which he demonstrated on Leonard), and she wasn't wearing her engagement ring. All of which was quite the surprise to Leonard. And quite the delight to Howard and Raj. Realizing Penny's flirting was just to close a sale, Dr. Lorvis was quite depressed.

DR. LORVIS: It's just like the cute girl at the pet store all over again. She touched my arm for five Mississippis and I bought a \$2,000 iguana habitat. Which she was always too busy to come over and see.

He asked Leonard to give her the flowers, saying he was a lucky man. Although the card with something "unnecessarily graphic" in it didn't need to be forwarded on. Sheldon decided that he couldn't let Dr. Lorvis leave depressed and invited him for a hot beverage.

LEONARD: He tried to score with Penny.

SHELDON: So have these two and they're having dinner with us!

Meanwhile, Bernadette's magazine article was canceled. She was upset but she figured it was probably for the best for them to focus on her achievements instead of staring at her breasts...like Amy was doing right then. She figured it wasn't that important, which Amy saw as the green light to admit she torpedoed the article by sending an angry email saying they wouldn't do a photo spread on sexy male scientists.

BERNADETTE: (fuming) Because no one would want to see Neil Degrasse Tyson in a wet t-shirt bending over a Porsche! (Chuck Lorre apparently would, going by his vanity card at the end.)

Bernadette was pissed and said Amy got jealous and took away a chance for her to get publicity, but Amy wouldn't back down, saying it was bad publicity. Bernadette said she didn't have the right to decide that for her, and Amy thought she did because this sort of thing affected all female scientists.

BERNADETTE: And I don't think you like people expressing their sexuality because no one wants you to express yours!

Bernadette apologized for going over the line, but Amy wasn't having it and walked out.

As Dr. Lorvis enjoyed his tea (and Leonard got a hot beverage from him as well because he was upset), it turned out the guys may have a bigger crush on him than he has on Penny. He liked the Star Trek mugs they had and he actually met Gene Roddenberry. Actually, he performed a vasectomy on Gene. (HOWARD: Wow, he really went where no man has gone before.) Dr. Lorvis was the doctor to the stars...urinary tracts. He had James Cameron's kidney stone on his keychain, and he got an actual Terminator robot as a thank-you (not a fake). He even got a tribble from William Shatner (or an old toupee, it's hard to tell) for fixing his bladder infection. He said the guys could visit his house in Sherman Oaks and see his collectibles. He had quite a lot because he thought it was a good way to meet women. But since that didn't work, he asked Leonard how he was able to get Penny. Leonard tried to play it cool and say he was just being himself, but Sheldon narc'ed on him and told Dr. Lorvis.

SHELDON: I'll tell you how he did it: relentless, implacable badgering! In urology terms, he was a biological staph infection and she was a urethra that could not shake him.

Leonard didn't think he was an infection, and Howard said he should have defended Penny and say she was not a urethra. Didn't matter, because that's when Penny stopped by and was surprised to see Dr. Lorvis. She apologized for leading him on.

DR. LORVIS: (a tiny bit obsessed) You touched my arm for two Mississippis.

PENNY: THAT'S why you were mumbling Mississippi.

Leonard and Penny talked in the hallway, and Penny admitted she hid her engagement ring and flirted with doctors to get sales, and Dr. Lorvis was her biggest customer. Penny was more curious as to why he was in their apartment and thought him just showing up was weird. Leonard had to send him on his way because Penny wasn't permitted by company policy to interact with customers outside of work. But actually that was taken care of. They were going to see Dr. Lorvis' memorabilia collection. Suddenly that 'you owe me one' Leonard told Penny rang a bit on the hollow side.

And when they got to Lorvis' house, it REALLY rang hollow. His house looked like a really rich fourteen-year-old lived there. They saw the actual Terminator, a RoboCop, movie posters on the wall, scores of old-school video game machines, and yes, the iguana was still around, happy in its little home. BTW, Dr. Lorvis still lived with his mother, and Howard couldn't believe the guy didn't know when to cut the apron strings.

DR. LORVIS: Welcome to my fortress of solitude. This is where I go to get away from...all my other solitude.

Leonard found Donkey Kong, his favorite game as a kid, and not because it's the story of a cute blonde being chased by an oddly-shaped man like Sheldon thought. Dr. Lorvis noticed the guys teased Leonard about his relationship with Penny, which Lorvis took to believe maybe he still had a shot with her. So he left the guys behind to play videogames...not that they had any other choice because he locked them in (nice job playing Asteroid music to add some drama)...and went back to the apartment with a new set of roses for Penny. Only he ran into Amy in the lobby first, who was swept up by his stories of unbridled romance as they walked up the stairs (never hearing they're for Penny, natch). He hoped Penny wanted what he wanted: unconditional love.

AMY: Well, I hope you get it. (puts her hand on his shoulder)

DR. LORVIS: (reconsidering quickly) One Mississippi, two Mississippi...

By the time they got to Penny's apartment, Amy had a bouquet of roses and a dilemma. But Dr. Lorvis thought they both wanted the same thing and they had two wonderful Mississippis. He thought he should just be friends with the other woman...and went to tell Penny that, much to Amy's shock. Penny said what he was doing was creepy. (DR. LORVIS: You sound just like Sigourney Weaver when I followed her into the restroom.) Then both of them were shocked when they realized he left the guys behind at his place and the door sticks. But they could un-stick it. All they needed was the key.

PENNY: (grabbing Dr. Lorvis by the shoulder) We are going to go over there right now and you're going to let them out!

DR. LORVIS: (dreamily) Three Mississippi, four Mississippi...

PENNY: MOVE IT!

Just one tiny problem with the plan; the guys didn't want to leave. Leonard was having the game of his life on Donkey Kong. But on the good side, the ladies (including Bernadette, whom Dr. Lorvis also figured he had a shot with) could see Tobey Maguire's prostate songogram. Thankfully, Spider-Man had nothing to worry about.

The Prom Equivalency

Season 8
Episode Number: 167
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 6, 2014
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Jeremy Howe, Steve Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Carol Ann Susi (Debbie Wolowitz (voice)), Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney), Kara Luiz (Jeanie), Annie O'Donnell (Mrs. Lorvis)
Production Code: 4X6758
Summary: When the girls discover none of the guys attended prom in school, they organize one for them, but Howard has a big problem with the woman Stuart asks to go with him.



Things aren't going so well for Howard. His mother and Stuart were at Benihana the previous night, which Howard doesn't take her to that often because she jumps up like a seal whenever the chef flips a shrimp into the air. Same reason why they never go to Sea World. But Howard was OK with it, even when Raj told him they went back to her house together and likely were wearing matching pajamas. But at least he wasn't as bad off as a gibbon, according to Sheldon. Talk about being teased on the playground; the gibbon is the only ape not classified as 'great', which means anthropologists went out of

their way to tease it. Although Leonard does point out that the gibbon wouldn't know that or that its name is gibbon.

SHELDON: Sorry, kid. You got it worse than a gibbon.

Meanwhile, the ladies were having a movie night at Penny's. Fortunately, Amy and Bernadette brought snacks...and napkins, clean bowls, utensils, and a roll of toilet paper. Amy and Bernadette didn't recognize the place; Penny had folded all of her clothes. With her new work wardrobe, some things had to go, including a sexy red prom dress.

BERNADETTE: You still have it? I thought it was just balled up in the corner of a barn somewhere.

PENNY: (highly offended) What kind of teenager do you think I was?

BERNADETTE: Slutty....AMY: Easy.

PENNY: The word is "popular."

Still Penny went to her prom to enjoy herself (and six others on top of that), while Amy was on the clean-up crew at her prom. Although the DJ was nice enough to let her slow-dance with her mop to Lady in Red. Bernadette did have a date to the prom, who only went because he was interested in her friend. (AMY: OK, we get it. You had a friend and a date. Stop bragging!) But

Bernadette thought it would be fun to have a prom do-over, where they could get dressed up, decorate the deck on the roof, and have the guys show up in tuxedos. Amy was on-board. Penny thought proms were silly, despite her denial she went with the captain of the football team. OK, she made out with him while his date was throwing up, but whatevs.

Howard stopped by the guys' apartment for dinner since Amy and Bernadette were out dress shopping for the prom. Bernadette was so excited, her voice actually went higher and made the neighbor's beagle howl. Raj was excited to go to a prom ever since he saw *Pretty in Pink*...until he saw Carrie. Fortunately, he saw *Never Been Kissed* most recently, so he was good to go. Sheldon never went to prom; he studied. And his explanation took much much longer than it did for me to type this entire synopsis. Penny had joined the guys for dinner, and Leonard figured she didn't want to join Amy and Bernadette because she thought the idea was lame. She didn't take the bait but did ask Leonard what he thought.

LEONARD: To be honest, it's kind of a dream come true to go to even a fake prom with a girl as beautiful as you.

PENNY: Thanks a lot. Now I can't blow this thing off without being a bitch. (yeah, I smell a setup from Leonard, too)

Bernadette was excited everybody was in. And the poor beagle next door got another sample of her higher octaves. Stuart was even coming, and Howard could only guess whom he wanted to bring to the prom. (BERNADETTE: Why can't he bring your mother? You took her to your prom!) Howard couldn't take it anymore and called Stuart, admitting he was uncomfortable with Stuart taking his mother to the prom. Stuart said he was bringing someone else and not his mother.

HOWARD: Oh, so now you're cheating on my mother???

Stuart was not happy with the insinuation. There was nothing weird going on between him and Howard's mother. (HOWARD'S MOTHER: STEWIE, YOUR BATH IS GETTING COLD!)

Sheldon, as you correctly guessed, was not thrilled about having to go to a prom. He knocked on Penny's door (two extra times, just so he had a few to bank) and suggested since she was equally ambivalent, they could pretend they were aliens taking part in a human ritual. He explained they could be just like Ford Prefect in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, who pretended to be human because he wanted to write a blurb about Earth for the book. After all, it was how he survived going to one of her plays. (SHELDON: Commander Umfrumf gave you seven thumbs up.) Now Penny had a question for him: did he plan to participate in any post-prom mating rituals with Amy? Sheldon was shocked there were post-prom mating rituals, but Penny said they usually occur unless your date drives a van with an air mattress. Sheldon said if it was part of the experience, he was open to it. Now Penny was shocked. (SHELDON: I may be an alien, but I have urges.) Sheldon figured if it was part of the custom for Amy to "firing her eggs into space, he'd happy catch them with the reproductive sac on my upper flermin." For an alien, though, he really needed to learn how to tie a bow tie. Actually, Sheldon abandoned the alien idea because nobody else wanted to and even he was smart enough not to hire someone to do it. He put on his jacket and hid the flask he bought...which sadly only had pomegranate juice in it. Since he was embracing all the traditions of prom, Leonard inquired if that included losing his virginity with Amy. After all, hormones are usually raging on prom night. Sheldon was again worried since now that was two people who brought it up.

LEONARD: Relax, it's just a joke. You don't have hormones.

They go to meet Penny and Amy, both of whom look very beautiful in their dresses. Sheldon wasn't ready for that. In fact, he turned around quickly and went back into his apartment. Meanwhile, Raj, Emily, Howard, and Bernadette were in a limousine going to pick up Stuart. Bernadette certainly liked Emily's tattoo of Sally from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Bernadette liked that movie, as did Emily, mainly because Sally could pull her own limbs off and sew them back on. Probably not a good idea to tell Bernadette how the evil stepsisters got their feet in the glass slippers in the book version of *Cinderella*. Still, that would have been better for Howard than finding out whom Stuart was bringing. It wasn't Howard's mother, but the apple didn't fall far from the tree. Or the second tree, in this case. It was Jeanie, Howard's second cousin to whom he lost his virginity in her dad's Corolla. Which of course Raj just had to tell Emily. To be fair, he already told her the story to break an awkward silence between the two.

With the six of them still heading to the apartment and Sheldon locked in his bedroom, only Penny and Leonard went up to the roof to see the decorations. They were quite impressed. And as it turned out, Leonard did go to his prom. He even had a date...with a little lady he called

loneliness. (LEONARD: It's OK. We had a threesome with her friend, humiliation.) Penny said she would have asked him to dance, to which he called BS. And then he claimed he would have asked her to dance, to which she called BS, but he said he would have asked her. In his mind. On the way home. While he was having a good cry. But they were there now, and they were going to have a good long slow dance. Didn't even need music. Although Leonard did thank her for wearing flats...and Penny thanked him for wearing heels.

Sheldon was in his bedroom having a full-blown panic attack. Amy was understandably worried. Sheldon felt like there was too much pressure to do all the things you traditionally did at prom, and even he thought his ass looked good in his tuxedo pants. Amy tried to convince him that all she said was he looked handsome, and she just wanted some time with him for dancing and good conversation. There was no pressure.

Speaking of pressure, Stuart relayed the story of how he met Jeanie. It was at her aunt's house when he was there with Howard's mother. (STUART: She passed me the Manischewitz, I took one look at his punim, and I almost plotzed on the kugel!) Howard thought it was weird given the relationship Stuart had with his mother, but let's face it, Howard didn't have a leg to stand on with Jeanie there, did he.

RAJ: This is so messed up.

EMILY: I know. I'm having the best time.

And as Bernadette pointed out, why would Stuart still ask her knowing the story of Jeanie and Howard and that Howard would be there?

STUART: Oh, so she's good enough for Howard but not for me?

BERNADETTE: Yeah, go have weird relationships with your own mother and cousin! This is his turf!

Penny and Leonard were still alone but they were having so much fun, especially going to a prom without a lot of drama. (Not to worry, Howard and Stuart would be out of the limo as soon as they were pulled off of each other.)

Amy had enough of Sheldon's issues. She didn't want to miss another prom and started heading out. Sheldon opened the door.

SHELDON: I really did think you looked pretty. So much so that I started to panic.

AMY: (touched) Well, you can relax. Just because you thought I looked pretty doesn't mean we have to spend the whole night together.

SHELDON: Were you hoping we would because it's prom?

AMY: I'm ALWAYS hoping. But tonight, I just wanted to have a nice time with you. Maybe even dance with someone who has arms.

SHELDON: Thank you for understanding.

AMY: (getting nervous) Sheldon, there's something else I've been wanting to say. But before I do, just...I want you to know you don't have to say it back. I know you're not ready, and I don't want you to say it because social convention dictates...

SHELDON: ...I love you, too.

AMY: (floored) You said it.

SHELDON: There's no denying I have feelings for you that can't be explained in any other way. I briefly considered I had a brain parasite, but that seems even more far-fetched. The only conclusion was love.

Now it was Amy who couldn't breathe. She was having a panic attack, and Sheldon knew the cure was to lie down with her feet elevated.

SHELDON: (Amy ran to lie on his bed) Whoah, whoah, whoah! Just because I said I love you doesn't mean girls are allowed in my room!

At least they took prom pictures. Leonard and Penny looked great, Amy was ecstatic...and Sheldon had his eyes closed, Howard and Bernadette didn't react well to Raj going "say...cousin!", and Stuart was interrupted by Howard's mother, who wanted him home right now.

The Septum Deviation

Season 8
Episode Number: 168
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 13, 2014
Writer: Jim Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Maria Ferrari, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:
Production Code: 4X6759
Summary: Leonard needs surgery for a deviated septum, and Sheldon gets his nose out of joint because he feels an operation is too dangerous and that his roommate may not make it out alive. Meanwhile, a distraught Raj learns his parents have divorced on the eve of their 40th anniversary.



Sheldon and Amy were playing Heads Up!, the game on your mobile phone where you hold words up to your head and others try to get you to say what they are. Apparently, Sheldon thought "a guy he loved and an underappreciated scientist" was him and not Nikolas Tesla. "Also a type of car" didn't help much, as he thought it was a Mini-Cooper. "He's a poor man's Sheldon Cooper," however, did the trick. Leonard and Penny arrived from the doctor's office. Leonard got a rhinoscopy, which watching on the monitor looked like the scary boat ride from Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. (that is SO accurate) Long story short,

Leonard needed to have surgery to fix his deviated septum. Which sent Sheldon into a full-blown panic. Never mind the fact it would stop Leonard from snoring; after five or six years, Sheldon got used to it and it was now like a sound machine he used to get some sleep (he even went into Leonard's room to listen to it). But since Leonard was firm in getting the surgery, Sheldon was done talking about it. And for the next clue in the game (Jay Z), the clues Sheldon gave were "most famous for never having gotten his nose mutilated with elective surgery."

Raj needed some advice for an anniversary present for his parents, who were celebrating forty years together. Howard couldn't imagine being married to someone for forty years. Yup, right in front of Bernadette. (and people complain about HER???) Bernadette wondered if there was anything they had in common.

RAJ: They used to like going to the Mumbai Symphony, but my mother thought last year they were phoning it in. And then my dad said based on their love life, she should know about phoning it in.

BERNADETTE: He really said that to her?

RAJ: No, they weren't speaking at the time, so a servant did.

Clearly things weren't going well with his parents, but giving them coasters with his face on them probably wouldn't work. Certainly the ones Howard and Bernadette got didn't. (BERNADETTE: They're yours in the divorce.)

Sheldon originally calculated a 1 in 700,000 chance of Leonard dying during the surgery, and Leonard figured he would be one of the 699,999 who made it. But Sheldon was able to get that down to 1 in 300 because of an allergic reaction to the anesthesia (which Leonard wasn't) or the latex gloves the surgeon would wear (which Leonard wasn't), or the surgeon could have an epileptic fit in the middle of surgery. Oh, and Leonard pointing out driving being more dangerous than the surgery? Sheldon put that in the equation, too. Along with dying on the walk down the stairs from the apartment and even hit by an asteroid (which somehow kills Leonard but not Sheldon). Leonard said he would think about it, as the surgery wasn't for another week. And if he wanted it done in Nicaragua during monsoon season, the odds would drop even more.

Leonard and Penny decided to go for a nice swim at a public pool. It was the perfect excuse to give Sheldon because he got busy trying to calculate the amount of urine that was likely in the pool (18 parts per million, BTW). Amy had to drive him to work, but unfortunately for someone who managed to be a boy scout for two years, she couldn't keep a lie very well. Sheldon figured out that she was lying and she admitted Leonard got an appointment that had just opened up. Sheldon demanded she take him there. This despite her letting him eat his french toast sticks in the car. Penny was obviously not happy when he arrived, but Amy copped to Sheldon wearing extra baby powder as the reason she caved.

SHELDON: I assume this medical center has already treated the burns on your bottom from your recent pants fire!

PENNY: He's going to be alright! (pats Sheldon's hand) That is sticky.

Amy said they should talk about something other than the surgery. So Sheldon asked Penny if Leonard and she already made funeral arrangements. Amy meant something happier. (SHELDON: I suppose we could try to make it a celebration, but he died so young.)

Howard and Bernadette came to Raj's office to comfort him because he found out his parents did get a divorce. He talked to his father, who had moved out, and his mother had already bought the book *Eat, Pray, Love...* which she used to set fire to his Mercedes. Bernadette brought muffins...and a few too many attempts at trying to be funny. Bernadette was sympathetic; she would be devastated if her parents split up.

HOWARD: Why? Your father hardly speaks to her anyway.

BERNADETT: Well at least he stuck around! Your dad just took off!

HOWARD: (to Raj) As you can see, we're here to cheer you up.

Raj figured his parents started to resent each other and kept it bottled up rather than talk about it. That got Howard and Bernadette to thinking later that they didn't want to risk that. Bernadette insisted Howard tell her anything that annoyed him about her, but he wasn't going to fall into that trap.

BERNADETTE: So there ARE things you don't like.

HOWARD: And here I am in the trap.

Bernadette kept trying to get him to say something but Howard wouldn't bite. But he did attend couples' therapy...with someone other than Bernadette ("Was it your mom?")...and they suggested saying things you love about one another. Bernadette thought it was sweet and said she loved how Howard made her laugh. And Howard said he loved how she was strong and independent, and Bernadette loved how he still held the door open for her. Howard said he loved that he was a slob around the house and she was OK with that. Um....

BERNADETTE: (sarcasm dripping) And I love that I work and do all the cleaning and you're OK with that.

Penny did have to give Sheldon credit for buying a teddy bear for Leonard. Actually, Amy bought the teddy bear...for Sheldon. Who has issues with revolving doors for some reason. Penny begged Sheldon not to give Leonard a hard time because he wouldn't likely feel good after surgery. Amy agreed, saying it was like the man in the supermarket with the goiter. Holding a grapefruit up to it is not something the man needed. Sheldon was upset for being deceived and being the only one who seemed to care about Leonard.

PENNY: I'm worried about him. I'm going to spend the rest of my life with him!

SHELDON: And I'm not???

Although admittedly, the minor tremor and the lights going out were not something Leonard needed during surgery. And certainly Sheldon didn't need it, as he sprinted towards the operating room...only to crash into the glass doors. Now he had a bandage on his nose to match Leonard's.

PENNY: (takes a picture of both of them) Come on, smile! This is going to be my Christmas card!

Naturally, Sheldon blamed Leonard for his broken nose. Leonard didn't even want him there, and the surgery was successful anyway. Sheldon said he wasn't out of the woods. There was post-op infection, blood clots, or a barn spider laid eggs in his nose.

SHELDON: The minute you sneeze web, I'm moving out.

LEONARD: Never thought I'd say these words, but COME ON, NOSE SPIDER!

Penny called BS on Sheldon, particularly given the evidence he smashed his face into a door trying to check on him.

Meanwhile, the fight between Howard and Bernadette wasn't improving, if Bernadette loving Howard for spending an hour in the bathroom grooming his hair even when she had to pee was any indication, or Howard loving that she won't pee in the kitchen sink and how her hair is always on the soap. (HOWARD: It's like washing myself with a hamster!) Fortunately (I think), Raj arrived and Howard talked about "saying all the things we love about each other."

RAJ: Oh, like you and I did at couples' therapy!

Oh, the two urns Sheldon bought? They couldn't be sent back because they were engraved. On Leonard's: Here lie the ashes of Leonard Hofstadter. He thought he was right, but his roommate knew better. On Sheldon's: I'm With Stupid.

R.I.P. Carol Ann Susi (Mrs. Wolowitz)

The Champagne Reflection

Season 8
Episode Number: 169
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday November 20, 2014
Writer: Steven Molaro, Tara Hernandez, David Saltzberg, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Dave Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Paul Willson (Prof. Sharpe), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), LeVar Burton (Himself), Stephen Root (Dan)
Production Code: 4X6760
Summary: While Sheldon retires *“Fun With Flags”*, Leonard, Howard and Raj look for something significant in a dead professor’s research, and Bernadette finds out what her colleagues really think of her.



Say it isn't so! Sheldon and Amy were filming the final *Fun With Flags*! Sheldon couldn't help it. He couldn't juggle a new job, an online show, and a girlfriend (AMY: And he really has one, you jerks on the comment board!), so he was waving the white flag after 232 episodes (233 if you count the one Amy forgot to press record on)...and making an episode about white flags (his second one, apparently). Still, this was much better than what Leonard, Howard, and Raj had to do. Professor Roger Abbott passed away and they had to clean out his office. Of course, saying the professor's name fast

makes you wonder if someone framed him first before he died. (think about it) But Leonard was a bit upset that of all the paperwork they uncovered, Professor Abbott never had any major accomplishments. Although Raj certainly didn't mind the pen where the lady lost her bathing suit when you turned it upside-down. Leonard couldn't contemplate someone coming in and throwing out all of his work. Actually, he could: Sheldon did that the prior day. Believe it or not, that could actually be topped in terms of depressing. They found a bottle of champagne given to Professor Abbott from his mother, who wanted him to open it the day of his first great discovery. The bottle remained sealed 50 years later.

Penny and Bernadette headed to a celebration at their workplace. Her boss, Dan, didn't want to hire her at first, but now that she was a rookie salesperson with the 3rd best salesmark, now Dan was a hugging machine. To Penny, anyway. Apparently, Dan doesn't like "cute, sweet vicious" Bernadette much. That's understandable, given she yelled at Dan and his grandson for losing the three-legged race at the company picnic. His grandson now refers to her as "the mean kid with the big boobies." Penny tried to defend her, but Dan decided to take off instead.

Sheldon and Amy went through a series of "best of" clips for *Fun With Flags*, complete with Amy in a kangaroo costume celebrating Australia, Sheldon dressed as Betsy Ross, Amy finding

out a purple flag used to mean don't go in the water (where she snuck a peek at Sheldon's legs), Kripke successfully playing the game of Flag/Not a Flag, and even LeVar Burton letting Sheldon know if his Black History Month episode where he dressed up as George Washington Carver was racist.

LeVAR: (watching video) Oh, hell no.

SHELDON: (not quite getting it) You heard him, Leonard. No, it's not racist!

Oh, and Amy was expected to apologize 4,000 times, once for each of the dominoes Sheldon set up for that American flag on the 4th of July episode she didn't record.

Leonard found a book with a series of grouped numbers. The guys thought running it through the university's supercomputer might help, but Raj figured a visit to the man who shared an office with Abbott might know something. And he did. The book was Abbott's food diary. He thought that caloric restriction was the key to a long life.

RAJ: Does it work?

Howard figured not everybody could shoot for the stars but they could still take joy in the little things in life. (That was for Leonard; he went into space, after all.) Leonard thought they should keep the champagne bottle, and if one of them made a great accomplishment, they'd open the bottle and drink a toast to Professor Abbott...and rub their success in Sheldon's face.

Bernadette was not making herself look better in front of Dan, given she called his grandson a crybaby because he was such a wuss. Penny thought perhaps it was because he was being picked on by a "mean kid," but Bernadette thought that would build character. (BERNADETTE: My father always said no one likes a crybaby except Mommies and Democrats.) Dan went to get another drink, and Penny begged Bernadette to tone it down. Bernadette denied she was a bully, calling herself the sweetest person she knows. Who told Penny the pants she bought looked like a saggy diaper. Bernadette thought she should leave, but Penny insisted they fix Bernadette's problem.

It was time to end the final episode, and if Sheldon could, he'd run every one of his viewers up a flagpole and salute them. And burn them if they touched the ground. He thanked Amy for her work, and he admitted hosting the show was a crazy ride but wouldn't give it up for the world. But he was getting too emotional and cried into his white flag.

AMY: (touched) Sheldon, that was beautiful.

SHELDON: If you didn't press record...

AMY: I PRESSED IT!!!!

Bernadette went to find Dan and apologized about what she said to his grandson. She promised to be better so people wouldn't walk on eggshells around her. Dan was relieved, because the company wasn't going to pay for their coffee anymore. Actually, they stopped five months ago, but the employees had been paying for hers through a swear jar (for when Bernadette swore). Oh, and her private bathroom was meant for everyone on her floor, but since Wheelchair Kathy was back in the hospital, it was technically her private bathroom again. Bernadette was devastated and started crying. Which neither Penny nor Dan could stop, so they promised to get her an espresso maker for her office. Which she thanked them for. But she was still crying.

BERNADETTE: (sobbing) Now where are we on my bathroom?

Sheldon was still up late when Leonard arrived home. There wasn't a single comment about his final show. Leonard understood what that was like, given where he just was, but then a positive comment came up, and Sheldon was ecstatic. He couldn't cancel Fun With Flags! The people needed it. And the show was back on. And Sheldon celebrated by popping the cork on Abbott's champagne bottle, which freaked Leonard out. Particularly when Sheldon said he wasn't going to drink it; he just liked the sound of the cork popping.

Oh, despite LeVar specifically telling him to lose his contact information, Sheldon went to his house to announce Fun With Flags was back. (LeVAR: Wil Wheaton said get a gate. I don't know why I didn't get a gate.) But since LeVar was born in Germany, Sheldon thought it would be a great episode if he came on to discuss German flags.

SHELDON: How do you feel about dressing up as a swastika?

The Clean Room Infiltration

Season 8
Episode Number: 170
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday December 11, 2014
Writer: Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, & Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian George (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali), Dakin Matthews (Santa), Michael Reetz (Photographer)
Production Code: 4X6761
Summary: On Christmas Eve, Amy plans a traditional Victorian dinner, while Raj, Leonard and Howard scramble to remove a pigeon that flew into the clean room at the university. To prove a point to Amy, a Scrooge-like Sheldon buys her the worst possible gift.



Things weren't going well with Raj's parents. His father was in town while his mother was cleaning out his bank account. On the good side, he didn't spend 20 hours on the flight praying for it to crash. Still, Raj wasn't up for hosting his themed Christmas party. Luckily, Amy wanted to step in and host a Victorian Christmas party, including parlor games, goose, and fig pudding. Which Sheldon immediately crapped on. As if accusing She-Hulk of being an affirmative action hire at her law firm wasn't enough. Despite Sheldon's aversion to "a cake with raisins in it," Amy insisted on it.

RAJ: Amy, good luck on getting these guys excited about a theme. I gave up when no one cared about my Tom Hanks-giving.

Actually, everybody else was on-board with Amy's idea. (RAJ: You guys SUCK!)

Leonard and Howard had work to do in the clean room at the university. Good news for Leonard: no allergies. Bad news for Leonard: too much oxygen. They were building their own multi-wire detectors to detect cosmic particles rather than having to rely on an array of Cherenkov telescopes to do the job. Of course, now you have to worry about remembering to close the door to the loading dock. Otherwise a pigeon might get inside. Just like the one that flew in. Obviously it was disaster waiting to happen since the room wasn't supposed to have any dust and they just let in a "flying crap machine." Leonard thought they would have to call Building Services but Howard didn't want them getting in trouble for compromising all of the equipment. He suggested turning off all the lights except one so the pigeon would fly to it, which was the dumbest idea Leonard had ever heard. Howard demanded he not yell so he could come up with better ideas. Like turning off all the lights except one so the pigeon would fly to it.

Still, this was better than what Penny and Amy had to endure being left alone with Raj's father (who left them there to go help Leonard and Howard...happily). Dr. Koothrappali saw Penny's engagement ring and wanted to tell her a story. Thankfully, he didn't.

Meanwhile, Bernadette drove Sheldon over to Amy's and was in full voice with the Christmas music. Which, naturally, drove Sheldon up a wall.

SHELDON: In the last ten minutes, Santa came to town, kissed Mommy, and ran Grandma over with a reindeer. I had a drunk uncle who did all those things and nobody sings songs about him.

BERNADETTE: Well, maybe it would help if you thought of Santa as a superhero whose power is bringing joy to all the children.

SHELDON: My uncle did that, too. It turned out to be legal in Oklahoma.

Needless to say, Sheldon wasn't looking forward to the dinner. Bernadette wanted to know what he got Amy and he said they agreed not to exchange gifts this year. Bernadette was surprised and told him he had to get Amy something. Turns out Sheldon was already upset with her for not only forcing him to attend the dinner but she also kissed him under some mistletoe at a Christmas tree lot. (SHELDON: Like we were the stars of a Tijuana sex show.) Sheldon thought he needed to teach her a lesson: like buy her a gift. He figured if he got her the nicest, most thoughtful gift imaginable, she would feel horrible about not getting him a gift. (SHELDON: So stay on my good side or I'll get you a present.)

Howard came back with a bag and a Slim Jim, thinking he could place the Slim Jim in the bag and the pigeon would go for it. Leonard agreed...if the pigeon was stoned or a trucker. Howard was getting quite offended not only with Leonard shooting down his plans but with Leonard's constant assumption that Howard was responsible for contaminating the clean room. But Leonard said he did this all the time and tried to cover it up, like with the Mars Rover, lost Raj's dog, or almost drove off with a baby. Which, for the record, never cried until the mother punched Howard in the gut. Raj arrives, and Leonard angrily grabs the Slim Jim and explains Howard's "brilliant" plan. Which was actually quite brilliant, since the pigeon grabbed the Slim Jim out of Leonard's hand and flew back to its out-of-reach perch.

RAJ: Should have put it in the bag first.

Penny tried to keep up a conversation with Dr. Koothrappali, but he wasn't much for talking, unless she knew someone he could go out with. Fortunately (or unfortunately), Amy wanted to play one of her Victorian games called Ball of Wool. Basically, it involved a ball of wool. (Didn't see that coming, did ya.) Guests on opposite ends of the table would try to blow the ball of wool past their opponent. Dr. Koothrappali obliged her, and Amy was nice enough to let him win, although to Penny, it looked like the world's worst tennis match. Meanwhile, Sheldon and Bernadette stopped at the mall to find Amy a gift to make her feel guilty. Bernadette suggested a gift that proved how much Sheldon knew Amy, since those were always the nicest gifts she got from Howard.

SHELDON: (thinks about it) She loves medieval literature, Chaucer's her favorite. Her eyes sparkle when she watched old French movies. I enjoy how harp music causes her fingers to dance like she's playing along.

BERNADETTE: (touched) Wow, you really do love her.

SHELDON: I do. Now let's find the kind of gift that makes her feel small and worthless.

Turns out, all Sheldon had to do was sit on Santa's lap.

SANTA: Let me see if I've got this straight. A picture of you on my lap is a way of punishing your girlfriend for making you celebrate Christmas?

SHELDON: Correct.

SANTA: Santa thinks dating you is punishment enough.

SHELDON: There's an argument for that, but I want to make sure.

The pigeon was still there, but Raj had grown tired of Leonard and Howard being at each other's throats. He had to hear his parents argue already, so he put an end to the two of them doing so as well. They readied a fire extinguisher and a blanket to capture the pigeon. Howard insisted on working the fire extinguisher to prove he wasn't incompetent. And he fired away...right after he remembered to remove the pin. And it worked...way too well. The pigeon fell to the ground and stopped breathing. Howard was panicking because this was the second bird he killed, the first a bluejay when he was ten and tried to jumpstart with electricity like the dog

from *There's Something About Mary*. (HOWARD: The worst part was it smelled delicious.) Fortunately, Leonard found a document online that showed how to revive a bird, and a big whiff of Slim Jim into Howard's mouth later, the bird was revived. They took the pigeon to the door and released him to the outdoors...and watched a crow fly in and perch. Howard caved and agreed to call Building Services, seeing as how they'd HAVE to decontaminate the room now. Penny called Leonard to get an update and he explained they were going to get in a lot of trouble because their names were on the sign-in sheet for the clean room. Penny suggested they take their names off the sheet...and a Merry Christmas was had by all.

Back at Amy's apartment, everyone really enjoyed the dinner she made. Even Sheldon found the raisin cake (aka fig pudding) tolerable, particularly when he found out those were figs and not raisins. He was ready to ruin Amy's evening and handed her the gift. It was an electronic frame with a picture of him sitting on Santa's lap which played him saying "Happy Holidays to my dear Amy. I hope you treasure this as much as I treasure you." (SHELDON: Christmas is ruined! Let's never speak of it again! This was fun.) But it turns out Amy DID get Sheldon something: a box of homemade Christmas cookies. And she used Meemaw's recipes.

SHELDON: (emotional) They're perfect. It tastes like her hugs. I can't believe this. You're happy, I'm happy. Maybe a holiday that's all about giving isn't so (Raj reaches for one) Get your hands out of that box!

Sheldon may want to take back his new feelings about the holiday, given the next parlor game was called Hot Boiled Beans.

RAJ: If you people think this is better than Tom Hanks-giving, you're crazy.

The Space Probe Disintegration

Season 8
Episode Number: 171
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 8, 2015
Writer: Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Noel De Souza (Older Indian Man)
Production Code: 4X6762
Summary: While Raj eagerly awaits data from a space probe in which he was involved, Howard keeps distracting him. Later, dress shopping with Penny and Amy doesn't exactly prove to be a good fit for Leonard and Sheldon.



Leonard and Sheldon promised Penny and Amy they would go out and play games later that night. However, they wanted to play Risk (Middle Earth version, natch), which is a game that could take hours. This didn't sit well with the ladies, who demanded they do something they wanted after all of the game nights, videogame nights, and movie nights (with director commentary on) they had to endure. (AMY: George Lucas can talk all the way through Star Wars, but I say one word and I'm banished to the kitchen.) Penny's ideas for horseback riding was rejected...by Amy, who apparently can't

spread her legs wider than 22 degrees. Ice skating was rejected because Amy had rather brittle ankles, and Amy's idea of an arts and crafts fair was rejected by Penny...because it was an arts and crafts fair. Finally, Sheldon suggested what most couples would do: the ladies do some shopping while the guys hold their purses impatiently in those uncomfortable chairs.

Raj was going out of his mind. And not because his bikini wax was starting to grow back like Bernadette suspected. He was part of a team that helped launch a probe to Pluto nine years earlier, and it was scheduled to arrive and go online. But with the distance the signal has to travel, he still had to wait several hours to find out if the probe made it successfully. Howard thought he was being ridiculous, dismissing Raj's worry space ice would hit it. (RAJ: Space ice is no joke! I can't even watch Frozen anymore.) Not even telling Raj how patient he had to be while going up in the Soyuz rocket to the International Space Station calmed him down. And since Bernadette didn't have anything from her company for anxiety (although if Raj was having urinary problems, no sweat), he decided if he could throw his water bottle into the trash can, the probe would activate successfully.

HOWARD: So in addition to being crazy, you're resting the fate of the mission on your athletic prowess? The man who crashed his stationary bike?

RAJ: I didn't crash it. My playlist was too up-tempo, I got light-headed, and I fell off. (Oh, he hit the shot. And insisted it had to be 2 out of 3.)

Leonard and Sheldon at the store holding Penny's and Amy's purses looked like every last guy who ever had to go shopping at the store with their girlfriend and hold their purse. Sheldon was more tortured because he was facing the lingerie section. Of course, Penny pointed out women could do what he did and have his mother send him pants from the Wal-Mart in Houston. (SHELDON: They have a man there who understands my personal style!) Oh, and there was no mobile phone service in the store. But still, there are plenty of ways men passed the time before smartphones were invented. And Sheldon took out his phone to look them up. (SHELDON: Son of a biscuit!) He decided to call the store's corporate office to complain about a lack of wi-fi in the store. (SHELDON: Son of a biscuit!)

Nothing's stopping Leonard and Sheldon. They decided to play Risk right there in the store. The invisible version. Where somehow Leonard keeps rolling double sixes. (SHELDON: If I didn't see it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it.) Still, they persevered given the ladies make compromises for them all the time. Leonard was actually impressed Sheldon was being so mature about it.

SHELDON: I don't know why you're so surprised. If there's one thing I've learned after living with you for so many years, it's how to compromise.

Uh-oh.

Leonard can't believe it, of course. (LEONARD: You make compromises for me? On Earth? In our lives? That we're living?) Apparently, Sheldon thought it was a big compromise for Leonard to have a big piece of lettuce stuck in his teeth at lunch yesterday and he kept his mouth shut.

LEONARD: (angry) A compromise is me having to drive you everywhere because you refuse to learn how to drive!

Actually, Amy taught him, but it scares Sheldon, sometimes he gets the pedals mixed up, and he felt Leonard driving him to work gave Leonard's life purpose. (SHELDON: I can't take that away from you, so...oh, come on! I'm practically feeding you the answer!)

Howard decided to be supportive and went with Raj to temple. Not a Jewish one (Judaism is not all briskets and dreidels, according to Howard), but Raj meant a Hindu temple. Of course, now Howard was worried someone was going to rip his heart out like in Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.

RAJ: Dude, that movie is an imperialist fantasy that makes the followers of a beautiful and peaceful religion look like a bunch of thirsty barbarians.

HOWARD: You love that movie.

RAJ: Yeah, it's really great.

Howard is surprised Raj was suddenly getting religious, especially given he once watched Raj eat 2 pounds of beef at a Brazilian steakhouse. But Raj said many scientists believed in God. Even Albert Einstein. (HOWARD: Of course he believed in God. He slept with Marilyn Monroe!)

Amy and Penny's dress shopping wasn't going well. Although if Penny ever transferred to the Hookers & Whores Division at her workplace, she found the cutest dress to wear. But she had to admit she was as bad as the guys when it came to making Amy do things she liked. Amy was OK with it, given she promised herself once she got friends she would do what they wanted. (AMY: Lucky you found me instead of a cult.) Penny decided that everyone was going to do what Amy wanted that night. Which was basket weaving at the crafts fair. Still, that was a step up from Sheldon defining a compromise as not putting the apple pancake mix on the top shelf alphabetically where Leonard couldn't reach it in order to make Sheldon's breakfast.

LEONARD: Is it MY TURN to talk about the compromises I make?

SHELDON: Well, I wasn't done, but go ahead...he said compromising.

Leonard had quite a few bullets in his gun, such as adjusting the thermostat in his own apartment, wearing shoes that MIGHT squeak, and the big one, not being able to live with Penny because of him. The last time he wanted to do it, Sheldon had an emotional breakdown and ran away on a train. Sheldon had an affinity for inconveniencing every person he knew. Now it was Sheldon's turn to fire back, saying how mean Leonard was to him, with all of his eye rolls and sarcastic comments. Leonard apologized for doing that but there was a lot he was holding back. But Sheldon decided if he was the one holding Leonard back from living with Penny, he wouldn't do it anymore.

SHELDON: Just put on your squeaky shoes and eep-eeep-eeep out of my life.

LEONARD: Come on, don't get upset.

SHELDON: (pulling out a tissue from Amy's purse) I'm not upset; I'm just imagining a world without my best friend in it.

LEONARD: I'm not leaving your world; I'm just talking about living across the hall.

SHELDON: Either way, I understand. I just want you to know that I am aware of how difficult I can be. I just want to say (starts crying) thank you for putting up with me.

LEONARD: (grabs a tissue from Penny's purse) Buddy...

Yes, this is right when Penny and Amy return. They want to know what's going on, and Amy lambasts Leonard about discussing living arrangements, as Sheldon is a known flight risk. (SHELDON: That's exactly what I told him!) Penny understood, so they thought they could do it gradually. Two nights a week with Penny, where Sheldon countered with one night and lets him whistle. (SHELDON: When I'm not home.) Good enough.

Raj and Howard made it to the temple. Howard was worried he wasn't dressed properly, but then he attended other places dressed like that. Raj realized whenever he went to the temple, it gave him a sense of peace, that the universe (fate, God, karma, whatever you will) has a plan and it worked through everyone. And then someone dinged his car. He went ballistic until Howard got out and showed him a text saying the probe was online and working. (RAJ: Namaste.)

Turns out, basket weaving wasn't too bad, although Leonard should keep that to himself otherwise Amy would drag the group there every Sunday. Sheldon made a rather nice Chinese 16th century soldier's helmet.

LEONARD: Looks great (rolls eyes)

SHELDON: I saw that.

But he did stick to his compromise. Leonard and Penny were sleeping in her bedroom. And Sheldon was sleeping on her couch.

The Anxiety Optimization

Season 8
Episode Number: 172
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 29, 2015
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Adam Faberman, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney), Edward Lieberman (Man)
Production Code: 4X6763
Summary: Sheldon becomes concerned that his cushy lifestyle is impacting his professional progress and keeping him from achieving scientific renown, so he asks the gang to make life more difficult for him. Meanwhile, Howard invents an unflattering game about Raj.



hours later.

PENNY: I love him, but if he's broken let's not get a new one.

Sheldon didn't even bother with work, figuring he'd act like a spoiled baby all day for not making any progress the night before with dark matter. Actually, Leonard suggested that, but Sheldon didn't disagree. He tried getting some fresh air...by going out into the hall. He burst into Penny's apartment...yes, knocking like he does even though it sounded like Penny was being assaulted. Penny also correctly guessed he wasn't going into work because he'd act like a spoiled baby all day for not making any progress the night before with dark matter. But on the good side, it was what Penny was doing that gave Sheldon an idea. Penny was doing a yoga exercise she didn't like, figuring the harder she worked at it, the better in shape she'd become. That led Sheldon to do a little research and came up with an idea based on the studies (and Leonard needed to know she was trying much harder to stay attractive in their relationship than he was). According to Yerkes and Dodson, to maximize intellectual performance, you had to create a state of productive anxiety rather than making oneself comfortable. Sheldon asked Leonard, Howard, and Raj if they could keep him on his toes.

SHELDON: Essentially, go out of your way to make my life miserable.

HOWARD: What's in it for us? OK, we'll do it!

Certainly Howard was good at raising Raj's stress levels. He had invented a new game called Emily or Cinnamon? Basically, the idea was to guess if something Raj said was directed at Emily or Cinnamon. "I want you to know the bed feels so lonely when you're not in it"? That was Cinnamon. (RAJ: Go ahead, you can't embarrass me. I have a girlfriend and a dog who loves me so much she drinks my bathwater.) Getting matching sweaters? That was easy since everyone got the Christmas card: Cinnamon.

RAJ: (not so happy) You know, a man can care deeply about a woman and a pet. It's not strange.

LEONARD: Ooh, Emily! I heard him say that to Emily!

Sheldon went over to Amy's lab to work on his stress levels. He wore a cap with electrodes attached to it while working on a maze puzzle. They established his baseline and then he went to do the next maze. Only Amy started rubbing her fingers against a balloon. Technically, it did stress Sheldon out. He popped the balloon after only a few seconds. Although in the interest of full disclosure, he was aiming to stab her in the heart with the pencil. This was Amy's only idea, as Sheldon ruled out tickling him, polka music, or watching her eat a banana.

SHELDON: Who eats them horizontally?!?

AMY: My mother said that's how good girls do it.

Sheldon thought it was a waste of time, but Amy thought he could do it. And if he only ever did solid research instead of ground-breaking discoveries, that would be OK. Which is wasn't for Sheldon, and that got his anxiety levels up. Then they went down when he became happy his anxiety levels went up.

Admittedly, there were a few toughies to Emily or Cinnamon?. After all "you are so lucky; you have the shiniest hair" could have been either one since Raj brushed both Cinnamon's and Emily's hair (not at the same time). Sheldon came in, and at his request, the guys went into a spirited run of disagreeing with anything Sheldon said to keep his mind focused (it'd take too long to do the conversation, but it was funny).

Penny, Amy, and Bernadette were enjoying some wine, and Penny was trying for top sales at her company for the quarter because it meant 2 weeks in Hawaii. Which sounds romantic until you realize Leonard would be bringing his metal detector with him. Amy loved that the telescopes at the Keck Observatory had better resolution than the Hubble telescope. So, while Bernadette packed for her free trip to Hawaii, Sheldon came in and requested they help him increase his anxiety levels by letting him listen in "on an evening of tasteless uncensored crotch talk." Sheldon figured when the ladies were alone they'd engage in conversations they may not be comfortable having in front of the opposite sex, like who has the best cervix, what sanitary napkin is all the rage, and how they like to grab men's asses.

BERNADETTE: We're talking about Penny's job.

SHELDON: ...and how difficult it is to do when she's bloated, cranky, and crampy? Continue.

Penny told him they talk about the same things the guys talk about. (SHELDON: You talk about if werewolves can swim?) And apparently this is the case, as Amy thought canines knew how to instinctively swim so werewolves should, while Bernadette agreed with Sheldon, saying werewolves were not 100% canine.

SHELDON: This is fun! We should do this again some time when you're all not PMSing.

BTW, the game of Emily or Cinnamon? was catching on. 'It's just so perfect that we're both Libras.' was a mind-bender, but Penny correctly guessed that was Cinnamon.

Unfortunately, Sheldon had taken a turn towards the dark side. Literally. He filled the apartment with the sounds of Darth Vader, The Joker, and Godzilla to freak him into doing better work. Not sure if it was working, but it certainly ticked Leonard off, who was trying to sleep. Maybe not as much as Sheldon trying his first Red Bull earlier that day and puking in Leonard's car, but I'm sure the squirrel Sheldon chased wasn't happy. Oh, did I mention Sheldon was still wearing the same electrode cap Amy gave him earlier? The smell was stressing him out, so he thought that would help. But Amy was at her wit's end. Sheldon wasn't even paying attention to her on their date night, but Sheldon wouldn't be dissuaded, as he said he had done more work in the last few days than since he started on dark matter. Amy demanded he take the cap off, but Sheldon wanted her to keep up with that nagging tone of hers...maybe about 10% less shrill. Sheldon didn't need to drive himself crazy to do his best work.

SHELDON: Are you sure? Sir Isaac Newton wrote his Principia while convinced he was an armadillo.

AMY: That's not true!

SHELDON: Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. I've been hallucinating lately.

Amy argued Sheldon's ideas came from him, not his anxiety, and Sheldon sort of saw the point...but he wouldn't take the cap off. Amy threw him out, and Sheldon told the entire story to the armadillo next to him on the bus.

Penny and Leonard finally got Sheldon into bed and demanded he go to sleep. Sheldon thought there was nothing they could do to make him sleep...

PENNY: Soft kitty, warm kitty, little ball of fur... (out like a light)

LEONARD: (whispering) You know, he can be a lot of trouble. But when I see him here lying like this I think...how easy it would be to hold a pillow over his face.

Raj finally had had enough of Emily or Cinnamon?, so he brought Emily to work with him. The guys felt a bit ashamed for teasing him.

EMILY: Well, you guys may think it's funny that Raj is sweet and sensitive but I think it's sexy. (kisses him) Ugh, why is there dog hair in your mouth?

The Troll Manifestation

Season 8
Episode Number: 173
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday February 5, 2015
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan & Tara Hernandez, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland & Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Stephen Hawking (Himself), Jim Meskimen (Doctor / Man (voice))
Production Code: 4X6765
Summary: An online troll rips Leonard and Sheldon's published physics paper, so the guys rally to defend the two and expose the bully, while a girls night out leads to Penny, Amy and Bernadette dishing about embarrassing past events.



While Penny and Leonard are eating dinner together, Penny asks about his ongoing work with a particle detector and superfluids. Leonard is impressed, even though Penny did write it down on a napkin from a previous day's discussion. The supercooled helium has a habit of crawling up the insides of the container and spilling out all over the place. Not unlike Sheldon's ant farm adds Penny. Sheldon then starts to talk about superfluid vacuum theory for a moment and then stops. If one images three-space on the surface of a n -dimension bubble wonders Leonard. He gets excited and he runs off to discuss it with Sheldon. After describ-

ing his theory, Sheldon considers it rather noisily. Leonard then wonders if it is any good. Sheldon replies that it is good and he likes it. Sheldon gives Leonard a sticker with a kitty on it saying "Me-WOW". Even though Leonard is defensive that he is not a pre-schooler, he does take the sticker since it's one of the few compliments Sheldon has ever given him.

Later that night, Leonard wakes up and finds Sheldon has finished the calculations on his theory and written a research paper. First, Leonard wonders why Sheldon wrote a paper about his idea. when did Leonard's idea become their idea? After Sheldon mixed it with Sheldon-y goodness and cooked it in the Easy-Bake Oven of his mind. Leonard looks over his work and thinks the paper is good. Their concept is revolutionary and he wonders if anyone else has considered it. The only way to know is to post it on-line. The longer they wait, they run a chance that someone else will publish first. Leonard thinks they should sent it out and the two of them both click the computer mouse to sent it out to the world.

The girls are getting together for movie night. Amy and Bernadette want to watch Penny's gorilla movie. Penny doesn't, but they do find it on line and start to watch it. The movie starts with a guy selling fresh bananas after which Bernadette knows this movie is going to be a train wreck.

In Leonard's lab he is continuing his work with super-cooled helium. Raj and Howard enter with some great news; their paper was mentioned on the Quantum Diaries physics blog. There is a paper summary and they are getting a lot of positive comments. "Insightful and innovating." "The concept shows some real out-of-the-box thinking." One person named "GeneralRelativity", comments that he wished this blog would devote itself to real science and not wanna theoreticians who are in a rush to publish. Sheldon is about to respond when the Internet troll adds that following on their work, he has a theory that space-time is like two clowns with their head in a bucket like Cooper and Hofstadter. Leonard tells Sheldon to do ahead a respond. Sheldon does and tells them that if one messes with the bull, one gets the horns and he is feeling rather horny. Leonard then asks Howard or Raj to compose the response.

Penny is suffering through watching her movie until she finally turns it off. Her character knows that she is a killer gorilla because she just bit off the fingers of the doctor's receptionist. Bernadette wants the remote control back; however, Amy tells her to watch her fingers around Penny. Penny then digs up a video of Bernadette in a beauty pageant. Bernie snaps back that she just came to the revelation that making fun of people is wrong. An adorable little Bernadette Maryann Rostenkowski campaigning for Miss California Quiznos in 1999. In her video she says that she really, really "wanna" to win it several times per the Spice Girls song. Bernadette is horrified, while Amy wants her to play it again.

In the apartment, they have not found any more comments from "GeneralRelativity". Sheldon response stated that they are both professionals and not crack-pots or wanna-be and that they stand behind their paper and, later that night, his mother. Leonard wonders if they had been too rough. Sheldon adds that they are just standing and didn't yell "boo!" at her.

Bernadette is embarrassed about her beauty pageant past in which Penny agrees. Then she blurts out that Amy writes "Little House on the Prairie" fan fiction that includes herself and Sheldon and post it on-line. Amy wants to know what she did to deserve that. Bernadette replies that tearing down other women was part of her pageant training. Amy insists that it's personal so Penny concludes that its about her and Sheldon. That is not true. Her story is about a physicist named Cooper travelling back in time and meeting a pioneer woman named Amelia. Penny quickly finds it and starts to read as Bernadette listens carefully.

Sheldon is frustrated that their troll hasn't responded. He wants to get back at him. Raj is creating some fake accounts to add positive comments about their paper. Finally the troll responds that Sheldon and Leonard's juvenile attempts at humor go to prove that the physicists at Caltech are nothing but a bunch of engineers which really insults Sheldon and Howard. Sheldon challenges the troll to meet them face to face. Leonard wants him to delete that message, but before Sheldon can comply he gets an Internet video call. Sheldon freaks out and slams his computer shut, thus not talking the call.

Penny and Bernadette are having a great time reading Amy's story. Sheldon is found to be exhausting even in her fantasies, comments Bernadette. Amy says that then he changes him because that is good writing. And wishful thinking. They get excited reading about how Amelia is reacting to the man from the future named Cooper as they start to flirt.

Back in the apartment they discuss how these trolls feel that the anonymity of the Internet allows them to say what they wouldn't say in front of their face. Sheldon remarks that he can't think of a thing that he wouldn't say in front of somebody. The guys decide to confront this troll, while Leonard wonders what this loser has ever accomplished. They return the call and find out that it was Professor Hawking. When asked if he didn't like their paper, he admits that he did find it intriguing and after forty years in a wheelchair, one gets bored. Leonard and Sheldon are so glad Hawking likes their work, and even Howard has to admit it's pretty cool.

Still reading Amy's story, Amelia is helping Cooper fix his time machine. Amy stops them after they seem to be making fun of her. Amy agrees and starts to read how Amelia wants him to stay, but he still has to depart. He disappears. Amelia starts to cry as a hand reaches for her shoulder. Cooper has returned. Amelia asks "What about the future?" He admits that there is no future without her. As Amelia starts to feel excited, Leonard runs in with his exciting news that Professor Hawking liked their paper. Penny and Bernie shout at him, "GET OUT!"

Finally, Cooper and Amelia (Sheldon and Amy) are seen with Cooper being bathed by Amelia. He thanks her for his warm bath and tells her all about his Underoos. Leonard tells her to keep reading the story while they are in bed. As Amelia starts to sponge off Cooper and asks about the ways of physical love in the future. Leonard gets weirded out and turns over to go to sleep.

The Comic Book Store Regeneration

Season 8

Episode Number: 174

Season Episode: 15

Originally aired:	Thursday February 19, 2015
Writer:	Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Nathan Fillion (Himself), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Angela Relucio (Hostess)
Production Code:	4X6764
Summary:	Amid the excitement of Stuart reopening his comic-book store, Howard gets some unsettling news; and after teaching Sheldon how to "let it go," Penny doesn't practice what she preaches when she learns something maddening about Amy. Meanwhile, Raj and Leonard run into a restaurant customer who looks a lot like actor Nathan Fillion.



Sheldon and Amy are eating lunch in Amy's lab and Sheldon tells her a science joke. "How many Edisons does it take to screw in a light bulb? None; he stole the idea and doesn't deserve his own joke. Jokes should entertain and inform." Barry Kripke shows up with a thank-you gift for Amy, who helped him with a paper on string theory. He incorporated her string theory idea and has gotten a great response. Sheldon says that he'd like to read it and to send it to sheldon@bazinga.biz (bazinga.com was already taken). Kripke replies that Sheldon can suck eggs and leaves. Sheldon

wonders why Amy never offered to help him when he was working on string theory. Amy reminds him that she did offer to help him, but he stated that the only thing math biologists know is "three frogs minus one frog equals two frogs." Amy thinks that Sheldon is being petty since all she did was help a fellow scientist. He reminds her of his professional rivalry with Kripke and that if they were friends, he would have told him to suck on something more pleasant, which causes Amy to giggle.

Howard is on the phone talking to his mother, who is visiting Howard's Aunt Gladys in Florida. He remarks to Bernadette that she is finally in a place where everyone complains about how sweaty they are. Howard is not happy that his mother wants him to check in on Stuart. Who is going to check on him if he is lonely? Bernadette reminds him that he has a wife, and that things will probably change since Stuart is reopening the comic book store. Howard just wants things to get back to normal between him and his mother. Bernadette wonders what normal really is.

Sheldon is working on his laundry as Penny enters the laundry room and he explains that he is mad at Amy. Penny thinks that helping someone else is a good thing, but he's not happy since

Amy is helping Kripke. Sheldon left string theory because he thought it was a dead end and by working with his rival, Amy may prove that he was wrong. He angrily balls up his dryer sheet and throws it into the dryer... well, actually, at the dryer, since he missed the opening by about a mile and a half. He apologizes that Penny had to see that display; she wishes she had a camera. Penny reminds him that he was always for the advancement of science; however, Sheldon is only interested in his advancement of science. Penny wants him to "let it go" and to talk to Amy. After berating her for what he thinks is pedestrian advice, he complains that life is giving him lemons and he doesn't know what to do about it. Penny tells him that he should shove them somewhere, with Sheldon replying that now she is getting creative.

Leonard, Raj and Stuart are working in Stuart's new comic book store. Raj tells him that the place looks great and that he should have burnt it down years ago. An upset Stuart once again claims that he didn't intentionally burn it down, which earns him a "suuure, you didn't" wink from Leonard. Howard and Bernadette enter, and they both voice their appreciation for the new store... until Howard sees some of his mother's den furniture in it. This sets Howard off, who says that maybe Stuart should bring over everything else from the den including the clown art he made as a kid. Stuart shoots back that he must have spent ten whole minutes on it. Howard then retorts that maybe he should have gone to art school, opened up a failed comic book store, and mooched off somebody's mother. Bernadette wants them to leave, but Howard refuses since her mother's money help Stuart reopen the store. Leonard and Raj leave to get the party food and exit an awkward situation.

Penny and Sheldon are in her apartment as she folds laundry (the wrong way, according to Sheldon, who takes over the chore out of sheer frustration with her methods). Sheldon wants to know how to let something go. She advises him to think of something else, and he proceeds to think of a spiny anteater, though it still comes back to Kripke. Penny wants him to try visualization and to imagine his problems are a pen: he should hold the pen and then let it go; however, Sheldon imagines such a special pen that he doesn't want to get rid of it. He tries another approach, telling Penny that Amy has been giving her puzzles to compare Penny's intelligence to that of the monkeys in her lab. Penny denies it until she remembers (via flashbacks) Amy giving her some scissors to assemble, some coins to sort by size, and a banana in a Chinese puzzle box. She gets mad at Amy and Sheldon tells Penny to let it go, and that he was rooting for Penny. She finds the whole experiment very insulting to be compared to monkeys. Sheldon wants her to imagine a non-special pen, which gets him thrown out of her apartment. Sheldon's happy because his suggestion worked: he was no longer mad at Amy.

Howard and Bernadette are sitting on his mother's couch in the comic book store with Bernadette commiserating with Howard. Bernadette reminds him that if the comic book store does well, Stuart will be able to move out of his mother's house. Howard reluctantly agrees, then petulantly says that he didn't marry her for her to make sense, he married her so that she could blindly support him no matter how ridiculous he was being. Bernadette counters that that's why she had to rewrite their wedding vows.

Raj and Leonard are at a deli picking up food for the comic book store party, when Raj spots Nathan Fillion sitting at a table eating his lunch. Raj suggests they ask him to do a guest signing at Stuart's new store. Leonard agrees, but is reluctant to approach him, because if he turns out not to be nice, it would ruin Firefly for him. Raj approaches him and the man denies being an actor, then gets insulted when Raj tells him he's not that bad an actor. He again denies being who they think he is and tells them he just wants to eat his lunch.

Amy arrives at Sheldon's apartment just as Penny comes out of hers. Penny, who's still mad at Amy, goes into full-on sarcasm mode, excitedly telling Amy that she got her door open all by herself, and to celebrate, she's going to throw some feces around her cage. Amy gets mad at Sheldon for telling Penny about the tests, which causes him to quickly shut the door. They want Sheldon to open the door, but he claims to be naked. Amy opens the door herself, and while she gets a very good view of Sheldon, Penny quickly tells him to pull his pants up. Amy then offers Penny \$5.00, which is what she paid each of the undergraduate students on which she performed the same intelligence test. Penny just wants her dignity back, so Amy offers her \$10.00.

Back at the deli, the man finally admits that he is Nathan Fillion, though a now-skeptical Raj wonders what he is doing eating alone in a deli. Nathan offers to have a picture taken with them, with Raj still skeptical. Nathan then asks if they want a picture of them with a guy that

looks like an annoyed Nathan Fillion. That's good enough for Facebook, according to Raj, and the resulting picture shows a smiling Raj, a happy Leonard giving a thumbs-up, and an unsmiling, very annoyed Nathan Fillion.

Leonard and Penny are now on the couch at the comic book store discussing how both Amy and Sheldon are doing experiments on both of them. Leonard brings up how hard the puzzle box was, with Penny expressing amazement that he couldn't get it open while she could. Amy and Sheldon walk in and Leonard and Penny say how dare they experiment on their friends and that they don't mind hurting their friends' feelings. Sheldon says, "That sounds like us," while at the exact same time Amy says, "It's not true." Howard comes in, still complaining, and Bernadette wants him to let it go. Sheldon says that he can help him with that, and tells him to picture an ordinary pen. Howard excuses himself to take a phone call while Amy asks how she can help. Penny tells her that the answer is in this puzzle box: one hand wrapped around her raised middle finger. Howard finishes his call and rejoins the gang, looking like he's in complete shock. Leonard asks if he's okay and he says he's not: his mother took a nap and never woke up. Bernadette breaks into tears and hugs him tightly, and everyone else goes over to console him. Leonard expects Sheldon to say something inappropriate. Instead, he comments, "When I lost my own my father, I didn't have any friends to help me through it, but you do." Penny gets broken up and remarks that she thought that he was going to say to let it go.

Later, the gang is back at Leonard and Sheldon's apartment. Raj finishes speaking to Bernadette on the phone: Howard is hanging in there, and they're leaving for Florida that night. The gang reflects on Mrs. Wolowitz's passing. Stuart can't believe she's gone, and will always be grateful to her for taking him in in his time of need, as he would have been homeless otherwise. Amy remarks that one of them would have offered him a place to stay, and Stuart retorts that he doesn't remember any offers. Raj is going to miss her, and reflects on how she made him feel welcome when he first came to America (especially when she thought that Raj was the gardener the first few years). Penny reflects on how Mrs. Wolowitz had told her that she was too skinny and should eat more. Amy remarks that she had said the same thing to her, and Penny tells Amy not to take this moment from her. Sheldon didn't like the way that she yelled, but will miss it. Leonard offered to yell at him if he wanted, but Sheldon said it just wouldn't be the same. Leonard and the rest of the gang then toast Mrs. Wolowitz, saying she was a great mother to all of them (which doubled as a toast by the cast to their own "mother," the late Carol Ann Susi, may she rest in peace).

The Intimacy Acceleration

Season 8
Episode Number: 175
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 26, 2015
Writer: Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Steve Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney), Molly Morgan (Hostess), Max Adler (Zombie), Stephanie Escajeda (Cindy)
Production Code: 4X6766
Summary: As a joke, Sheldon and Penny try an experiment designed to make participants fall in love. Also, Leonard, Amy, Raj and Emily spend the evening trying to escape a room with a "zombie." And, after returning from Mrs. Wolowitz' funeral, Bernadette and Howard run into trouble at the airport.



At dinner, Amy mentions that she read an article about an experiment where two people will fall in love in a matter of hours. Leonard feels that it really takes three to five years of shameless begging. Penny doesn't think either of them come out well in that story. Each participant answers intimate questions honestly and then after staring into each other's eyes for four minutes, they will fall in love. Sheldon considers the experiment nonsense since he has declared his love for Amy and the last time he stared into her eyes was because she had conjunctivitis. A magical evening according to Amy. Nei-

ther Raj nor Leonard thinks that would work. Sheldon proposes dragging two street people into Penny's apartment and...Amy quickly tells him no. Raj suggests he try the experiment on himself. Penny wants to also do it since she can ask Sheldon awkward questions about his inner most feelings and assures him that she won't fall in love with him.

Heading into Penny's apartment, Sheldon asks Penny that if they fall in love she would drive him to GaryCon (co-creator of Dungeons and Dragons) in Geneva, Wisconsin. Penny agrees and tells him she'll even throw in all the tee-shirts he wants.

Raj thinks that Amy and Leonard are being calm about Penny and Sheldon possibly falling in love. He does not like to tempt fate. The other halves are not worried and decide to perform the experiment themselves. Question 1: "Given the choice of anyone in the world, who would you like to have dinner with?" Leonard says Penny. Amy replies that she'd pick the janitor because she's about to throw up. They quit. Raj suggests that they do something with Emily. Howard and Bernadette are still travelling back from his mother's funeral in Florida. Raj says that Howard was taking it pretty well.

Switch to the airport arrivals area and Howard is screaming at the woman behind the desk who claims that the airline has lost the suitcase that contains his mother's ashes (urn) and he demands them back. He wants to know where she misplaced the only woman who ever loved him. Bernadette looks at him and he changes it to the first woman who ever loved him.

Starting the experiment, Penny asks Sheldon if he doesn't want wine. Sheldon doesn't want to drink when operating heavy machinery meaning his brain. The dinner guest question is first. Sheldon first mentions Euclid, the geometry founder, though he wears sandals and Sheldon can't eat dinner while looking at somebody's toes. Then he chooses himself, his own hero. Penny chooses Robert Downey, Junior a.k.a Iron Man. Sheldon then says he would like to join them for dessert.

Raj picks up Emily. Amy tells them to choose the evening's activity since she and Leonard are tagging along. Emily suggests the group visit an escape room where you have to solve puzzles to get out of a room which includes being locked in with a zombie. Raj mentions that is similar to what Penny is doing with Sheldon.

Sheldon poses the next question to Penny which is to describe her perfect day. Penny replies that it would be sleep-in, yoga, beach, massage, drinks and dancing. Sheldon notes that she didn't mention Leonard and that he wouldn't enjoy none of that. Penny snaps that he was there and he brought a book. Sheldon's perfect day would start with French toast and then he would travel to the future through a wormhole where his towering intellect is used to save the last remnants of humankind from a predatory alien race. What about Amy? Sheldon explains that she made the French toast.

The guys are escorted into a room which contains remnants of the laboratory of the late Dr. David Saltzburg who experimented on slowing the aging process. He died in a laboratory accident... or did he?. Leonard lets the ladies go first and Emily wonders if he is being polite or scared. Leonard agrees. Inside is a huge lab and the door is locked. As they start to look for clues out bursts a chained-up zombie which scares them. Emily is having a great time.

The airline employee tells Howard that his bag did arrive at the airport. Unfortunately maybe someone could have accidentally picked it up. Howard sarcastically concludes that his mother could be anywhere in Los Angeles. The worst news is that this person could have gotten on an international flight. Howard again yells at her that her job is to find lost luggage and she has narrowed it down to the planet earth, She bursts into tears and offers him 500 frequent flier miles, enough to get him to Sacramento.

Next question: If you could wake up with any one quality or ability, what would it be? Penny mocks that she would like to turn water into wine to which Sheldon complains that she is not taking the experiment seriously. So then she replies that she wishes she could be as smart as everyone else in their social group. Sheldon scoffs at this but then admits that while Penny is not academically inclined, she has intelligence that he envies. Sheldon would like to be able to read minds because he misinterprets how people are feeling. Are people joking with him or making fun of him. Are they mad at him or just in a bad mood. Penny is surprised and remarks that he seems so confident and that she wishes she could make life easier for him. Penny then has a wave of affection for him that passes after Sheldon asks if its just too much Bible juice.

While the zombie cries out that he wants some brains, they solve the cipher code. Amy and Leonard use it to find a city on a globe to get the combination to the safe. The zombie wants them to slow down and not figure it out so fast. They don't get a refund for finishing early.

At the airport, Howard is bothered that he didn't drive his mother to the airport on her way to Florida since that would have been the last time he would have ever seen her. He was too busy and he made her take a taxi. Bernadette is moved and informs the attendant, "You'd better find my husband's mother because either way, we're walking out of this airport with a dead woman," implying that if she doesn't find the ashes, Bernadette will kill her. The employee bursts into tears again.

In the safe, they find a copy of Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species" and in the book containing a black light. A riddle is hidden on the wall which Amy solves and Emily finds the key to open the door behind a picture. Emily had hoped the puzzles would have been harder, but the geniuses figured them out quickly and they spent \$200 for six minutes of fun. All the gang members have advanced degrees. The zombie tells them to remember when they talk about their escape room on Yelp.

Back at Penny's apartment and they are having dinner, Penny asks if Sheldon were to die today and couldn't communicate with anyone, what would he most regret not having told someone? Sheldon says that there is something satisfying dying on one's birthday. Today was Sheldon's birthday? Not even Amy knows when he was born. Sheldon despises gift giving and dreads surprise parties more than the term "George Lucas' director's cut". Sheldon told Penny because the point of the experiment was to be completely honest with somebody which really touches Penny, and he avoids them. Penny promises not to tell anyone though she wouldn't have thought he was a Pisces. Sheldon quips that she is making it hard for him to love her.

Finally the airport finds Howard's bag. Howard apologizes to his mother that he didn't take her to the airport and that she'll remain close to him the rest of his life. Bernadette is worried that the urn will end up in their bedroom.

For the final part of the experiment, Penny and Sheldon then stare into each other's eyes without talking. They are supposed to keep eye contact for a full four minutes and both struggle with this. Both find the experience creepy though they both admit that they are comfortable around each other and that they look on each other like a brother and sister. Sheldon says sometimes he feels like Penny is a mother which Penny finds creepy. Letting their minds wander, Penny can't believe it's been eight years. Sheldon can't believe she is still eating their food and he can tell her how much she owes them. Penny can't even remember a time when the guys weren't in her life. Sheldon can. The alarm goes off. Sheldon says it is safe to say that they are not in love with each other, but they do feel closer to each other. Given their new intimacy, they have some tough choices to make. How are they going to get to Garycon? And who gets to be Gary?

Penny walks Sheldon home or across the hall to his place. Sheldon thanks her for a very interesting evening. Inside, the guys jump out at him shouting "Surprise!" with a makeshift birthday party causing Sheldon to scream. Sheldon turns mad at Penny because he let her be Gary.

The Colonization Application

Season 8
Episode Number: 176
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday March 5, 2015
Writer: Dave Goetsch, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez, Steve Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney)
Production Code: 4X6767
Summary: There's trouble in paradise when Amy discovers Sheldon signed up for a one-way mission to colonize Mars, and the two get into a dogfight at a pet store. Meanwhile, Leonard makes a very "adult" purchase for Penny; and Emily catches Raj snooping in her apartment.



As Penny and Leonard climbs the stairs Leonard is very excited saying that he was totally unstoppable and in the zone. Penny brings him down because it was only miniature golf and she beat him. As they enter apartment 4A, Sheldon is glad they have returned because they have some exciting news. Amy and Sheldon announce that they are taking their relationship to the next level which really confuses Leonard and Penny. They are getting a pet together, a turtle. While Penny jokingly says that she keeps saying they should stock champagne on ice for occasions like this. Leonard congratulates them. Leonard wonders out loud that who would have thought that Amy and Sheldon would be the first couple in their group to start a family! Amy had the same thought.

In Emily's apartment, Raj and Emily have gotten together for movie night. Raj can spend the night because her roommate won't be back since Emily murdered her (or not). Raj reminds her that their agreement was for her to say "just kidding" when she was kidding about having killed someone. She also tells him that she would never hurt him making Raj a little uncomfortable. Emily gets a call from the hospital to check up on a patient. Raj is staying in the apartment until Emily gets back. And her roommate is in another city, or at least her torso is. She adds that she was just kidding since she used the wood chipper.

At the pet store, Sheldon can't stand walking by all the puppies. Then they try and pick out a turtle. The first one Amy suggests looks like a jerk to Sheldon. Sheldon likes one that is barely moving. Sheldon asks the turtle if he wants to come live with him even though they don't live in the same house. Amy reassures it that that is not

the turtle's fault as if it was a child of divorce. the turtle will stay at Amy's if Sheldon is away, at ComicCon or on Mars. Mars? Sheldon announces that he is putting in an application to be one of the first colonists on Mars. Amy is shocked especially since he didn't consult her. She would not have approved of it.

While making out on the couch, Leonard admits to Penny that he did get her a Valentine's Day gift, but was too embarrassed to actually give it to her since he bought it at the dirty book store. He got an artistic present which Penny thinks he got a Michael's. It is a canvass and body paint the use while having sex. Penny loves it.

Howard is playing a video game while Bernadette is doing their taxes. She has a lot of receipts from the Lego Store that Howard says are business expenses. Raj calls Howard while he is Emily's bedroom since he is alone. Raj opens the drawer of her bed bureau and can't get it closed. Raj doesn't want her to know he has been snooping. The he breaks the drawer trying to fix it. Bernadette hears what is going on and tells Howard that she is going to miss her.

Leonard and Penny inspect their canvass and are not happy with it. They didn't move around enough and vow that they can do better because they are not old and boring. Leonard is fine with trying again in thirty minutes after he recovers.

Sheldon and Amy are returning from the pet store without a turtle because the turtle bit him. Sheldon was trying to get the turtle to like him. Amy wonders why he even bothers since he is planning to leave earth the first chance he gets. Even though the chances of him being picked is small, it still hurts her that he didn't ask her before filling out the application. How he can survive another planet when he barely survived his turtle bite? Sheldon tries to cheer her up by playing the Star Trek theme on his nose. She was still mad.

In Leonard and Sheldon's apartment, Amy is still fuming and wonders why he even wants to go to Mars. He shows her his application video which answers that question. On the video Sheldon says how intellect, hygienically clean, much fun he would be. He demonstrates his wacky sense of humor on a long voyage by smashing a pie in Leonard's face.

After their second canvass, Penny is getting paint out of Leonard's eye because she wouldn't let him wear safety goggles.

Howard has Raj nailed the front back on the drawer. As Emily returns they get into a fight over his snooping. Bernadette mentions that if they break up, it will be too bad because she likes her.

In Penny's bedroom the new canvas is much more colorful and they are happy with the results. Penny refuses to hang a picture made by their butts in her apartment. They plan to give it to Sheldon and tell him that it was painted by William Shatner.

Amy decides to leave. Even though she thinks it sounds silly, she thought that getting a turtle together meant something to him. Sheldon chases after Amy who is mad since they were supposed to make plans for a future that's not on different planets. Sheldon asks Amy if they have to be on Earth? Are you suggesting we could go together? Sheldon wants her to go. Amy hugs him tightly as they go to file an application video together. Amy says that they could be the first to procreate on Mars. Sheldon tells her that she just can't keep it in her space pants. They She also mentions that their kids would be martians. Sheldon likes that idea.

Raj and Emily are together in bed after she forgave him. Then she asks if he looked in her closet and Raj says no. "Good," she replies smiling and then she goes to sleep. Raj looks worried.

The Leftover Thermalization

Season 8
Episode Number: 177
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday March 12, 2015
Writer: Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steve Holland
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: 4X6768
Summary: An electrical short thaws the last meal that was cooked by Mrs. Wolowitz, and the gang ponders what to do with it, while Sheldon and Leonard's work is featured in a magazine, but only one receives credit.



As Sheldon checks out his mail box, he finishes reciting the irrational constant pi to one thousand places. Amy remarks that she was sorry she asked, but she hadn't ask for him to do it. Sheldon gets his "Scientific American" magazine which has an article on the theory that Leonard proposed and Sheldon helped develop, but the article only mentions "Dr. Cooper and his team" having worked on it. Leonard is not identified. Sheldon only answered their questions. Amy tells Sheldon that Leonard is going to be very upset like the time Sheldon didn't get picked to pull the sword out of

the stone at Disneyland. Now Sheldon knows how Leonard will feel. Raj and Howard head over to his mother's house to go through her things. He finds it hard sorting through everything. Raj had the same experience going through an uncle's possessions and found that he worshiped a different Indian Goddess than he claimed to. A lot of his mother's stuff brings back fond memories though Bernadette wonders about the drawer full of catsup packets.

Sheldon tries to tell Leonard about the omission of his name in the article with the example that Leonard's name is not on the cable TV bill. Telling him that he is not going to like what he is about to say, Sheldon mentions the article and Leonard thinks that they hated it. The article did praise their work, but didn't mention Leonard. Sheldon tries to help lose his anger by giving him a massage which Leonard doesn't want. "Cooper and his team?" exclaims Leonard. Sheldon for once says that he had nothing to do about the byline. Leonard says that the bright side is that they are talking about the theory. Sheldon agrees that that is what is important like when Stan Lee and Steve Ditko created Spider-Man and only Stan Lee is ever mentioned, gets all the money, is in the all the movies, etc. Leonard is very unhappy.

At his mother's house, Stuart is still living there. Howard tried putting him out on the curb, but nobody took him. Stuart tells Howard that the power is going to be out until the next day. Howard runs to check the freezer and finds the food defrosting. Howard is upset because it is the last food his mother ever made and they can't refreeze it. He wants them to eat it, though

there is twenty pounds of food. To use up all the food, Howard decides to invite everyone over for a meal. It will be like his mother is feeding them one last time.

In Penny's place, Leonard is still depressed over his name being excluded. Penny wonders who even reads "Scientific American" especially with no celebrity on the cover. Penny is going to cheer him up by going online to shop for him. Leonard says that that is her cheering up thing until she finds a helicopter with a camera making him feel better. Sheldon comes in after talking to the author of the article who has been following his work for years and only did the article because Sheldon's name was connected with it. Also they made an editorial decision to only list the lead author. He did try to add Leonard's name to the cable bill, but they took too long. Also Howard called to invite them over for dinner. On the way to the Wolowitz house, both Sheldon and Leonard are complaining to their girls about the magazine article. Amy tells Sheldon that it was Leonard's idea; however, Sheldon has ideas all the time. i.e. Reverse SeaWorld where dolphins pet people. Was it his fault that he has a bigger reputation or that his name came first? Amy agreed. Then he asked if it was his fault that he didn't correct the author and Amy starts looking the pretty bird off to her left. Leonard is upset that Sheldon is willing to let everyone think that he did all the work. Penny counters with that is why he is getting an iPad helicopter.

In the kitchen, Raj, Bernadette and Howard start to prepare their meal. He finds strange things in the freezer like cake from his Bar mitzvah and his prom boutonniere. The meal consists of three briskets, four meatloafs, Jewish ravioli (noodle strudel), two pound cakes, a tub of matzo ball soup and no vegetables. His mother thought she could cure any sickness with her cooking including the time Howard got food poisoning from it.

Stuart escorts the guys into the living room lit by candles and menorahs. Penny thinks everything looks beautiful. Sheldon comes in, says hello and then "Hello, Leonard" who has to be mentioned by name. Howard tells everyone that this is not a sad occasion and that they are going to have the kind of dinner they have had so many times before including the heartburn. The girls tell the guys to behave themselves which they agree to. Then Stuart asks about the paper they wrote together. At the table, the food is found to be delicious even though there are not vegetables. Howard corrects them that he has tomatoes in the packets of catsup. Amy feels like they are in an 18th century French salon due to the candle lighting. Sheldon describe to Penny that the French salon is where intellectuals talk about the issues of the day. Penny compares it to "The View". Amy tells Sheldon what "The View" is, which Sheldon is aware of. Whoopi Goldberg is on it as was on Star Trek: Next Gen. He tries to describe that to Penny who tells him to shut up. The topic of female equality among super heroes comes up, since in the revamped Marvel universe, Thor (mispronounced Tor) is going to be a woman. Amy quips that there won't be equality until Thor is a mother and the others are fine with her pumping out breast milk at work. Sheldon just wants to keep the topic on an intellect level as in a French salon. It is all about execution. Leonard complains that Sheldon would prefer execution over inspiration like with their paper. Howard favors execution since he is an engineer bringing concepts to reality. Sheldon agrees; however, Leonard notes that Sheldon always tears down Howard and engineering as a profession. Penny wants them to stop because if she wanted to hear bitchiness, she would go to her real salon. Sheldon and Leonard really start fighting until Bernadette gets angry and demands that Sheldon and Leonard go into the living room. She is heard yelling at the top of her voice that Howard is dealing with the loss of his mother. Then Howard wants to know if they think that she sounds like his mother. Everyone says that they never noticed that, but they aren't very convincing.

Finally everyone is overstuffed and lying around the living room. Penny doesn't think she ever ate that much food in her entire life. Sheldon finds out that the research paper was mentioned in "Physics Today" and that Leonard was credited. A dishearten "yay" is heard. Bernadette comes down the steps saying that she found her Tums for their upset stomachs and a bigger "yay" is heard.

The Skywalker Incursion

Season 8
Episode Number: 178
Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday April 2, 2015
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Steve Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Tate Ellington (Mitchell), Michael Dempsey (Security Guard), Mark Barrett (Security Guard #2)
Production Code: 4X6769
Summary: A speaking engagement at UC Berkeley puts Leonard and Sheldon in a galaxy not too far, far away from their idol George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch, and they consider dropping by. Meanwhile, Howard and Bernadette argue over what to do with his Doctor Who TARDIS, so Raj and Amy try to settle things with a game of table tennis.



Sheldon is working on the opening joke for their lecture on Leonard's theory at UC: Berkeley. "What do you say to a graduate of the UC: Berkeley physics department? I'll have fries with that." Penny quips that when they chase them, Leonard will have to run faster than Sheldon. Sheldon also has a PRK or Public Restroom Kit stocked with everything he needs including toilet paper and a mirror to check under the stalls for weirdos. How weird is that?

Sheldon and Leonard are on their way to give a lecture at UC Berkeley and have plenty of time. Sheldon plays a game of "I can't spy" which includes sub-atomic particles. Leonard guesses it right away so Sheldon does want to play anymore. They both think it's cool to be on a road trip and presenting a paper at another university together. Sheldon is so happy he's going to let Leonard turn on the radio and listen to music. He tells him to "Play that funky music white boy", but never heard of the song his reference came from.

At Howard's mother's house, the rest of the gang is preparing for a garage sale from the items in the garage. Amy is in charge of pricing since she has been going to garage sales forever. Raj finds a ping-pong table which Howard used to play with his Transformers. Raj and Penny used to play, while Amy only served since she had no one to play with. Howard is upset that Bernadette is planning on selling his Doctor Who TARDIS. He wants to save it until it's worth half what he paid for it. Bernadette doesn't want it moved into the house.

Listening to the radio Sheldon hears the "Play your funky music, white boy," Sheldon is confused that because they are asking the white boys to play it and yet the white boys are listening to this funky music. It's a paradox so Sheldon turns it off since music should be fun

and not contradictory. Due to being ahead of schedule, they decide to head to Star Wars director George Lucas' headquarters at Skywalker Ranch and see if they can get in. Sheldon gets "so excited, that he just can't hide it", though he again misses his reference to a popular song.

Penny and Raj are playing ping-pong, though not too competitively. Bernadette wants to update the house to tasteful modern instead of Jewish mother ketchy. Amy talks about pricing the TARDIS, while Howard still wants to keep it. Bernadette suggests that they arm wrestle for it. Raj suggests ping-pong. Bernadette doesn't think that's fair since he grew up with it, though he just used it as a Transformer-Thunder-cats battlefield. Penny offers to play for Bernie because of all of the Doctor Who episodes Leonard has made her sit through. Howard chooses Raj since he was a champion boy's school badminton player. The fate of the TARDIS will be decided by a Game of Thrones battle on the battlefield of Transformers and Thunder-cats.

Leonard drives up to the Skywalker Ranch gate and are in awe of it though it is so plain. Sheldon wants to try and get in. Leonard uses the speaker box and tells the guard that they are big fans, but not the crazy type that have a backpack filled with duct tape and rope. The guard can't hear them and buzzes them in.

Next they reach the security guard and Sheldon says they have defeated the first quest. Leonard insists that they are trying to meet George Lucas, not slay a dragon. Leonard just wants to be honest with the guard. As a back-up plan Sheldon hopes that they have a nurse's office which will work as long as Leonard has a willingness to be gently stabbed. Leonard tells the guard that they don't have an appointment, but they're really scientists and big fans. The security guard won't let them in. Sheldon claims that he's there to do a Yoda voice-over. The security guard says no and offers them free hats and t-shirts as souvenirs. Sheldon jumps out of the car and runs in. Other guards chase him and he gets tased in front of Leonard.

Penny is playing Raj and is losing 8 to 4. Bernadette tells Raj if he wins the TARDIS can be moved to his apartment. It would look great as his front door since the TARDIS is "bigger on the inside". Raj decides to lose. Howard demands a new champion and wants Amy to play for him. She claims to be rusty, but has a fast powerful serve that throws Penny. Bernadette chooses Raj to replace Penny.

Sheldon and Leonard are now being held in a detention room with another guy. Sheldon wonders if they are going to call the police. Leonard sarcastically says that Imperial officers will probably take them to a holding cell in the Deathstar. Sheldon asks the other guy what he was in for. He wanted to get in and say thank-you to them for creating a world where he fit in. He also tried to make-out with a Chewbacca statue. Sheldon joins Leonard and tells him not about the other guy, rather about the statue garden they have. The guard lets them go with a warning, but they are not to return or they will be arrested. Also they will have their picture taken for posting in the guard shack. Sheldon wants to know if he can have his picture taken with George Lucas. After no response from the guard, Sheldon says in his best Yoda voice impression "Quite grumpy, you are."

The match is to eleven points. Raj can't return Amy's power serve and Amy can't return Raj's serves. The game goes to 10-10. Final point would allow Howard to keep his TARDIS until Bernadette convinces Amy that if she loses, she can have the TARDIS, replace her bedroom door with the box's door and lure Sheldon into her bed. So Amy throws the game and Howard loses. The door is installed as Amy's bedroom door. Bernadette tells her that if the TARDIS doesn't get Sheldon into her bedroom, then nothing well. Amy looks excited.

Leonard is climbing the stairs mad at Sheldon because they almost got arrested and missed their chance to give their lecture. And they were held in a room with a Wookiee crazy sex fiend. Sheldon's upside is that they got onto Skywalker Ranch which no one they know has done and with all the times he has irritated Leonard, he got to him hit with a taser. Leonard does admit that they could call it an adventure though Sheldon still hasn't recovered his sense of smell since his tasing.

Sheldon dressed as the Fourth Doctor runs into Amy's bedroom claiming that they have to reset the time circuits. and finds Amy on her bed. He claims he left his sonic screwdriver outside and runs back out to get it. Amy realizes that she didn't think her plan through.

The Fortification Implementation

Season 8

Episode Number: 179

Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 9, 2015
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Saladin Patterson, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Wil Wheaton (Himself), Kevin Smith (Kevin Smith (voice)), Matt Bennett (Josh Wolowitz), Rena Strober (Caller (voice))
Production Code: 4X6770
Summary: When Sheldon and Amy build a blanket fort, they come to major crossroads in their relationship. Meanwhile, Howard meets the half-brother he never knew he had, and Penny is invited to appear on Wil Wheaton's podcast.



At the cafeteria, Howard and Raj are arguing whether Internet animation files are pronounced "jif" or "gif". No conclusion is reached as Sheldon shows up quite irritated. He wasn't invited to a weekend physics symposium at one of Richard Feynman's former homes for a group of elite scientists. Howard tells him that it was probably because he is a pain in the ass and Sheldon says that he's just saying that to make him feel better.

Raj brings Howard and Bernadette a house warming gift, nine boxes of Girl Scout cookies. They now have clear title to his house since his lawyer's tracked down his father and he signed it over to

him. Howard didn't meet him and doesn't want to know where he is. Raj wonders if he is in prison, or a spy or playing Ringo in a Beatles' cover band.

Wil Wheaton is setting up a podcast for him and Penny to talk about and take calls about their horrible ape movie. Though most people download it later, a few thousand people will be listening live.

Amy and Sheldon are having a Date Night dinner and Sheldon is still very depressed. He hopes that an asteroid hits the house the symposium is being held in. Since that is not going to happen, Amy is in for a cranky night. The Relationship Agreement dictates that they cannot pout or be moody on Date Night. To counter this codicil, Sheldon hides behind a happy face mask.

While Raj and Bernadette discuss redecorating ideas, the doorbell rings. A young man is there and tells Howard how a lawyer contacted his father, Sam Wolowitz, about the title on that house. Since Sam was Howard's father, that makes the young man, Howard's half-brother. Howard calls and tells Bernadette that weird things were happening.

Penny is answering a question that she first knew it was a bad movie when she read the title: Serial Ape-ist 2: Monkey See, Monkey Kill. Wil invites Leonard to join the podcast. One caller says

that she loves the movie and saw it ten times. Penny apologizes for the first time, but the other nine are on the caller. The movie has become a cult classic and Wil saw someone at a convention dressed up as Penny's half-ape character. Next actor/director Kevin Smith calls in and is a big fan of the movie and he loved Penny's performance. He wants Penny to audition for his new movie "Clerks 3". Leonard reminds her that she already has a job; however, Penny didn't ask him.

Sheldon is talking to Amy about being left out of things in his life including the forts built by his brother and sister when he was growing up. Amy can't get him invited to the symposium, but she suggests that together they could build their own fort. Sheldon runs off to get the blankets while Amy is suppose to Google how to have child-like fun.

Howard runs off to get more coffee leaving Josh with Bernadette. He is an oceanography student in San Diego; while Bernadette loves "Finding Nemo". Raj challenges him as to who he really is though who would still claim to be a Wolowitz? Does he want money, a kidney or for Howard to replace his father as Ringo in a Beatles' cover band? Bernadette sends him after Howard. Howard is upset that Josh shows up and that his father has another family. Howard wants to tell Josh to leave until Josh exclaims how amazing that his brother is an astronaut. Howard starts to explain about the greatest adventure of his life.

Wil is having fun hosting Penny and Leonard's fight about her career, though Penny says that it's just a discussion. Penny reminds him that they could have a wonderful life if she becomes rich and famous. Leonard reminds her that it is a Kevin Smith movie. Kevin then hangs up on them. Leonard is just trying to protect her after all her other acting disappointments. Penny just wants him to be happy for her. He was happy for her when she got her current job that pays a decent wage. Decent? She makes twice what Leonard makes. Leonard went to school half his life and still has college loans, which Penny offers to help him pay off.

Finishing up their fort, Amy comes in to check out the Christmas lights Sheldon hung inside. They find their fort amazing and then rough it by sitting on the floor.

Howard is entertaining Josh with magic until he figures he has to go. Howard hopes to see him again. Josh has always dreamed to have someone to play catch and Bernadette tells him that he'll have to keep dreaming. Howard mentions using the robot to do it, and Josh thinks he means sex. Howard did build a robot arm. Josh thinks that that is all you need. Howard hugs him telling Josh that he is definitely his brother.

Penny has been putting together a diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds with her broker. Leonard says he doesn't because he doesn't have any money. Leonard wonders who the mature one now in this relationship is. Penny asks him if he would feel better if she did something stupid like sneaking out from work and trying out for a Kevin Smith movie? Leonard agrees and Wil Wheaton comments that Penny just played him like a violin.

As date night draws to a close, Shamy is finishing their first annual greatest fort ever contest. Their fort (Fort Cozy McBlanket) beats Fort Knox. After Amy's alarm goes off, Sheldon isn't ready to stop and suggests that they extend the Date Night parameters. Amy suggests their first sleepover. Sheldon is fine as long as it is G-rated, though Amy is pushing for PG. Does she need pajamas or a toothbrush? Amy had previously hid a set under the couch cushion in case she ever spent the night. And there might be another set in Sheldon's bedroom.

Leonard returns home and finds the fort built using his sheets. Sheldon wants Leonard to ask to come in just so he can say no. Leonard agrees and asks to come in. Unfortunately, Sheldon thinks it's such a great fort that he can't say no, though he won't let Leonard sit in his spot.

The Communication Deterioration

Season 8
Episode Number: 180
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 16, 2015
Writer: Dave Goetsch, Steve Holland, Jeremy Howe, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Sara Erikson (Gwen), Kelli Goss (Chelsea), Phoebe Neidhardt (Casting Assistant), Jeff Jingle (Alien (voice)), Mark Maitre (Alien #2 (voice))
Production Code: 4X6771
Summary: When Raj is asked to create a message on the off chance a NASA mission discovers alien life, the guys fight over what he should do, while Penny contemplates returning to acting.



In the Caltech cafeteria, Sheldon tells Leonard and Howard that he has been working on songs and changing the lyrics to get kids interested in the hard sciences. To the tune of "B-I-N-G-O" he substitutes the name of physicist James Clark Maxwell. Leonard stops him when he removes the first letter of his name by clapping thus start the final seven-teen verses. The second song was to "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" explaining in the song that it is not an insect since it has eight legs and a body with two parts. Leonard thinks that that one was cool. Raj joins them and starts talking about a NASA project to try to contact alien lifeforms.

When Leonard contacted alien life he found the best things was not to sit in his spot. Sheldon looked annoyed. Raj had been asked to put in a proposal for a message and a delivery system and asked the guys if they wanted to help. Sheldon and Howard start spouting out ideas until Raj gets mad that they aren't asking him for ideas. He just wants to work with Leonard whom he considers a gentleman.

Leonard shows up at Raj's apartment excited to work on Raj's project. Raj is glad to have him since they others would have taken over the project and bossed them around. Just that morning, Sheldon wouldn't let Leonard put almond flavored soy milk on his Grape Nuts because the tastes conflicted. He used club soda. Sheldon and Howard are considered alpha males, making Leonard and Raj the second in charge or beta males. But then they could be omega males who are bossed around by the alphas and betas. Leonard is already to begin though Raj who is in charge doesn't know how to start his project.

Penny approached the door of Apartment 4A, does a triple knock and smiles at her little joke. Sheldon answers the door telling her that he knew it started out as a joke, but by the third knock she probably found it enjoyable. Penny agrees that she wants to do it again. Sheldon tells her

that she better not or she'll never stop doing it. Leonard was not there, though Penny came to talk to Sheldon. He thought that that was nice and his favorite topics are quantum mechanics, trains, flags... Penny seeks advice on whether she should try out for the movie. That's not on Sheldon's list. Penny explains that she has to decide whether to take the audition and risk the job she likes if she should happen to get the movie. Sheldon knows what she should do, but can't tell her since earlier the guys told him that he tends to force his ideas on people and he is trying to turn over a new leaf. Instead Sheldon decides to change the topic to trains.

Howard is in his late mother's kitchen making molecule-size cocktails contained in a pill size sphere. He offers on to Bernadette who has to put it in her mouth and pop it like a zit. She decides to have a beer instead. First Howard takes a picture of them and his mini-cocktail to send to Raj whom he had planned to do it with. He just wanted him to feel bad since he wasn't working on the space project with him. Bernadette tells him that he doesn't have to do everything with Raj and that his revenge was childish. Howard explains that he is just a natural born leader which Bernadette questions. She then tells him that he is a leader and then tricks him into cleaning up the kitchen by himself. "That's my big boss man."

Back in apartment 4A, the topic is still trains and Sheldon is explaining about the cow catcher on antique locomotives. He prefers to call it a cow exploder. Penny then asks Sheldon that if she were in a train station and one train took her to her current job and the other one to an acting job, which train should she get on? Sheldon suggest a third train that goes to the audition and then she puts off a career decision until after she gets the part. Penny agrees with him and calls him a wise man. Then Sheldon throws out the statement that who is wiser, the wise man or then one who seeks his wisdom. Penny appreciates the compliment, but Sheldon won't let go that he is the wise man. Also she didn't ask Leonard because he would jump on it and tell her not to do it.

Discussing their project, they mention the Voyager gold record that was sent for aliens, but they needed to build a record player to listen to it. E.T. built a phone out of an umbrella and a Speak-and-Spell. Then they get all emotional over the pain that E.T. suffered in the movie. Changing the subject, they want something simple that doesn't require outside machinery. Do the aliens even have eyes? Animals use their other senses to deliver messages like scent and touch. They could send out a system that has a video message and also delivers it in a matter that uses the sense of touch. This idea was also the one that Howard and Sheldon had.

Back at the Caltech cafeteria, Sheldon is demonstrating a song to Howard about animal senses to the tune of "The Eye of the Tiger" from "Rocky 3". Leonard and Raj join them and ask Sheldon and Howard to join the project. Both of them get sarcastic. Leonard and Raj want them back because their idea sounded great. After Sheldon and Howard are back on the team, Leonard says that they should all get together tonight. Sheldon insists that it should be Raj's decision since it's his project. Raj wants to start immediately; however, Sheldon isn't available until tonight.

Penny shows up at the audition talking to herself that she can do this. She wonders why she ever gave it up, enters the casting room and finds twenty other blonde actresses also applying for the part. Now she remembers why she gave it up.

Raj is explaining how they are going to work. The next speaker must respect what the last one had just said and build on it. Sheldon says he is going to build on it and now wants to order dinner. Raj and Leonard want them to get back on topic, but all they talk about is dinner. Sheldon turns it into a game where everybody else loses and he goes off to order pizza.

Another actress recognizes Penny and asks where she has been. She tells her about her new job. Now she can act that inflamed heart is only a mild side effect. She does miss acting sometimes, while the other woman is sick of the humiliation and being treated like a piece of meat. She gets called and immediately perks up. "Wish me luck." The actress next to Penny says that she is sure she is pushing forty and everything is fake. Penny admits to starting that rumor.

After having decided on the delivery system they start to discuss the message. The Pioneer probe showed a naked man and woman though Sheldon thought that that showed to predator races how soft and squishy we are. Raj prefers a person waving and holding the severed head of a tiger. Howard thinks thinks that a passive-aggressive message is ridiculous. What about his molecule-size cocktail picture? Or when he asks everybody to help and only chooses Leonard. Their squabble includes going to Comic-Con as Jabba the Hutt and Leonard was the tail, Howard took Sheldon to NASA in Texas, Leonard and Sheldon went to Skywalker Ranch and Sheldon

spent the night with James Earl Jones. In each example, Sheldon came out on top and loved it, therefore when he is in charge, good things happen. Leonard insists that Raj is in charge. Sheldon then adds that who is in charge, the guy in charge or the people who put him there? Raj agrees that they are all in charge, but Sheldon tells them that they got that wrong too.

At Penny's place, she explains to the girls how much she had forgotten how much she hated that world. The anxiety, the depression, the negativity. She doesn't want to feel those things. She wants to sell drugs to those who feel those things. She felt she did a lousy reading for the part and then walked out. She thought that she never properly thanked Bernie for getting her her job. Bernadette suggests that Penny take her out to dinner as a more proper thank-you. Amy adds she should be invited too since they were discussing it in front of her. Penny cheerfully agrees. Bernadette asks how about now? Penny reluctantly agrees and has to be reminded to bring her wallet. Finally, a fleet of alien spaceships cruise by. A couple of extra-terrestrials with tentacles are watching Sheldon in his video. As the image changes, a 3D simulator full of pins also shows the image. Sheldon tells the universe where to find our planet. They think that the soft pink creature looks quite delicious and they want to feast upon him just like Sheldon thought they would.

The Graduation Transmission

Season 8

Episode Number: 181

Season Episode: 22

Originally aired:	Thursday April 23, 2015
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, Dave Goetsch, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan
Director:	Anthony Rich
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Brian George (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali), Alice Amter (Mrs. Koothrappali), Max Mittelman (Tech Support (voice)), Katherine Von Till (Tech Support Recording (voice)), Robert Clotworthy (Headmaster Edwards)
Production Code:	4X6772
Summary:	Howard questions his engineering abilities when he and Sheldon can't get a toy drone to fly. A cancelled flight nearly prevents Leonard from giving the commencement address at his former high school. Raj pits his parents against each other when his father cuts him off financially.



Howard is looking over the helicopter that Raj has bought. Even though it's the top of the line, Raj just can't get it to work. Leonard enters with his packed suitcase to find that Penny is not even ready. The two of them are off to Leonard's old high school where he is giving the commencement address. Sheldon is worried that Leonard will lose an eye when all their mortar board hats are thrown in the air. Amy thinks that it's nice that he's taking Penny. After a poor high school experience, he gets to return as a successful scientist with a beautiful girl on his arm and, per Sheldon, a pointy hat sticking

out of his eyeball.

As Penny and Leonard head down the stairs, Penny explains how she packed so fast. One spring break she took nothing, but a long T-shirt and a belt. As Leonard is knocking New Jersey, he gets a text message that their airline flight has been canceled due to bad weather.

Howard and Sheldon are trying to get the helicopter video system to work. First they are trying to calibrate it. Sheldon complains about how the manual is written. The procedure doesn't work and they have to do it again trying to get the colored light sequence correct.

In his apartment, Raj receives a Skype call from his father. First he asks about his girlfriend Emily and then yells at him for spending a month's rent on a toy helicopter. His father wants to teach him some responsibility and is going to eliminate his monthly allowance. Raj tries to explain to him that he misses everybody so much and since they are getting a divorce, playing with his toy will make him feel better. Dr. K doesn't buy it.

Howard is still trying to re-calibrate the copter and succeeds until the final step. Now Howard wants to look inside it to fix it even though it voids the warranty. As is often the case, he does point out his master's degree from M.I.T.

The next day, Penny returns from shopping with a pick-me-up present for Leonard. She bought him a cap and gown and arranged with his old high school to give his address on Skype. The gown is from a costume store is very short since it is a "sexy graduate" costume.

The helicopter is completely disassembled on the kitchen counter. Howard doesn't seem completely sure what all the parts do, but he still flaunts his education. Sheldon reminds him of the space toilet he built for the space station that didn't work. Howard counters that the toilet wasn't designed for the Russian cosmonaut's potato base diet. Raj shows up and freaks out that he took it apart. Sheldon assures him that Howard can solve any problem that doesn't originate in a Russian man's colon. Raj wants to return the helicopter due to his father's actions. After Howard gets him to calm down, Raj decides to take responsibility for his life and calls his mother. She finds him calling her a nice surprise. She can't believe he came from the poisonous seed of his father. He tells her that his father can't send him funds anymore due to his active social life. His mother wants to know who he has been seeing and she promises to send Raj more money than his father was. Raj tells the guys that he'll buy helicopters for everyone.

Leonard comes out of the bedroom dressed only in his sexy graduate just for Penny who appreciates it. Penny tells him that he looks sexy and is supposed to wear clothes under his robe. He is surprised that she knows that. Leonard is going to dress up more to deliver his speech. Penny offers to take him someplace nice if he'll put on a belt ala her own Spring break outfit.

Howard had narrowed down the problem to a faulty pin on a computer chip. Sheldon is impressed and asked him if he could fix a toy locomotive that no longer puffs smoke. One toy a time, Sheldon. Bernadette shows up with the tools that Howard asked for. Raj plans on just buying a new helicopter; however, Howard as an engineer wants to fix the problem. Bernadette suggests that they call tech support. The geniuses balk at that suggestion. Howard laughs at people who call those folks.

At Leonard's old high school, he is introduced as a distinguished alumni, the noted Caltech physicist, Doctor Leonard Hofstadter. Leonard remembers that last time he was in that auditorium, the lacrosse team played with his asthma inhaler. He thanks his beautiful fiancée for setting up the broadcast and then surprises Penny by showing her on video. She says "hi" and for everyone to stay in school and stay off drugs, even though they are currently graduating.

The helicopter now has a working power supply, WiFi, GPS, and a charged battery. Bernadette adds that they also wasted four hours of their lives. They prepare for takeoff as the helicopter lets out a puff of smoke just like Sheldon's locomotive used to. Howard concedes to Bernadette to call tech support. He thinks he'll end up talking to a foreigner looking at the same manual he has. As he dials the number, Raj's phone rings; however, it really, his father. He wants to know what he talked to his mother about. Raj claims that she has a lot of imagination and that it's good he took after his father. Dr. K was Raj's role model and that is what got him into science so he claims. Then Raj charges into the apartment asking who wants to fly to Vegas on a real helicopter?

Continuing his speech about knowledge, Leonard changes the subject to that he is probably as bored with the speech as he is or Penny. His speech is about how high school is wonderful and prepares you for life though it was a terrible experience for him. Reflecting on how he didn't feel like he existed, he then speaks to the smart and invisible students currently at the high school. With all that time they are spending alone, they are just becoming interesting and people out in the world find them a lot cooler than they thought. For the popular kids, their popularity is now over. He finishes up with congratulating all of them.

The guys are still waiting to have a tech rep get on line. Howard muses that he has become an old man now baffled by modern technology. Suddenly the helicopter turns on and starts flying. Bernadette warns that they shouldn't be flying that in the apartment. No one is piloting it because it picked up a random WiFi signal from elsewhere. It starts to fly around the apartment terrorizing everyone. Tech support answers and an anxious Sheldon tells him that there's a robot uprising and he should call the police.

In the last scene, the helicopter is still flying all over and attacks Leonard and Penny in the hallway.

The Maternal Combustion

Season 8

Episode Number: 182

Season Episode: 23

Originally aired:	Thursday April 30, 2015
Writer:	Steven Molaro, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director:	Anthony Rich
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter)
Production Code:	4X6773
Summary:	Personalities collide when Sheldon and Leonard's mothers finally meet. Meanwhile, Howard finally decides to "man up" and do his fair share of the housework — but not without a little help from his friends.



While setting up dinner, Leonard, Sheldon, Penny and Amy are discussing the upcoming the visits of the guy's mothers to see them get an award. Leonard knows when his mother reaches California airspace by feeling a disturbance in the Force. Sheldon is preparing a bowl of yellow roses for his mother. If Amy asks for roses, then he calls them a "bouquet of severed plant genitals". Sheldon did get her a rotting log that produced mushrooms for Valentine's Day. Penny wonders if she should get something for Beverly since she is not that excited about her relationship with Leonard. Leonard

suggests her getting a Ph.D overnight, though Penny points out that it did not work for him and his mother. Will the two different women get along? One is brilliant while the other is sweet and simple according to Sheldon who compares it to his relationship with Leonard.

Sheldon is having tea with his mother who is proud of both of the, but can't understand the research paper they wrote about understanding the universe as an n-dimensional super-fluid. And the God saving the world with an ark is nonsense? Sheldon wants his mother to keep the Bible babble down when talking to the brilliant psychiatrist and woman of science Dr. Beverly Hofstadter. Mary wants to know if Sheldon is ashamed of her. Sheldon does love her, but is embarrassed by the thinks that she believes, does and says.

Leonard and his mother are climbing the stairs, while she asks about a wedding date. Leonard and Penny are taking it slow. "I see," comments Beverly. After seeing each other for seven years, she wonders if the sex between them is satisfactory. Leonard reluctantly agrees. "Only satisfactory?" Leonard changes his answer to that it's very hot and then Beverly wonders why he is trying to impress his mother with his sexual prowess. Leonard then asks his mother to do all her analysis in front of the sweet religious Mary Cooper.

Enter the apartment, Sheldon goes to greet Beverly who read their paper and called it brilliant. She didn't say anything to Leonard. She feels that is a mother's job to make sure that her child's

self-esteem is not dependent on any else's approval. Mary and Beverly meet and shake hands. Both had good flights, though Mary felt like someone, she's not saying who, was watching over her. Beverly asks if she was kidding.

In her house, Bernadette comes into the kitchen and finds Stuart in his underwear taking care of an itch on his posterior. Bernadette doesn't mind him living there, but among the rules, he has to wear pants. Howard then comes in his underwear.

Mary tells Beverly that she must be proud of her son. She replies that he is arguing his first legal case in front of the Supreme Court. Oh, you mean Leonard? Yeah, he's terrific. Sheldon starts to show Beverly the math he worked out for his hypothesis. Oops, Leonard's hypothesis. Beverly wonders when Mary first knew that Sheldon was going to have such a remarkable mind. When he was thirteen he tried to build the nuclear reactor to supply electricity for the whole town because he was always concerned about the well-being of others. This statement confuses Leonard. To power the reactor he had arranged to get some yellow cake (uranium) from a warlord in Chad (Africa), his mother thought he was getting some Twinkies from a local friend. Leonard wants his mother to tell the story about how he made a Van de Graff generator out of their vacuum cleaner. Beverly just comments that he broke the vacuum cleaner.

Howard and Raj are playing a video game in the living room, while Stuart is reading a magazine and wearing pants. Bernadette returns after doing a lot of errands and declares that she is going to stop being the mother of three lazy teen-agers. She wants them to clean the kitchen from top to bottom including Raj who is doing his laundry at their house.

Sheldon is showing Beverly pictures of when he got his bachelor of science degree. Sheldon doesn't look happy because he just began puberty. Mary says that Shelly does not like change. Penny pops in the door and apologizes that she got caught up at work. She rushes over and hugs Beverly who says, "Oh, okay." Hugging Mary she gets a much sweeter greeting. Penny shows off her engagement ring that Sheldon announces was made from a re-purposed diamond drill bit. Leonard denies that and then wants to talk to Sheldon alone. Leonard tells Penny that it came from Tiffany's, though Sheldon is sure that only the box came from that store. Penny doesn't care how much Leonard spent on the ring, she thinks.

In Sheldon's room, he wonders if he misspoke about the ring. Leonard feels that Sheldon is hogging the attention from both mothers like a seal pup or a "Super weaner." Leonard does think he is being a super wiener. Sheldon feels that the situation is like when two mothers faun over the same pup making him a "double mother suckler", which Leonard also agrees with.

Penny admits that they aren't in any rush to set the date for the wedding. Mary tells her that the moment a woman lays with a man, they are married in the eyes of the Lord. Beverly sighs "Ugh." Mary then asks if the Bible is "ugh" to her. Beverly apologizes and says that she forgets how much a person's superstitions mean to them. Mary counters that she read Beverly's book that Sheldon sent her about superegos and ids and she wonders what bull dropped that on the barn floor. Sigmund Freud. Penny tries to get them together because they both like Jewish guys with beards. Mary tells her to stay out of this. Mary's bearded guy teaches love and compassion while Freud wants to talk about why you want to hold your poop and crawl back into your Mamma. Beverly counters asking how can someone an enlightened as Sheldon comes from someone like his mother. Beverly is not going to like the answer. While driving to church and pregnant with Shelly, she prayed that her son was smarter than his dumb-ass Daddy and she saw a bobble-head of Jesus in the next car nodding yes. Beverly hits her forehead in frustration. Mary tells her to keep doing it and maybe it'll knock some sense into her head. Penny wants to change the subject to shoes or how cute tiny Chinese babies are. Sheldon comes out saying that it's not his fault that Beverly like him better than Leonard. Leonard point out that his mother likes everyone better than him. Now Penny hits herself in the head.

The Wolowitz household guys are cleaning out the kitchen. Raj is working on the refrigerator. Howard apologizes to them, but Stuart says that Bernadette does work hard around the house. Raj tells Howard that she should stop babying him like his mother did. Howard agrees and that he has to start acting like an adult in their marriage. He decides to take out the garbage. Picking up the bag it splits spilling the contents all over the floor.

Beverly and Sheldon are having tea in a cafe and Beverly apologizes for upsetting Mary. Sheldon replies her mother will forgive her since if she doesn't she'll go to hell. Beverly also mentions how Mary's unconditional love for Sheldon is diametrically opposed to her own parenting style. Sheldon describes her style has doling out affection as a reward for achievement, A proven way

to raise a child or train a rat. Sheldon still turn out very successful under his loving mother. Leonard's siblings are very successful under Beverly's style while Sheldon's siblings are mouth breathing idiots. Beverly asks if he would have flourished more under a reward based childhood. Sheldon's mother made him spaghetti with bits of hot dog in it, so he doesn't care.

Leonard and Penny are talking to Mary as Leonard complains that he never got any affection from his mother. Mary assures him that she loved him in her own godless way. and she feels bad about the fight. Penny assures him that he doesn't have to earn her love and he knew that when he bought her that princess drill bit diamond ring. Mary plans to apologize to Beverly just like a good Christian, though a real Texan would have shot her. Then she asks them if anyone is in the mood for spaghetti and hot dogs. Leonard doesn't feel like he deserves it.

Howard is finished cleaning up the big sticky mess of the garbage spill. Bernadette comes in and tells them how they everything by themselves. Howard agrees, but then first his shoe and then his sock sticks to the floor.

Beverly and Mary shake hands and agree to respect each other's beliefs. And Mary will pray for her. Leonard wants to get his mother quickly back to her hotel. Beverly admits that she always made him earn his affection, but she wants to initiate a new protocol to shower him with unconditional love. When will that start? Beverly then calls him so needy. She opens her arms and asks him to come to Mommy. They have an awkward hug. Beverly: (Unemotionally) O my, son. Leonard: Oh, my mother. Penny: Oh, my God.

Still cleaning up the kitchen, Raj starts to whistle "It's a Hard-knock Life" from the musical Annie. They all join in singing it enthusiastically. Bernie comes in an immediately leaves.

The Commitment Determination

Season 8
Episode Number: 183
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 7, 2015
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney)
Production Code: 4X6774
Summary: Leonard and Penny are pressured to set a wedding date by Sheldon, whose relationship with Amy has taken an interesting turn.



Amy and Sheldon are kissing on the couch. Amy can't believe that it's been five years since their first date. Sheldon agrees and then asks if he should start watching the new Flash television series. Amy loses her smile and asks if that was what he was thinking about. That was one of many things replies Sheldon. Was he thinking about Amy? He was thinking about her because he was going to ask her if he should watch the television show. Sheldon tries to kiss her again and Amy waves him off. Sheldon as usual misinterprets her and says that she killed the mood. She protests that he killed the

mood talking about the Flash. Sheldon feels that weighing the pros and cons of starting a new television show is very important because it will go on for years and Sheldon is wrestling with a big commitment issue. That's the commitment issue he is wrestling with asks a disturbed Amy. Amy asks him if he can see the irony of his interest in a man with super-speed and after five years all she can get is a distracted make-out session on the couch. Sheldon is still not good with irony, but can occasionally do sarcasm. Can Amy do that? "Oh, sure I'd love to," quips Amy. Sheldon then tells her to start whenever she's ready.

Raj and Emily are looking around the comic book store as Stuart tells them he is closing up early. Bernadette is serving meat loaf and you don't have to not ask him twice. Emily picks up a severed head with pins sticking out of it and asks Raj if it would have a great Incandescent light bulb lamp for her bedroom. Raj is more of a Pottery Barn or Crate and Barrel type of guy. Due to his lack of enthusiasm, she starts to put it back; however, Raj doesn't want her to and then offers to buy it for her. "Sold", shouts Stuart. Emily tells him that he doesn't have to do that. Stuart pipes in that their are no returns.

Leonard and Penny are coming up the stairs after visiting the Farmer's Market. Leonard has a really intense experience. After they picked up some vegetables, Leonard was mugged by some baby animals at the petting zoo. Entering the apartment, Sheldon wants some help with his relationship dilemma with Amy; however, Leonard wants to first take care of his goat bite. Penny

asks if he was talking just before she got mad. Sheldon replied that he was. Penny remarks that that is probably the problem. Sheldon explains that he asked her about the Flash series while they were necking like a couple of hooligans under the school bleachers. Penny tells him that the girl expects the attention to be on her. Sheldon corrects her that he did ask her about the Flash series. Penny turns the conversation over to Leonard who also starts talking about the commitment to watching years of a new series. Smallville almost killed Sheldon. Penny jumps in that he was talking about a TV show on their date night. No, it was their fifth anniversary. Penny tells Leonard that what Sheldon did was as stupid as Leonard thinking that being bitten by a goat would give him the powers of a goat.

Raj is helping Howardette with dinner and talking about his twisted girlfriend Emily. She wants to have sex with him in a graveyard. Bernadette figures that everyone should do their own thing and doesn't see any harm in it. How about one consenting adult and one guy who is afraid of being alone? Raj wonders if this relationship is right for him. Howard figures that he doesn't have the guts to breakup with her especially since she is willing to have sex with him. Bernadette doesn't think he will break up with Emily either. Raj reminds him that he has been complaining about Stuart living there and hasn't told him to move out. They also don't want to hurt somebody's feelings.

Sheldon, Leonard and Penny are having the dinner that Leonard cooked. Sheldon still hasn't heard from Amy in over 24 hours. He thinks that she should have figured out she was wrong by this time. Penny agrees with Amy that Sheldon has been taking their relationship too slowly. After five years they haven't even slept together. Sheldon calls that foreplay. He also insists that Leonard and Penny is also taking theirs slowly, so Penny waves her engagement ring under his nose. Sheldon doesn't understand and waves his hand at Penny. When asked Sheldon, Penny counters that they are not in a rush. Leonard and Penny explain that they are currently focusing on their careers. They will set a date when they are ready.

Bernadette finds out that Stuart must have eaten her yogurt. It's time to kick him out; however, other circumstances kept them from doing it. Getting the comic book store running, the holidays, he was sick. Howard says that he did not have jaundice, he always looks like that. They plan to talk to him that night. Howard is going to drop the hammer, though Bernadette is the tool he is going to use.

While cleaning up dinner, Leonard asks Penny why they haven't picked a date. They are not in a rush, they are concentrating on their jobs and they are in a really good place. They haven't even discussed any wedding plans. Indoor, because Sheldon won't come to an outdoor wedding. Her Dad isn't paying for it, so they decide on a small one. Penny wants it in a church. Leonard wants it to be black tie. Penny wants butterflies released which Sheldon objects to. The wedding plans sound perfect, but they still don't have a date notes Sheldon. They both tell him to shut up.

Starting their graveyard picnic, they have a beautiful, the moon, the trees and the grave of Elizabeth McNulty who died at the same age that Raj currently is. Emily feels like she is so alive there. Emily asks Raj if he's afraid of ghosts. He says no, and that he's more scared of her a little bit.

Sheldon apologizes to the guys that he got them upset. Leonard thinks that it is good he got them talking about the wedding. Sheldon perks up that even when he is complaining he still ends up making the world a better place. Now he wants to tackle Leonard's whining and Penny's drinking problem. Penny now wonders why it's so important they pick a date. Leonard says that they love each other and it doesn't matter if it's tomorrow or fifty years from now. Penny doesn't want them to wait until they are old and gross. Then Penny sits next to Leonard and tells him that she is free tonight, and suggests that they go to Vegas to get married. Leonard is in complete agreement. They embrace, kiss and look very happy together. "After all these years," remarks Sheldon. He is very happy for them, but also wants them to get out of his spot.

Howard sees Stuart arrive at their home. Howard tells Bernadette to be firm and show no weakness. He leaves and Bernadette tells him to come right back. Howard asks Stuart to sit down and he agrees but first goes into the kitchen. He replaced Bernadette's yogurt and bought Howard his favorite Captain Crunch with Crunch Berries cereal. Bernadette mentions that he has been living there a long time. Stuart agrees and says that he may sell comic books, but the real superheroes are sitting in front of him. Stuart gets a phone call from his father whom he thinks is going to wish him a Happy Birthday, but he can call him back. Finally the

Wolowitzes serve Stuart a cupcake with a candle in it and sing Happy Birthday to him instead of serving him an eviction notice.

Raj and Emily are making out, though Raj is distracted. Raj mentions that the two of them are very different people. Emily thinks he wants to break-up with her. Raj reacts that she is just dark on the inside and he is dark on the outside. Emily tells him that if he wants to breakup, he should do it and not make her do it for him. Emily has it all wrong because Raj is trying to get around to tell her that he loves her.

Penny and Leonard are in his car on the way to Las Vegas. Penny finds a Denny's they can get married in that will serve them heart shaped pancakes. Leonard wonders if the gang will be mad at them. Penny tells him that it's only about the two of them. First they got together, then they got untogether and got to know everything about each other and now they have no surprises and no regrets. Leonard says, "No surprises." Penny adds, "No regrets." Leonard seems happy, but wants no secrets between them and tells her about a drunken make-out session he had with a girl when he was out on the North Sea. To Penny she feels that he's trying to sabotage the wedding; however, Leonard just wants to be honest. Penny thinks she can get passed it. At least they weren't engaged at the time. All of the excitement has died out in the car. She still wants to get married. Penny agrees that they love each other, but when Leonard calls it the happiest day of their lives, Penny asks him to not push it.

Sheldon is Skyping with an unhappy Amy and both have been thinking about relationships. Amy says that being his girlfriend is so challenging both physically and emotionally. She has been incredibly patient for years. Sheldon strongly disagrees. Amy says, "This isn't easy to say because I love you, but I need some time to take a step back and reevaluate our situation." Sheldon is shocked, but agrees. She says goodbye and ends the call. Sheldon consults the Gollum statue on his desk, who is an expert on rings. He reaches into the desk and pulls out a ring box with an engagement ring. "What do I do with this?" he asks himself.

Season Nine

The Matrimonial Momentum

Season 9

Episode Number: 184

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Monday September 21, 2015
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Jim Meskimen (Minister), Louise Claps (Receptionist)
Production Code: 4X7201
Summary: Penny struggles with Leonard's confession that he kissed another woman as they prepare to get married in Las Vegas. Meanwhile, Sheldon doesn't know what to do after Amy pushes pause on their relationship.



Leonard and Penny are at a Las Vegas wedding chapel and are picking out their wedding package when Sheldon calls with the news about the break with Amy. Penny calls Amy to talk to her. Amy wants her to come over, but since Penny is in Las Vegas Amy gets even more depressed about being left out of the wedding. Sheldon yells at them to go ahead and get married since it will hurt Amy.

Amy is leaving her apartment when Sheldon shows up in the hallway, startling her, and explains that eleven hours is enough time to sort things out. Amy is not ready and she heads over to

Howard and Bernadette's to watch the wedding online. Sheldon wasn't invited to make it easier on Amy though they do leave together, with Sheldon making a comment about them "being back together again," much to Amy's dismay.

After talking with the minister, Leonard and Penny are ready to commit and take each other's arms they walk down the aisle together. The wedding chapel tells the couple that there are no rose petals left and asks if they would like to use the potpourri from the bathroom instead (they of course decline).

The gang gathers in the Wolowitz living room while everyone is trying to console Amy. Outside the window stands Sheldon. Bernadette tells Howard to deal with it, so he closes the drapes. Bernadette reopens them and tells Sheldon that he shouldn't come in because it would not make things better. Sheldon ask why everyone was invited but him. Amy counters this by pointing out that Bernadette invited her and Stuart lived there already. However, her claim is quickly proved false when Raj enters a second later with hot cinnamon rolls.

The minister asks Leonard and Penny if they had prepared vows. Penny is surprised that Leonard has and he says recites some geeky scientific vows about them being made from atoms

that have travelled over 14 billion years to create them so they can come together as a couple and make each other whole which overwhelms Penny. Penny sweetly says that he is the love of her life and her best friend and quotes the lyrics to 'You've Got a Friend In Me' from the Disney film "Toy Story". The minister asked if that was from "Toy Story," Penny says it was and Leonard loves it. Leonard gets misty-eyed and confirms that he does.

Sheldon is now watching and mentions that Amy is showing less affection because she is taking her time to figure things out. After he accuses his friends of taking sides, he then comments about how Amy's biological clock is ticking away in his own condescending fashion. However, this proves to be the last straw. Amy is truly offended, saying that she doesn't need any more time. Sheldon is selfish and childish. They are now through and officially broken up. She storms out with Bernadette following her. Stunned and upset, Sheldon asks for a ride home and Raj volunteers. The online broadcast comes to a conclusion as Leonard and Penny are pronounced man and wife. Stuart and Howard are the only ones remaining who catches it. Leonard and Penny comes up to the camera joyfully proclaiming that they did it. The rest of the gang missed the ceremony due to the fight between Sheldon and Amy.

Leonard huffs and puffs as he carries his wife into the hotel room over the threshold. They kiss, but Penny Hofstadter (Yes! Finally, an official last name!) still can't stop thinking about Mandy the girl on the boat. Leonard again insists that the kissing wasn't that great especially since he also chipped her tooth. Penny wants to know if he feels guilty. Leonard jokingly says that he does not feel guilty because the girl had dental insurance. Leonard then says more seriously that he does feel guilty when he sees her every day at work. Penny is now truly shocked that he never told her this fact.

Sheldon is in his apartment on the phone to his mother. He regretfully informs her that Amy broke up with him and that he would like to send the engagement ring (which is an old family heirloom — it belonged to his great-grandmother) back to Texas. She tells him not to be too hasty — his sister Missy is already married and Mary would rather Sheldon gave the ring to Amy than let his younger brother George give it to his girlfriend. Sheldon decides to hold on to it.

Later, the newlyweds are fighting as they walk up the stairs of the apartment building and each goes into their own apartment slamming the door. As they both make parting comments, Leonard had the final say that Penny was "not easy to lift", leaving her open mouthed. On entering the apartment, Sheldon tells Leonard that he glowing and marriage suits him.

Amy is talking to Howard and Bernadette as they try to console her. Stuart makes a comment about that maybe the problem is that she always does that right thing and then puts his hand on her shoulder. Amy asks him if she should do the wrong thing like he is doing right now. Stuart also learns that Penny is alone in her apartment and wonders about her.

Penny is upset, so Sheldon brings her a hot beverage. As he is carrying hot beverages he says his famous line "knock knock knock Penny" so she can open the door for him. They talk about how rough relationships are. Sheldon knows the girl in question and says that she is both brilliant and attractive. He says that maybe he should start dating her, but her standards are so low since she chooses Leonard. Penny commented that she was with Leonard. She then comments on how she can't believe Amy actually went through with breaking up with Sheldon, causing him to realize that Penny knew Amy was going to do it. Shocked, Sheldon asked why Penny didn't try to stop Amy. She answers that she told Amy to do what made her happy. Sheldon angrily comments that Amy was already happy. Sheldon is very angry and does not understand the situation. Penny tells him that it's not her fault that Amy thinks he's a lousy boyfriend. This greatly upsets Sheldon, who takes the hot beverage from Penny's hands as well as his own and leaves. As his hands are again full, Sheldon asks Penny to kindly slam the door in frustration behind him on the way out.

Finally, Sheldon and Leonard are at their place. Sheldon is complaining about women. Sheldon claims that men are better except for Madame Curie because she had a 'penis for science' — he is clearly still distressed after the breakup saying that it hurts that Amy would kiss him, let him fall in love with her then break up with him. Leonard can't believe that this is how he was going to spend his wedding night. Sheldon is not surprised.

The Separation Oscillation

Season 9
Episode Number: 185
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Monday September 28, 2015
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Melissa Tang (Mandy Chow)
Production Code: 4X7202
Summary: Leonard confronts the woman he kissed on the North Sea in an attempt to set Penny's mind at ease. Meanwhile, Sheldon films a special episode of "Fun with Flags" after his breakup with Amy, and Bernadette feels guilty about withholding a secret from Penny.



Leonard cannot sleep and is up in the kitchen of 4A. Sheldon comes in and also cannot sleep because of a tickle in his throat. Penny joins them. Leonard asks Penny how he can make everything right. Sheldon interrupts and suggests Penny kiss another man to make everything equal. Leonard objects to that idea. Penny agrees with Sheldon. Leonard asks Sheldon what was going on. Sheldon says he is saving his best friend's marriage and plants a big kiss right on Penny. Penny responds by jumping into his arms and wrapping her legs around him. Leonard then wakes from his nightmare.

Sheldon calls up Amy on Skype, who gets upset that he doesn't realize what a breakup is. Every time he talks to her, she gets re-traumatized. Amy wants to know what he wants. Sheldon admits that they are no longer together, but there is the baby that they made, The internet show "Fun with Flags". He wants her to come over and help him with the next episode. However, Amy is not going to help him. Sheldon tells her that Sonny and Cher made their show work after their divorce. Amy complains that she has talked to him more in the last two days than in the last two months of their relationship. Sheldon quips that if she doesn't want to talk to him, maybe she should go out with him again.

At the comic book store, Raj tells Leonard that he can't believe Leonard made out with Mandy Chao and that Howard didn't tell him for two years. Raj starts arguing with him like his spouse. Leonard wonders why his problem affects the two of them. Howard tells him to try having two wives.

Sheldon arrives at Amy's apartment with a box of her personal belongings for him to return. He knocks only once so that Amy doesn't know it's him. Amy mentions the single knock; while Sheldon tells her that she doesn't get to enjoy anymore of his charming eccentricities. They are not friends with benefits. Out of the box Amy takes out a scarf of hers and is surprised Sheldon

still had it. It was from the time they went ice skating together. Next Amy pulls out a sexy red bra which isn't hers, but is planted by Sheldon in an attempt to make her jealous. Amy remarks that this doesn't belong to her to which Sheldon explains: 'I don't remember who it belongs to either as I have been with so many different women lately' Amy gets mad, grabs the box and slams the door on him. Sheldon then knocks on the table in the hall to finish his knocking ritual.

Bernadette is making brownies and is mad at Howard, but not for what he bought. Howard told her about the Mandy incident and is mad at Howard that she had to keep the secret from Penny for two years. She's terrified about what Penny might do if she finds out Bernadette knew but didn't say anything. Howard counters this by claiming Leonard is the bad guy for telling him.

Leonard is on the phone trying to find a marriage counselor. After he learns how expensive they are, he wonders if they have a rate based upon how long one had been married like a day. Penny interrupts him and they sit down to talk. She doesn't know how to fix them. Sheldon comes in and returns Penny's bra to him to a confused Penny. Returning to the topic, Penny knows that she said that she could get by it, she doesn't know what to do since he is going to see Mandy tomorrow at work. Sheldon suggests a simple solution, scaring Leonard because it's the same way that his nightmare started. Sheldon suggests that Penny go to meet Mandy to alleviate her fears since her imagination is running wild. Leonard thinks that that is a terrible idea and Penny does not want to meet her though she is still worried that Mandy might still have interest in him.

The girls are together in Penny's apartment discussing the recent events. Penny points out that Leonard would have never done this when they first met. He's cockier now. Amy points out the Penny made him that way. Bernadette points out that it is better for them both if he is with her because he wants to be rather than because she is his only option. Penny says she had never thought of it that way. Bernadette, still feeling guilty, says sure, that she had just thought of it.

At the Caltech cafeteria, the guys are having lunch and Leonard asks them if they know how much a marriage counselor gets. Howard knows. Raj again asks why he doesn't know. Mandy Chao walks into the cafeteria. Leonard goes over to see if she would be willing to talk to Penny. He greets her, sits down and asks about what they did on the boat while they were drunk. She asks if she slept with him too. No, they just made out. She remarks "Good for me." Leonard tells her that he just got married and she mistakenly thinks that it was Sheldon. Leonard tells Mandy about Penny's concerns and she wonders why he even told her since it was just a kiss. Leonard was making sure there were no secrets between them. To Mandy it sounded more like he was sabotaging their relationship just like Penny had said. Mandy has unwittingly become the marriage counselor that he needs. He then starts to open up to Mandy that he didn't think that he deserved a beautiful woman like Penny. He then gets into his dysfunctional relationships with his mother and Sheldon, even more disturbing Mandy. Finally, he had this dream where he was in a cave nursing a baby Sheldon. Now Mandy wonders why Penny is worried about HER.

Amy is watching the "Fun with Flags" episode where Sheldon angrily compares everything to their broken relationship, insulting her numerous times making her want to kill him. Meanwhile Leonard is finally sitting down with Penny and he agrees with her that he may have been trying to sabotage their wedding because he still doesn't think that he deserves her. Penny feels that that is the lamest excuse she has ever heard, but does understand what he is saying. She is worried that someday he might leave her for someone more like himself. In her own way, she is sabotaging them. Leonard wants them to stop being afraid of losing each other and just be together. Penny thinks that that sounds nice. Leonard tells Penny that he has loved her since the moment they met and that he'll love her till the end of time. That was the most beautiful thing anyone ever said to Penny. Then Leonard adds that Penny's beauty fills his heart with love and song. Now he is sounding cheesy. Leonard then drops to one knee and asks Penny Hofstadter to stay married to him. Penny now thinks that Leonard topped himself. They then run off to officially consummate their marriage.

Sheldon gives Leonard and Penny a wedding present for them; plane tickets to San Francisco and hotel accommodations. Lenny excitedly thank Sheldon, who states, "We're gonna have such fun!" Suddenly there is a knock on the door, it's Amy, fuming mad! She yells at Sheldon over posting a Fun With Flags Episode where he talks about how much she has hurt him and compares her genitals to Czechoslovakia. She demands he takes it down from the net. As she closes the door, he yells: "She watched it. I'm gonna get that girl back!" Then you hear Amy reply: 'Only because you emailed me the link: "Watch this, it will make you mad!" Sheldon smiles saying:

'Yep, she still wants me!' He then happily skips down the hallway towards his room.

The Bachelor Party Corrosion

Season 9
Episode Number: 186
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday October 5, 2015
Writer: Dave Goetsch, Jim Reynolds, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Keith Carradine (Wyatt)
Production Code: 4X7203
Summary: The guys' science skills are put to the test when they get a flat tire during Leonard's bachelor party weekend in Mexico. Meanwhile, the girls force Penny to finally tell her family that she eloped with Leonard.



While Sheldon and Leonard are fixing lunch in Apartment 4A, Leonard offers up a fun fact about mustard although Sheldon already knows about its component that can be used to ward off caterpillars. Raj and Howard enter supposed to go see a movie. Instead since they had not been able to throw his a bachelor party due to him eloping, they are going to kidnap him and take him to an unknown destination to celebrate. Sheldon complains that their kidnapping is missing a blindfold, duct tape and ransom call. After that Leonard is ready to leave immediately. Penny already packed his bag AND Shel-

don is coming too. He asks how they are going to make him come so they kidnap him; blindfold and duct tape included.

Driving down the Interstate highway, Sheldon is again complaining about being taken against his will into a hippie's mobile sex dungeon. Howard hints that their something very special about this minivan. Sheldon asks if it runs on syphilis. The van they are using once belonged to Richard Feynman, one of Sheldon's favorite physicists. Both Sheldon and Leonard get excited. Leonard suggests about all the cute grad students he picked up with the van. Sheldon is sure that they all talked physics together. Leonard asks where they are going. Raj hints that they have spicy food and you can get diarrhea there. First guess, India. Second guess, Raj's apartment. According to Howard they are heading to Meh-i-co. Sheldon tells Leonard not be fooled. He is from Texas and Meh-i-co is Spanish for Mexico. Raj wonders what problems he has with where they're going. Mariachi bands, wild dogs and beans with little worms in them that jump around. Howard tells him to settle down. The theme of the trip is to go to Mexico in Richard Feynman's van to stay in the house that Richard Feynman's house bought with the money he was given for his Nobel Prize. "Viva la Imodium," shouts Sheldon.

In apartment 4B, Bernadette is trying to get Penny to go to a strip club since the boys are off on a bachelor weekend. Penny quips that if she wants to see a naked man dancing, all she

has to do is flush the toilet while Leonard is in the shower. Amy joins them, the posse still lives, bringing some cookies for the mini-bachelorette party. The cookies are shaped like penises with gummy worms for veins, circumcised and uncircumcised. As they boys are getting ready to cross the border, Bernadette hopes the guys don't get too wild and crazy. Penny tells the world to watch their daughters or Sheldon may spend the night explaining NAFTA to them which did happen to Amy.

Sheldon finds out the limits that US Customs have on returning with DVDs, CDs and VHS tapes. There could be some VHS tapes leftover in a van that old. Especially Jane Fonda work out tapes. Also Sheldon wonders if everyone has their yellow fever shots. He got one just to go to EPCOT.

The girls discussed married life with Penny who has a husband who has not yet moved out of his apartment. He does sleep there at night; however, it is only time before Sheldon has a nightmare and finds the pile of pillows in Leonard's bed. Bernadette asks Amy about her single life. She claims to be focusing on herself and is considering a wardrobe change. The girls get excited; however, she decided to not change herself just because of a man. Penny tells her that it's not uncommon for a woman to get a makeover after a breakup. Amy is considering maybe changing one thing. Your glasses. Your sweater. Your hair. Your shoes. No, she wants her ears pierced. She never got it done because her mother thought that it was for whores, pirates and genies. Also had a clause in their Relationship Agreement forbidding cosmetic surgery unless it's to look like a Klingon. Amy wants to get it done elsewhere, but Penny can do it with a needle and an ice cube. Amy is not sure. Penny begs her that she will be gentle and to let her take her ear virginity. Bernadette thinks that the party is getting real weird.

On their way to Mexico, Sheldon tells Howard to watch his speed since they have it in for tourists. Howard dismisses it saying that if they get caught, they'll put Raj behind the steering wheel in a Sombrero. Raj asks him how many races he can insult in a single breath. He never watched the Olympics with Howard. Leonard compares that it's like riding around in the Batmobile if Batman was a physicist. They all hope that Feynman's mojo will rub off on them inspiring them to greatness. Sheldon doesn't believe in a lot of magical charms; however, sitting in Feynman's butt print does get his creative juices flowing. Suddenly they get a flat tire and Sheldon is worried that they are being shot at by bandits and may end up in a Mexican factory making Bart Simpson pinatas. Sheldon then again says that he is getting too old for this crud.

While Penny finishes up with Amy's ears, Bernadette notes that Amy hasn't changed her Facebook status. Amy agrees that she should let her Facebook friends know that. She tells Penny that she is no longer in a relationship with Sheldon. Penny hasn't yet changed hers since she hasn't yet told her parents that she is married. Her father wanted a father/daughter dance at her wedding. He didn't get to do it at her sister's wedding because her water broke. Penny figures her Dad isn't getting any younger so she'll just wait until he get remember things she'll tell him that it was magical.

Their van has a flat tire and Howard is trying to fix it. He learned that skill so that he could change the tires of damsels in distress (Meet women). Sheldon is trying to find and stay away from scorpions. There's your damsel. Howard can't get the last lug nut off. Raj wonders if he is turning it the right way and tries it himself. It doesn't turn the opposite way.

As Amy admires her pierced ears, she remarks that if her mother saw her now she would lock her in "The Sin Closet". Penny could see how they were not real close. Bernadette adds that at least she would have told her if she had gotten married. She adds that they would like to know since they love Leonard. Penny agrees to call them. They both think that Amy has told her mother about Sheldon, but also she hasn't. Penny gets annoyed that Amy insists she call home and told her family that she broke up with Sheldon. She calls her Dad and tells him that she married Leonard last week on the spur of the moment and is sorry that she didn't tell him. He is glad that she is happy. He understands that it is hard to tell someone something that you think is going to upset them. Penny calls him the best Dad ever. He replies for her to hold that thought. Her father accidentally ran over her pet pig Moondance twelve months ago. And he didn't tell her? He notes that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Bernadette tells Amy that no it's her turn.

All the guys are pushing on the lug trying to turn it. Raj is doing LaMaze breathing to help push. Howard figures that he is pushing with his uterus. Leonard just considers this a physics problem. Sheldon quotes Archimedes where if he had a long enough lever, he could move the world. As they guys think about materials to build one, Sheldon says first they must decide to

pronounce it lee-ver or leh-ver. Sheldon insists that its lee-ver since they are not going to rolls up their sl-eh-ves. Leonard says they're going to be there for ee-ver.

Penny thanks the girls for making her make the call because before in her mind her pet pig was alive and rolling around in the mud. Now it's illegally buried in the backyard next to her great-grandmother. Bernie wonders why they didn't eat him. Moondance was a beloved member of her family. Now it's Amy's turn. Amy says to do it later because she is depressed about Penny's pig. And a little hungry. First Amy fakes trying to dial and then she gets her mother, but makes stalling with small talk, Penny grabs the phone and tells her Mom about Sheldon, the ear piercing and the penis cookies. Penny then hands back the phone because her mother wants to talk to her.

Still working on the lug nut, Howard is hanging from a lever made out of a stop sign and pole. Then they muse about Star Trek phasers, Superman's heat vision, Green Lantern's ring and the Hulk, who might not get across the border with his temper. Leonard tells them that even though having the Avengers help them it a viable idea; they are scientists and should be able to use real science. Percussive shock, they keep hammering at the lug with the rhythm inspiring them to sing "We Will Rock You". Sheldon gets excited and breaks into a tenor doing the refrain. The curse of his identic memory. Thermal expansion, they try and heat up the lug with a tortita chip. Sheldon is afraid the cooking chip would attract animals. Accelerated corrosion, using burning salsa and two electrodes, he hopes to corrode it off. Sheldon considers his idea innovative and doesn't feel he gives his M.I.T. education enough credit. Howard saw it on "Myth Busters". Exothemic Reaction, using rust and aluminum they make some thermite to melt it off. Howard says that the lug nut put up a good fight, but met his match as he lights the match. Next they are standing next to the van in glorious flames. Raj notes that the lug nut is finally off.

Finally a filthy Sheldon and Leonard and coming up the staircase they meet Penny going down with their laundry. Leonard mentions that they had a flat and couldn't get it off. Penny mentions that she pierced Amy's ears and her mother had Amy sit in Penny's closet. Sheldon told her that they blew up the van. Penny's pig was killed by her father's tractor. Leonard says that he had to spend the weekend in Mexico with Sheldon. Penny tells Leonard that he wins.

The 2003 Approximation

Season 9
Episode Number: 187
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Monday October 12, 2015
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Recurring Role: Laura Spencer (Emily)
Guest Stars: Craig Welzbacher (Candidate 1), Kurt Koehler (Candidate 2), Arshad Aslam (Candidate 3)
Production Code: 4X7204
Summary: Leonard and Penny finally tell Sheldon that they moved in together leaving Sheldon very upset. He wants to go back to a time when he had no emotions in 2003 before he met Leonard, Penny and Amy. Raj and Howard attempt to form a band after Stuart wants to host live music in his store.



Leonard, Penny and Sheldon are returning from the container store and Sheldon notices them taking his purchases to Penny's apartment. Penny tells Sheldon that Leonard is living with her now since they are married making Sheldon upset. Sheldon feels that he's gained too many emotions and wants to go back to a point where he wasn't affected with them.

Stuart wants live music for his comic book store and Raj and Howard suggest they could play as an acoustic band. During the episode they work on a song about "Thor meeting Indiana Jones."

Sheldon then gives Leonard papers to sign to officially 'unroommate' him. When it gets to the point for Leonard to sign and make it official he pauses and there's a really sweet, emotional moment when he hesitates and says "Man, this is harder than I thought". Sheldon says "Oh, it's easy..L..e..o..". And then Leonard signs out of annoyance. Sheldon then implements his "go back to 2003" plan so the apartment goes back to how it looks with the lawn chairs and the tv on the ground. He was screening new potential roommates (3) before he screens someone (who we don't see yet) saying they're into science and they'd be perfect before it turns to his computer with Amy on skype looking at him with an expression that says "you serious"? Sheldon asks her, now that Leonard has moved, if she would like to move in with him to replace Leonard. Amy gently declines.

Leonard and Penny are talking with Sheldon and he's slumped over, depressed. Penny comforts him saying it's okay that they'll see each other even if they live separate lives. Sheldon points out it'll be a couple of time a week, then they'll buy a house and it'll be a couple of time of a month and even later only on special occasions. "Like when Howard and Bernadette divorce, or when Raj's creepy girlfriend finally tells where she hid his body or at Amy's wedding when

she is marrying someone better than me.” After that Penny feels super bad and then agrees that they can all “live together” like they’ll spend some nights in Sheldon’s apartment and vice versa. Leonard protests and Penny says “just think of him as our dog”. Sheldon perks up saying “ yeah! I’m always happy when you come through the door, I’m scared of fireworks..oh and Fourth of July we are all sleeping here (pointing to his apartment)”. Penny finally agrees to sleep there more than half the time. Leonard and Penny hesitantly nod and Sheldon gets all happy and runs off to write up a new revised roommate agreement.

Raj explains he and Howard’s idea for a singing group to Emily. He then demonstrates a few lines of the song they are working on. She thinks its cute. Raj is devastated. She suggests that maybe they should play something that you can dance to. Later at Howard’s house, Raj suggests they play something they can dance to. Howard is taken back. He realized that Emily influenced Raj’s thoughts. The discussion digresses with Howard finally saying that the group is broken up. Raj leaves and slams the door. Howard then calls Raj back. Raj asks him what took him so long. They embrace and make up.

Earlier they’re having dinner and Amy talks about Sheldon looking for a new roommate. Bernadette says “I’ll give you a thousand dollars to take Stuart off our hands” and Amy kinda looks at her. Bernadette says “just thought you were having a pasty weirdo hole in your life.” Amy then defends Sheldon that he is not a weirdo and is brilliant

The gang is at the comic book store listening to Howard and Raj. Everybody is polite and acting like they are enjoying the music. When the song ends, Stuart asks if they could play something they could dance to.

The Perspiration Implementation

Season 9

Episode Number: 188

Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Monday October 19, 2015
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Saladin Patterson
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Megan Heyn (Natalie), Patrika Darbo (Grace), Rebecca Ann Johnson (Attractive Red Head)
Production Code: 4X7205
Summary: The guys want to learn to be better at sports so Barry Kripke teaches them fencing. Meanwhile the girls help Stuart try to get more women to come to the comic book store. Amy gets asked out by Stuart and Kripke but she turns them both down.



Howard is working in his lab; the other guys come in and ask if he's ready for lunch; he tells them he's working on something first. Sheldon asks if he is working the prototype drive system for the high-G rover. Instead Howard has built a gadget that adds mileage to his Fitbit and makes it appear that he has been jogging since Bernadette wants him to exercise more. The last exercise he got was when she tried to put it on him and he ran away. Sheldon tells them that according to a study, even thinking about

exercise could have physical benefits. They don't know if he is thinking about it right now. Is he? No he is going to do it tomorrow. Leonard admits that it wouldn't hurt if they all did get more exercise. Howard agrees, so he turns up his gadget to work harder.

Sitting in Sheldon's apartment, Leonard browses the various sports clubs available at the university: archery, rock climbing, flag football.... Sheldon comments that he had him at flags, but lost him at football. Penny agrees that they should get more active, but wonders if getting into a sport is the right choice. Leonard twisted his ankle while playing Scrabble. Barry Kripke is starting a fencing club. Sheldon sees a certain elegant appeal to sword fighting. It's indoors, no running, no throwing, no catching and no gym shorts that get pulled down or up. Ouch!. And they get to use the word "Touché" in a non-metaphorical sense.

The girls are invited to the comic book store by Stuart. More women are now interested in comic books and he wants to get more women into his store. He has been stocking more female-oriented titles, he added a triangle on the end of the toilet paper roll also added a nursing mother's area where they were sitting. For extra security, he has an overhead camera to keep an eye on them for their protection to keep the pervs away; however, this has the exact opposite effect, making him look like a perv. Penny looks uncomfortable and closes her blouse and legs. Amy thinks that he should change some of his artwork, like the woman in a dog collar on a leash. Stuart defends himself that she doesn't know her back story. Maybe she was jumping upon the couch too much.

In the university gym, the guys are flexing their rapiers. Raj feels like Puss 'n' Boots while Leonard has always wanted to be a swash buckler. Kripke joins them and welcomes them to the fencing club, but explains that fencing is a serious sport and not Star Wars. Howard and Raj identify more with Game of Thrones and The Princess Bride. First they practice the "en garde" using their dominant leg. Sheldon doesn't think that he has a dominant leg and that they both are submissive. Howard tells him to use the one he flushes the public toilet with. Then they practice their advance and retreat. Sheldon wants to know when he can stab one of his friends. The fencing term is touch. Sheldon replies that if he says that he is going to touch one of his friends, he'll get sent to Human Resources again. Next they are paired up practicing the advance and retreat. When Kripke takes a phone call, they go crazy dueling until Kripke is done.

Amy suggests that he advertise directly to females. Stuart then wants to put a sign in his window that says: Women come in. Don't be afraid. Penny then checks the reviews of his store online. Stuart thinks the Internet is just all negative. All of the women reviews are negative, but not about the store. Rather, all of the negative reviews are about Stuart himself. Among the reviews from females claims that Stuart stares at them without blinking, he asked one out and took it back before she could turn him down, and an even worse one said that she liked his shirt and he took it off and gave it to her.

Now their lesson involves thrusting forward all together. Raj thinks that they look like the Rockettes. When Sheldon jousts with Leonard, he tells him to prepare for a vigorous touching. Raj and Howard fight with both wanting to be Inigo Montoya from The Princess Bride though Raj was supposed to be Puss 'n' Boots. Sheldon wants to learn how to slap someone so he can challenge them to a duel. Kripke then learns about the Shamy breakup and shows interest in Amy which upsets Sheldon. Leonard says that she is bound to date at some point at that she deserves to be happy. Sheldon then slaps Leonard with his glove exclaiming, "How dare you!" Leonard suggest to Barry that it wouldn't be a good idea to ask Amy out. Sheldon then approaches Barry and challenges him to a duel over Amy three years from now after Barry had been finished teaching him the sport. He forewarns him that if he is a good instructor, that Sheldon will give him a thorough thrashing and will touch him all over.

Finally Stuart and the girls admit that the problem isn't the store, but Stuart himself. He gets nervous around women, though he doesn't nervous around his friend's girls. He uses the trick that he visualizes his audience as all naked; however, this is yet another uncomfortable moment. Amy asks him if he knows how creepy that sounds. Stuart defends himself that it was a joke. Bernadette squeaks in asking if that is really true and Stuart replies that it isn't. Penny wants to know what went wrong with him. Stuart confesses that at this point in his life, he thought he would be married, or in a relationship or had a pet that didn't want to kill himself. There was this rabbit. The longer he is alone, the more desperate he gets. Amy tries to explain to Stuart that she was alone for a long time and had to hide he insecurities after she met Penny and Bernadette. Stuart tells them that they all feel it, and yes he'll go out with her. Amy now identifies with his rabbit.

The guys have gone to a sports since are now athletes and Sheldon is having female problems. Not that kind. Howard urges him to forget about Amy and move on by starting to date. Sheldon thinks that that is ridiculous since both Penny and Bernadette are married and Raj's girlfriend with her red hair and white complexion reminds him too much of a clown which is one of his phobias. Leonard asks him if he might try a woman who is not in a serious relationship with one of his friends. Sheldon notices a blond woman walk by and decides to ask her out. He is completely drunk after having three sips of beer; a lot even for Sheldon. He walks up to three women at a table and tells the attractive blonde that he is recovering from a recent breakup and has been told that asking out another would make him feel better. As Ash Ketchum said to Pikachu, "I choose you." The blonde doesn't understand Sheldon, so he asks the next woman who is the first woman's grandmother and married. The third woman looks like Emily, which reminds Sheldon of a clown, so he tells her to give her regards to Barnum and Bailey.

Back at Leonard and Penny's, Penny compliments Stuart for taking Amy's rejection, though he was on the breast cam. Amy finds it hard turning some guy down. Bernadette replies that some guys you just have to keep turning down. Penny adds that sometimes you end up marrying them. Amy then receives a drink invitation from Barry Kripke. Penny and Bernadette are shocked that Amy has had two date invitations in one day! Amy thinks that it is happening so fast. Bernadette says that maybe she should move on to someone who is not like Sheldon. Not a scientist? Not

a weirdo. Is she attracted to him? Penny tells her to imagine him naked. She doesn't have to imagine, because Kripke sent her a picture of himself naked. Ewww.

Coming up the stairs, Sheldon complains of smelling funny and tasting salty. He has been sweating for once. Sheldon also wonders how many licks it would get to the center of him. (Like a Tootsie Pop). They run into Bernadette and Amy coming down the stairs. Leonard and Bernadette leave so they can talk. After saying that they are well, Sheldon mentions that he took up fencing. Sheldon continues that Barry Kripke was his instructor and that he was interested in taking her out. Amy replies that he did and she turned him down. Sheldon found that interesting since he also asks two ladies out and they both turned him down. Amy was surprised and said that she didn't know that he was interested in dating. His friends had told him that is was a good way to move on. Visibly shaken, Amy replies "Oh, Okay." She then tells Sheldon it was good to see him and he looks good; Sheldon quips "I taste good too" and walks up the stairs. Amy remains standing in the hallway looking hurt and upset.

Finally, Bernadette is checking her computer and wonders how Howard could run 174 miles in one day. Howard is caught the deer in headlights while finishing the batter spoon.

The Helium Insufficiency

Season 9
Episode Number: 189
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Monday October 26, 2015
Writer: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Michael Rapaport (Kenny Fitzgerald), Elena Campbell-Martinez (Maria)
Production Code: 4X7207
Summary: Sheldon and Leonard find out that other scientists are trying to steal their Superfluid Helium idea. The gang try and find a new boyfriend for Amy on a new mobile dating app.



Sheldon enters Leonard's laboratory with some bad news though he wants to soften the blow. Leonard's face is pleasingly symmetrical. Leonard just wants Sheldon to tell him the news. A team of Swedish physicists are trying to scoop their superfluid vortex theory. Leonard feels that that stinks while Sheldon thinks that Leonard should be more upset. He takes back his first comment by saying that Leonard's face looks like a Picasso painting. To beat the Swedes, they have to perform their experiment to demonstrate the theory's viability immediately, but the liquid helium they need won't be available

for a month. Sheldon thinks that Leonard should have softened the blow. Leonard quips that the blue in his shirt brings out the color in his eyes "Why thank you. Aren't you sweet?"

The guys visit Barry Kripke to see if the university had any liquid helium in reserve. Barry explains that there is a shortage and he needs it for his quantum excitation experiment. Though he doesn't need that much, if his experiment is successful he'll throw a party which will include helium balloons. Leonard mentions the urgency due to the Swede's work, but Barry asks him that honestly whether they would do the same for him. Sheldon is honest and says no. His mother told him that honesty was the best policy. Leonard asks Barry if he'll help them out. "Hell no!" is his response. Sheldon comments as they leave that Barry could have softened the blow.

As all the guys return to Leonard's laboratory, Raj suggests that they go to Party City, but they would have to visit every store in California. Sheldon laments that if the Swedes beat them, he'll never enjoy anything from Sweden again and he loves their meatballs. Howard knows a guy who can help them as long as they don't ask too many questions. Both Leonard and Sheldon start inquiring about who, where and how many questions they can ask. Howard backs off and feels that he might not be the right choice. Howard announces Sheldon. Four is too many questions taking Howard literally.

Penny and Bernadette are having coffee in her living room and she says that Stuart went out on a date. Penny wants to know if she's homeless or framing him for a crime. He found her using an app that identifies the women within a five mile radius that are also looking and it's sort of like a game. And the loser goes out with Stuart? He comes in and explains that he has met two girls using it. One checks out the photos and "thumbs up" the ones you like.

Sheldon and Leonard are in Sheldon's apartment and Leonard has heard from their helium source. Sheldon doesn't want to go out because he doesn't like to shop at night. He had a bad experience in 2009 going out for Oat Bran. Leonard is going to reply to him, but Sheldon remarks that it is highly unethical. Leonard just wants to bend the rules to get it done especially since they have the grant money specifically for this experiment. Dr. Goldfarb had used his grant money for his electron microscope to support his Russian girlfriend in Van Nuys. Sheldon is still skeptical so Leonard quotes Albert Einstein, "The pursuit of science calls us to ignore the rules set by man." Sheldon agrees, so Leonard sets up the meeting. Sheldon can't find that quote on the Internet. Before Leonard answers he decides to soften the blow to Sheldon telling him that his skin never looked better. Sheldon replies, "Aren't you just made of sugar."

Stuart downloads the app onto Amy's phone. She isn't sure about doing this. Penny takes the phone from him and quickly swipes thumbs down to three different guys. Raj and Howard return because Bernadette hadn't given Howard much spending money. They explain to them that they were using the app to find an ideal match for Amy. Then Raj takes the phone and swipes no to every guy he see's on it too including the Indian guy because their Social Group already has one. He wants to find her a nice Latino guy to complement their ethnicity. After Howard takes it, Amy wants her phone back. Howard brushes her off saying that they will find her the next great love of her life, the man that will father her children. They finds a white guy with dreadlocks. Yea!!

Leonard and Sheldon pull up in a rented truck in a parking garage and see a guy next to a nondescript white paneled van. Sheldon asks Leonard if he has heard the expression that the bodies were found in a nondescript white paneled van. The guys approach him. Leonard introduces himself and Sheldon claims to be Skippy Cavanaugh. Leonard has the [[Wikipedia:cash, but Sheldon is worried that he'll take the cash ad drive off like in any 1970's television crime drama. He wants the helium first. The guy says that they could do the same thing. Leonard tells him that they are respected scientists and wouldn't do that to him. Sheldon claims to be a wedding planner who can't find love. They both agree that they appear to be sketchy characters in a parking garage. Leonard agrees with Sheldon about the money. The guy says that they appear to be at a stalemate. Sheldon disagrees about his term. A stalemate implies no more moves. He could steal their money, kill them... Leonard is feeling uncomfortable. The guy feels foolish since what he meant was impasse. Leonard calls it a Mexican standoff creating another vocabulary debate. Sheldon gives him a hypothetical situation where he did find the guy's name (Kenneth Fitzgerald) and address and if he reneged on his agreement he could report him to the authorities. Is Sheldon making a threat? Actually no, just an example, but Sheldon doesn't realize that. The guy wants to back out. Sheldon asks Leonard if again he has won the battle, but lost the war.

Next Leonard wants everyone to calm down even though this guy wants out of the deal. Leonard explains that they had been working on a theory for over a year. The guy wants to hear about it. Space-time can be interpreted as being on the surface of an n-dimensional super fluid. He says that that is possible. Leonard continues and tells him about the Swedes. Their supplier was expecting a higher ethical standard from the Swedes as he illegally sells them the helium. Leonard laments that stealing other's work is rather common in their field and there's not much he can do about it. The guy replies that for the right amount of money, there are things you can do about it. Sheldon then asks him for his business card.

The other guys are hanging around Howard/Bernadette's house. They set up a system where they can look at the men through the television and can choose which guys they want to pick for Amy who is not enjoying their explorations. The first guy that appeared was a crossed-eyed man. Penny claims that at least he won't be looking at other girls. The next guy has small eye teeth and looks like a dolphin. When Amy is in bed with him, she can throw him a fish. Amy thinks they are being mean to these guys. Raj agrees as Stuart pops up on the screen and they ask him to leave the room.

Returning to Leonard's laboratory, they are wheeling in the helium tank which is dressed in a coat and hat and Sheldon calls him Uncle Harvey. Sheldon want him to be conspicuous, even

though he did tip his hat to the cleaning lady. He still has problems with what they're doing. Will the supplier rat on them? Will Kripke wonder where we got the helium? What if they check his family tree and find no Uncle Harvey? They find a torn sticker on the metal container that says "Property of U...". Leonard figures its USC or UCLA. Sheldon is worried that it belongs to the United States' government which means federal prison time. Leonard just wants to conduct their experiment so they can beat the Swedes or watch their dream die. Next they are seen taking Uncle Harvey back down the corridor and out the building. As they pass the cleaning lady, Leonard tips his hat.

Penny has now set up a drinking game while checking out the guys on the app. One drink if he is shirtless, two if he poses with his pet, chug if both. Guy with no shirt and pet comes up. Bottoms up. Amy then gets a text which appears on the television screen. Some guy named Dave enjoyed their date. Is Amy seeing someone? First she claims that it is not like that. then she confesses since Dave wants to see her again.

Sheldon and Leonard are back in the garage. Ken doesn't mind returning because his daughter is having a sleepover and he can take only so much Katy Perry. He's willing to take the helium off their hands, but won't return their money even though they did have "semantic degressions". This is business. And there is a restocking fee. Sheldon asks how much since he only has \$1000. That's the fee exactly. Sheldon now thinks he is getting a break.

Penny tells Amy that she can't believe she started dating without telling her. Amy finds the whole situation new and weird and she figured they would get too excited about it. She has met three guys for coffee. She is inexperienced at dating so she is taking it slow.

Again back in Leonard's lab, Sheldon figured that the Swedes will beat them, but at least they will not get "gang-noodled" in prison. "Ernst Goes to Jail" is the only prison movie he's seen and it scared Sheldon straight. Barry Kripke joins them and he is willing to give them his helium as long as they add his name to their paper. Sheldon thinks that is preposterous, but they can't do it without him. They don't like being extorted especially by Barry Kripke, but what other choice do they have? They go back and repurchase the black market helium.

Finally they are back in the apartment still debating what a "Mexican standoff" is and watching "Ernst Goes to Jail" with the Ken. Sheldon insists that this will change the guy's life course. He admits that he is open to change.

The Spock Resonance

Season 9
Episode Number: 190
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday November 5, 2015
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Jeremy Howe
Director: Nikki Lorre
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Wil Wheaton (Himself), Stephen Merchant (Dave), Casey Sander (Mr. Rostenkowski), Adam Nimoy (Adam Nimoy), Leonard Nimoy (Mr. Spock (archive footage)), William Shatner (Captain James T. Kirk (archive footage))
Production Code: 4X7206
Summary: Wil Wheaton interviews Sheldon for a Star Trek documentary where he reveals the ring and his plan to propose to Amy. Bernadette wants to start renovating the house and the topic of finally starting a family with Howard is brought up.



Leonard, Penny and Raj are having take-out in 4A. Leonard mentions a study done on people who were cool and popular at thirteen found success hard when the grew up. Raj claimed to be very popular when he was thirteen among his family's servants even though he can't remember their names. Penny wonders what happened to the unpopular kids. Leonard explained that she woke up with one. Sheldon enters the living area and tells Leonard and Penny that Wil Wheaton has asked him to be in a documentary about Spock and its cultural impact that Wil is making with Leonard Nimoy's son, Adam.

Asking Penny for advice, she tells him to not take off his shirt just because the director tells him to.

Howard is in his living room busy with a game, while Bernadette comes in and wants to take. He says that he is busy with is Visigoths. Bernadette then asks "Howard" to pause to game and he knows it is time to talk. Bernadette wants to start redecorating, while Howard wants to leave the house like it was when he grew up. Bernadette doesn't feel like it's her house, though Howard adds that it is hers since she is always cleaning it. Bernadette changes her approach to say that she is redecorating. The furniture, the carpeting, the walls...everything that depresses her. She doesn't want him to be one of those things. Howard has something to say and Bernie adds that it better not be that she can't changed things because his dad left him and his mother died. Howard remains quiet.

Sheldon calls Amy and leaves her a message telling her about the documentary and saying she might want to watch it, even though they are broken up. Sheldon answers a knock; Will and Adam are at the door. Wil introduces Adam. Sheldon remarks that he really admired his father's

work and that it is not often that he meet someone who started their life's journey in his hero's scrotum. Wil tells Adam that Sheldon is pure gold.

Bernadette finds Howard in the kitchen making a bologna sandwich like his mother did after his father left and before she died. She suggests a compromise on doing one room which he considers reasonable. Kitchen? No, because that is the room he most associates with his mother. Bathroom? No he wants to change his answer. Dining room? His family didn't use that very often, that is after his father died. Bernadette went off to find some paint samples.

Penny and Leonard are watching from the kitchen. Sheldon is sitting in his spot while Adam sets up and tries to make him comfortable. Sheldon hopes that this is not ruse to get him to take off his shirt. Leonard asks Wil if he is trying to get back at Adam by having him talk to Sheldon. Sheldon first saw Spock in "The Galileo Seven" episode. He brother comes in and then sits on his head and tells him to "Eat farts". From then on he was hooked; on Spock and not his brother's Texas-style cuisine. Why does Spock appeal to him. Sheldon figures that its the same for everyone, the dream of a cold rational world entirely without human emotion. Sheldon describes how everything is logical like when your brother is hitting you and one replies that that is not true since I am hitting myself and you are moving my arm. Then you say "fascinating" and sit down and watch educational television together. Then they start to discuss collectibles. Sheldon mentions the autographed napkin that Penny gave him. Penny then gets to wave on camera with her shirt on. Sheldon then retrieves it from a wall safe that Leonard didn't know they had. He put in the wall safe after he filled the floor safe. The floor safe came after security camera was installed in the Aquaman statue. Leonard didn't know about any of this which distresses him since he and Penny did things on the couch that Sheldon knows about.

Raj is at Howard's to help back him up since Bernadette and her father are considering improvements to the dining room. They are thinking about taking down the wall between the dining room and the living room. Raj calls it a great wall, but Mike wants to know what's so great about it. Raj caves in and changes sides. Howard wonders if it is a load bearing wall and whether it can be removed. Raj tells them to go under the house and check, which bothers Howard who wonders when his visa is up.

Sheldon brings out a locked box that contain his most prized possessions. The napkin has a signature and since he wiped his mouth on it, they were in the presence of Leonard Nimoy's DNA. What about his son Adam's DNA? That isn't completely true since it is diluted by his mother's DNA. Penny wants to know what else is in his lock box. Next a miniature Wil Wheaton, his passport and then another Will. Last Will & Testament. Penny then asks about the ring box. Out comes the ring and Sheldon very calmly tells everyone that he was going to use to propose to his girlfriend. "What??", shouts Penny. Sheldon says the ring was a family heirloom going back many generations. It has constantly been in his family except when the Indians cut off the ring finger of his great-great-great-grandmother. That was fine because the Texas rangers got it back when they raided the Indian village and massacred everyone. Penny wants to know if Amy knows about the ring. No, she broke up with him before he could ask her. He claims everything turned out for the best and he's fine — Penny doubts this which causes Sheldon to snap at her before collecting his thoughts together so they can move on with the documentary. Later while discussing his beliefs that he is just like Spock (no emotions) Penny is sceptical and pushes him to say that it is bothering him, that he does have emotions which causes him to get upset and yell at her. Then he storms off to his room in a state. All of this was filmed by Nimoy.

Howard and Mike crawl under the house where Mike wants to know why Howard doesn't want kids. Howard denies that. Bernie lied to her father and heard their conversation under the floor. She gets nervous, jumps up and down on the floor yelling "earthquake" so that they'll stop talking.

When he comes back out, Penny and Leonard are the only ones there. They are very kind to him, asking how he's doing. Sheldon says he needs to know one way or the other about his relationship with Amy. So he grabs his jacket and says he's going to propose to her.

Alone together Bernadette says that she'll seriously think about having a baby.

Sheldon is walking up to Amy's apartment building, and in the distance he sees Amy saying goodnight to a tall man. There is a quick kiss. She turns and heads inside alone. Sheldon is devastated and leaves.

Finally, Sheldon watching an old TV Star Trek with Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock talking Vulcan's being unemotional Sheldon says it's all a lie. So Leonard says Sheldon should focus more

on the people in his life instead of TV characters. He agrees though it would have meant more if he heard it on television.

The Mystery Date Observation

Season 9
Episode Number: 191
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 12, 2015
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Stephen Merchant (Dave), Analeigh Tipton (Vanessa Bennett)
Production Code: 4X7208
Summary: When Leonard, Penny and Bernadette learn that Amy is going out on a dinner date, the trio set out to spy on her and the guy. Meanwhile, Sheldon recruits Raj and Howard to find a woman for him, since they were responsible for getting Amy and him together.



Penny and Leonard are eating breakfast in 4A. Leonard is making Sheldon breakfast since he is having a rough time. Amy broke his heart, the DVR didn't record the last minute of Doctor Who and a crow followed him home. Even though it is oatmeal day, Leonard made him French Toast sticks and oatmeal. Sheldon walks in cheerily and greets Dr. and Mrs. Hofstadter. He announces that he is going to start looking for another woman. Sheldon observes that French toast and oatmeal might be a lot of carbohydrates for a man on the prowl and suggests the Leonard eat it because he is married and doesn't

have to watch his weight anymore. Penny discourages that behavior.

Sheldon invited Howard and Raj over since they had originally found Amy for him; it is only logical for them to help him find a new female companion. Howard wonders if she is ready since Amy hurt him. Sheldon compares his time with Amy to a piece of Juicy Stripe chewing gum, sweet and enjoyable until it turns into a flavorless lump of sadness. he is looking for a woman who is educated, intelligent who shares his interests while retaining her own unique point of view. She has to be kind, patient and can't imagine her life without him by 10:00 PM.

Amy is trying on a new dress in 4B. She is a little shy to show her new dress to Penny and Bernadette because she is really stepping out of her comfort zone. Finally coming out in a very modest dress, Penny assures her that all of her comfort zones are covered. Amy says that there are many people who would consider the brain the sexiest organ. Penny tells her that nobody ever bought her a drink at a bar because her brain popped out of her shirt. They continue to press Amy for details about her upcoming date. The guy is British, named Dave and they are going that night to an Italian restaurant. Amy asks if Penny has any high heel shoes with higher heels than the ones she was trying on. Penny said that she got rid of all of her high heels when she married Leonard. Bernadette convinces Penny to go spy on Amy to find out more about her date. She doesn't think that she is sneaky; because she is so short it's adorable.

Working on Sheldon's new girl, Howard wants to put him on every dating site available. Sheldon is worried that his page might be answered by a computer simulating a human, but Raj wonders if that would bother him. He was afraid the computer would do a better job. Sheldon insists that no one doesn't do a better job of pretending to be a human than himself. As an alternative, Sheldon wants the women to battle for him in a battle of wits and for the winner to come through the door, sit down next to him and quietly watch *Daredevil* with him. To present Sheldon as a prize, they decide to set him up on Craigslist as an intelligent Caltech professor seeking a girlfriend and that she has to solve a series of puzzles to get his contact information. Raj and Howard are actually jealous of those candidates who get to solve the puzzles and they already have seen the prize.

Leonard and Penny are walking down the stairs. Leonard thinks that they are going to see a documentary on soda can recycling, but Penny insists that they are going to meet up with Bernadette for their surveillance of Amy and her date. Leonard wants to see what the Big Soda companies don't want you to know, while Penny wants to find out who Amy is with and she thinks that Leonard is a weird little guy.

Sheldon puts the Sheldon Cooper Girlfriend Challenge online. The questions require the knowledge of science, fantasy and flag facts. If she solves them she is intelligent, tenuous and socially awkward and has nothing better to do on a Saturday night. That sounds too good to be true to Sheldon.

At the restaurant, Amy and Dave start talking about their previous relationships. Dave was married and left England after his divorce. He wanted children and she wanted a French pastry chef. Amy says that she had only one relationship that after five years was becoming more work than it should be. She describes him as Caltech theoretical physicist and calls him Sheldon. Dave asks if she means Dr. Sheldon Cooper. Dave would love Sheldon's job and had been following his work for years. He keeps asking Amy questions to her annoyance. Too much work for what she was getting. Dating and Dave is excited that she used to date Sheldon. It turns out that Dave is a big fan of Sheldon's. The date then starts going downhill as Dave spends the rest of the night asking questions about Sheldon.

Bernadette, Penny and Leonard spy on the date from Bernadette's car across the street. Bernadette isn't a stalker, she is just a girl with military level spy equipment who kept tabs on her boyfriends. Penny thinks that he is cute, while Leonard comments that they are having fun and wishes that he could hear them. Bernadette forgot her parabolic microphone. Penny also thinks that he likes her, but he is just asking her about Sheldon. Bernadette returns with the videos she took. Leonard just wants to leave and go see the movie. Bernadette wonders why she even brought him. They're married so she has to take him everywhere. Bernadette remarks sarcastically, "I hear you."

The dinner date continues with more questions about Sheldon. Howard asks how long it took him to write a certain paper. The answer was an hour and a half, one of her dates which is much like this one. Dave also wants to be introduced to him. He thinks that it would be weird to meet her ex-, but keeps going back and forth about the invitation.

Back in the car, Leonard needs a bathroom break and Bernadette hands him a bottle.

The other guys are counting down to 10:00 PM. No one arrives at the apartment. Howard remarks that it was a fun experiment, while Sheldon is convinced that someone will show up. Raj wonders if he really wants someone who is exactly like him. Opposites do attract. Sheldon comments that if that is true, he should spend his time with them.

When their dinner is over, Amy tells him that it's late and they should go. Dave apologizes that he has been stupid talking all night about her ex-. He's not as smart as you know who. And he doesn't want her to forget to introduce him.

The girls notice that the couple under surveillance is coming toward them. Bernadette panics and backs into the car behind them which is Dave's car. Amy wants to know what they are doing and Bernadette turns the tables asking her the same thing. Leonard returns and Dave is excited to meet Dr. Leonard Hofstadter, though Leonard is reluctant to shake his hand considering where he came from.

At a minute to go, the guys count down the last sixty seconds. Sheldon is worried that it might be Jennifer Lawrence since he didn't like "The Hunger Games". Their watch ticks down and no one shows up. Raj consoles with that when it is supposed to happen, it will happen. A moment later there is a knock at the door and it is a girl named Vanessa Bennet. She is late

because she was at a boring symposium on atomic spectroscopy and the puzzles save her life. She know Klingon, Sanskrit and facts about flags. They speak to each other in both languages and are smiling at each other. She just had to meet him. Sheldon calls her a special lady, but since she didn't complete the challenge on time Sheldon shuts the door in her face much to the shock and disbelief of Raj and Howard. Sheldon explains that she was late, and she found atomic spectroscopy boring.

Finally, Amy is in her car with Dave at the end of her date and she ends things with him. After he again mentions Sheldon Cooper twice, Amy tells him to get out of her car.

The Platonic Permutation

Season 9
Episode Number: 192
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 19, 2015
Writer: Jim Reynolds, Jeremy Howe, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney), Elon Musk (Himself), Wayne Wilderson (Travis)
Production Code: 4X7209
Summary: On Thanksgiving, Sheldon and Amy try to spend time together as friends and go to an aquarium, Howard reluctantly agrees to volunteer at the soup kitchen with Bernadette, Raj and Emily, and Penny discovers that Leonard knows more about her than she thought.



Raj has a new app that allows him to use his Siri without pushing any buttons. Howard then asks for pictures of naked grandma butts; however, she only recognizes his voice. Howard imitates Raj with the same request and Raj denies that he sounds like that. Siri then complies with Howard's request. While discussing Thanksgiving, Sheldon asks if anyone wants to go with him to the aquarium and have a Thanksgiving buffet since he is no longer with Amy. Silence. Leonard and Penny are having their first turkey day feast together and serving the rest of

the gang. Bernie and Raj are going to serve food to the homeless at the soup kitchen. Howard lies that he is going too and then gets roped into going.

Sheldon contacts Amy to offer her the tickets for her and anyone she is dating while giving her some fishy Thanksgiving facts. Amy can tell that he wants to go, so if it's not too awkward for him, they could go together as friends. She does think that having Thanksgiving dinner at an aquarium is awkward. He agrees and tells her that he'll see her Thanksgiving morning. Amy then gives Sheldon his last fishy Thanksgiving fact which disappoints him.

Bernadette, Howard, Emily and Raj show up at the soup kitchen. Howard complains about their shift being six hours long. He doesn't think that he can complain for that amount of time. Raj wants to know if he ever does anything for others. He is a giving and generous lover. Emily asks Bernadette if they are close enough for her to call that creepy. Bernadette says that they are, but the word is "Yech!" The shift supervisor comes to the door and explains that they have enough help and to come back some other time. Bernadette swipes at Howard to get that smug look off his face. The supervisor returns saying that due to a cancellation, they could use the help. As the guys enter, Howard tells Bernadette to get that smug look off her face. She quips that she can't.

Leonard and Penny are unloading the groceries for their first Thanksgiving together. Penny needs to look up the recipes on Leonard's iPad. The password is his birthday, but it doesn't work.

Leonard tried it, get in and realizes that Penny doesn't know his birthday. Leonard is enjoying himself as he runs off all these random facts about Penny. Birthday: December 2. Grew up on Perkins Street. Last four digits of her Social Security Number are 7-6-2-1. The odds of letting her forget this is zero. Now Penny claims that it's their last Thanksgiving as husband and wife.

Sheldon gets into Amy's car and they are both in good moods. Sheldon has a list of polite conversation topics so that their time together will not be awkward. questions to catch up with her. Any pets? No. Any vacations? Amy did go to visit her aunt in Bakersfield.

At the soup kitchen, the guys are assigned to wash dishes. Howard wanted to be where the action is and serve food. He wanted a poor little kid with a British accent to come up to him as ask: Please sir, I want some more. Raj exclaims that this is a soup kitchen and not a production of "Oliver!"

Sheldon rattles off the high temperature for the day for the last week. Amy is tired of discussing the weather and insists that they have known each other long to conduct a conversation without an Internet list. Sheldon wonders what they should discuss. Amy replies to discuss anything that comes to mind. Sheldon wonders if she has had coitus with any of the men she has gone out with. Amy then remarks that she walked right into that.

While making dinner Leonard adds a teaspoon of pepper which is the name of Penny's childhood dog. A peeved Penny tells him that he thinks he knows so much about her. Who is her favorite Spice girl? Baby. Who is her favorite NYSNYC band member? Justin? Backstreet Boys? Nice try. She preferred NYSNYC. Leonard then claims to be the king of husbands. He adds that she didn't like the orange lingerie he got her for Valentine's Day. Also she doesn't like the word "moist" because.. Hold on. That was only written in her journal which Leonard obviously read. Leonard tries to deny even knowing she had a journal. Penny knows he is lying because his voice goes up an octave.

Howard is washing dishes and claims that it's not so bad until he is told he has five hours and forty minutes to go. Raj tells him to treat it like meditation as they both try to experience their job. Feel the warm water. Smell the detergent. All four of them try meditation until the supervisor asks for three volunteers to serve food. Everybody leaves him to go serve food leaving Howard with the dishes to do.

Leonard is apologizing to Penny for reading her journal because it was an accident. He just found it on the night table. Penny is upset that he kept reading though he is a big bookworm according to Leonard. Penny goes back to working on her meal, while Leonard still wants to make it up to her. He starts reading from his journal from the day they met. She wants to hear something recent. Leonard about how their love is growing and Penny knows that he is making it up. It's really about his excitement over the new Star Wars movie.

Sheldon thinks that things have gotten awkward, but Amy dismisses it saying that they are friends and should be able to discuss anything. How many dates has she been on? Who were they with? Where did they go? Where did she meet them? Did she sleep with them? How far is it to the aquarium? She has had six different dates with three different men and either went for coffee or to dinner. One she met at a bookstore and two she met online. She slept with none of them. And the aquarium is forty minutes away. Since he is hungry she packed some cheerios for him. She asks him if he is okay which he is. She just wants him to be happy. Though he would have been happier if she added some Apple Jacks.

As Howard is washing dishes, Elon Musk brings in a tray of dirty dishes which surprises Howard. He was serving turkey, but served too much gravy and got demoted to dishes. Howard tells him that he is a big fan of the Tesla car and his SpaceX rocket project. Elon is just glad to help out the homeless that Howard agrees with saying that he had to drag Bernadette there. Howard wants to be adopted, tells him about being an astronaut and that he'd love to go to Mars, another of Elon's ventures. Elon plans on exchanging emails so they can stay in touch since he is always needs engineers. Also they share a half-eaten piece of pumpkin pie.

At the aquarium Sheldon is unhappy with the buffet because they ran out of pilgrim hats. Sheldon has them play an ocean-theme game; Food, Friend, Fight. They both play a round. Amy says that she misses this. Sheldon thinks that she means the game. She never played the game before so how could she miss it, silly. Amy then says that sometimes she is just silly.

Penny pulls the turkey out of the oven and asks Leonard if he thinks it is done. Leonard comes out wearing Penny's carrot colored lingerie because he had read his wife's journal. He plans to put his picture on Facebook as punishment; however, Penny doesn't even want to see him in

it. Leonard starts to dance around Penny and then gets caught by Howard, Bernadette Raj and Emily who are both repulsed.

Cleaning up after dinner, Penny is glad that he had a good time with Amy. Sheldon is glad that they can function together as friends. Amy calls Sheldon on the phone on the way back from her mother's. She had a really nice time with him earlier. She says that maybe she is ready to be his girlfriend again. Sheldon thought that she just wanted them to be friends. He adds: "I excel at many things, but getting over you is not one of them. I think I need to just be your friend". Fighting back tears, Amy agrees.

The Earworm Reverberation

Season 9
Episode Number: 193
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday December 10, 2015
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Saladin Patterson, Steve Molaro, Steve Holland, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Stephen Merchant (Dave)
Production Code: 4X7210
Summary: Sheldon can't get a tune out of his head. He can't work out what song it is. Meanwhile, Amy is having Dave over to hers, but Bernadette is reluctant. Howard and Raj meet a fan of their band and Sheldon gives Amy an ultimatum.



Sheldon and Leonard are in Apartment 4A working on a physics problem. Sheldon is humming away to himself to a tune that is stuck in his head and is driving him crazy. He starts talking about on the internet and to his friends. The song is also driving Penny and Leonard nuts as well.

Amy nervously calls Dave asking if he wanted to try going on another date, a suggestion which he happily accepts.

Raj set up a web page for their band, "Footprints on the Moon" and find one fan named Trent. They track him down to a

coffee shop and after seeing his gross behavior, they make a run for it.

Bernadette visits Amy and warns her that inviting Dave to Amy's Apartment for dinner could lead to intimacy.

The date with Dave starts and they discuss her apartment. She was thinking of moving to a better place now that she didn't have to be close to Shel-. She stopped and apologized for bringing him up. Dave was pretty excited to find Sheldon lived nearby. He likes her model train that she must have gotten from Sheldon.

The song is still driving Sheldon nuts. Finally he realizes its from The Beach Boys — "Darlin". Checking out the lyrics he finds the following:

*"I was living like half a man,
Then I couldn't love but now I can,
You pick me up when I'm feeling sad,
More soul than I ever had."*

The song is about him and Amy. Sheldon starts to list off all of the things that Amy did. She bought out the better in him, she made him a softer person. He leaves to go see her.

Amy and Dave are awkwardly sitting on the couch. Amy leans over to admire Dave's tie pin. He leans in to kiss her and she jumps back. After apologizing, they both lean in when Sheldon

knocks on the door. Amy opens the door and explains she is kind of busy. Sheldon says he doesn't care and that he had a song stuck in his head that he couldn't get out. The song was about her and he can't get her out of his head. Amy is the earworm in his heart.

Dave jumps in saying "I think Sheldon is trying to say he loves you and wants to be with you again". Sheldon agrees and tells Amy he wants to be her boyfriend again. Amy is flattered and agrees to be his girlfriend again. They just stare at each other and smile.

Sheldon says "I love you, Amy" very sweetly. Amy replies with "I love you too, Sheldon".

They just stare at each other lovingly until Dave shouts "JUST KISS HER, YOU BRILLIANT FOOL!"

Shamy then slowly embrace and begin to kiss passionately. Sheldon eventually pulls away and apologizes for interrupting the date, but Amy pulls him back and they embrace again. Finally, as Shamy hasn't stopped kissing, Dave walks out telling them goodnight. Amy kicks the door closed as they continue.

The Opening Night Excitation

Season 9
Episode Number: 194
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday December 17, 2015
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Bob Newhart (Arthur Jeffries), Wil Wheaton (Himself)
Production Code: 4X7211
Summary: Leonard, Wolowitz, and Koothrappali must decide who will take their extra Star Wars movie ticket. After five years of dating, Sheldon and Amy spend their first night together.



Cue Star Wars theme. Roll credits over the dark star field. "Episode 194. The Opening Night Excitation. It was a period of great tension. Our heroes, Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz and Koothrappali know that tickets to the Star wars movie are about to be available for pre-sale. If they fail in their mission and can't see it on opening night Sheldon has sworn that they will never hear the end of it for the rest of their lives... They believe him. Pan down to planet earth. In Apartment 4A, Leonard walks in on the guys and announces that the tickets are already being sold. Raj doesn't believe it. Leonard

snaps that it's Steel Magnolias 2: Even Steelier. Sheldon can't get in because the website is frozen. Then Sheldon exclaims that desperate times call out for desperate measures and falls to his knees and starts praying. He tells the Lord that he is good friends with his mom and that he has always denied his existence... Howard exclaims that he has the tickets. ...then Sheldon adds that he will continue to deny God's existence.

In the present day, Sheldon, Leonard and Penny are in the kitchen. Both are glad that Sheldon is back together with Amy. Leonard is also excited that Star Wars opens in three days. Sheldon is taking off the day to watch the original trilogy and also eat enough Star Wars cereal to choke a Wookiee. Penny reminds Sheldon that Thursday is also Amy's birthday; however, Sheldon bought the tickets while they were still broken up. Penny doesn't feel it wise to ditch her on her birthday when they just got back together. Sheldon points out that if he sees it later, someone could ruin the movie for him while he knows that on her birthday Amy is one year older. No surprise to that! Penny suggests that he put that on her birthday cake.

That night as Sheldon sleeps Arthur Jeffries shows up dressed in Jedi robes appears and is "thrilled" to be back. Sheldon awakes surprised to see him. He has previously appeared when Sheldon needed advice or a nightlight since Arthur's apparition glows. Sheldon explains that his friends don't think he should abandon his girlfriend on her birthday to see the new Star Wars movie. Arthur feels that that sounds round and complains that his Jedi robes have no under

garments. Amy knows how much the movie means to him. Arthur points out that since he loves her, he should show her how much she means to him. Also he has only a limited time to spend with her and he should do that. Sheldon agrees.

Sheldon then calls up Amy who is asleep to tell her that he'll be with her on her birthday. HE explains about Arthur coming to him and that he won't be going to see the movie. She then says good night and then realizes that he wasn't going to be there. Sheldon has a conflicting girlfriend moment and tells her good night.

The next evening, the guys are surprised Sheldon is giving up the movie for Amy. He isn't even going to the comic book store so he can research what he is doing for her. Sheldon wants someone worthy to get his ticket. Leonard says that Penny might want to go. Sheldon snatches it back and give and it to Raj.

Amy and Bernadette are having wine, as Sheldon knocks on her door. Bernadette tells him to come in. He knocks asking for Bernadette as Penny tells him to come in. Sheldon says that he has nowhere else to go. Bernadette tells him to just come in. After calling them Means Girls, he wants their help in selecting his gift for Amy.

1. The possibility of her playing her harp with the LA Philharmonic. (Bennigan's will make a fuss over your birthday, so why not the orchestra?)
2. An all expense paid weekend to the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival. (She likes to knit her own sweaters.) Penny was hoping for a bazinga. Bernadette thought that it would be romantic, but she would be going alone.
3. Coitus. Penny breaks the wine glass in her hand.

At the comic book store, Leonard first thinks of giving the ticket to Stuart. Raj and Howard doesn't like Stuart's habits willing watching the movie. Also his doctor is worried about Stuart's circulation so he is going to be walking around the mall for exercise. Wil Wheaton enters the store and Howard quickly asks him who is glad to go with them.

As Penny is sweeping up the glass, she recaps his options as the harp thing, the sheep thing... "The wild thing", Bernadette adds. Sheldon is worried that the wool convention has only 8-000 tickets left. Penny tells him that being intimate is a big step, Sheldon feels that it might be the right time and he wants to shoe her how much she means to him. Penny calls his offer beautiful. Sheldon then has decided that Amy's birthday present is going to be his genitals. Penny's Posse is taking Amy out for her birthday a day early. Amy suggests that they try the new Mexican Place on Green Street. Penny wonders if she would rather go get a bikini wax. She says no. Bernadette then suggests that afterwards they watch a dirty movie and see if she has any questions. Now she wants to know what's up. Bernie doesn't want to ruin anything, but says that Sheldon plans on getting physical tomorrow night. Amy exclaims, "YOU SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTH!" She's overwhelmed ecstatic and sits down on the steps. Amy doesn't know what to say. The girls are happy for her. Amy jumps up knowing what to say: Let's get me waxed!" as she races down the stairs.

Arthur returns to Sheldon wondering why he can't appear in Angie Dickinson's bedroom. Sheldon tells him about his plans to be physical with Amy. Arthur tries to kill himself with his light saber, but it just goes through him. Arthur starts to explain the birds and the bees, but Sheldon is really just worried about that he will be overwhelmed on this important night and ruin everything. Arthur reassures him that if he is with the right person everything will be okay. Sheldon thanks him and calls him the wisest of the wise. Arthur reminds him that he's just in Sheldon's mind. So Sheldon tells him "Well then, you're fun to look at".

The guys are excited that opening night has finally comes. Penny is just glad that now they will stop talking about it. Raj still can't believe that Sheldon gave it up for Amy. Leonard thinks that they're going to have so much more fun than he is. Bernadette says "Oh, no they're not!" and Penny says, "Knowing them...yeah, they will." Penny also mentioned that after he gave Sheldon some suggestions about what women like and he couldn't stopped giggling.

At the movies, the audience starts booing since Wil Wheaton shows up in a Star Trek uniform dressed as Mr. Spock. Wil is loving the rejection. He tells the guys that since he was on Star Trek he's routing g for the home team. Someone calls out that Star Trek stinks. Wil replies, "Live long and suck it."

Amy is in her apartment with romantic music (Super Mario Brothers theme song) playing and surrounded by lit candles. Sheldon knocks with "Birthday girl" as his greeting. Amy lies on her couch looking seductive, asks him to come in, but he can't because her chain is on. Sheldon has flowers and apologizes for being late. He lost her balloon and chased it awhile. She goes to put the flowers in water and then asks what his plans are. Sheldon suggests going out to dinner and maybe look for the balloon. She says that she is not that hungry so maybe he could give her present first. She wants him to give "it" to her. Amy says that she knows he was going to offer her intimacy. Sheldon asks if that's okay. Amy jumps up and kisses him. Sheldon still needs to have her verbal consent, which she immediately says yes to. He mentions a contract from the Internet and she kisses him again, which interrupts him and he reciprocates the kiss forgetting about the contract.

Leonard asks Wil why he is there if he doesn't like the movie. Wil explains that he is enjoying himself and that his point is that people shouldn't take the Star Wars movie so seriously. And that if the movie is bad, he shouldn't ruin their life. Raj is now convinced that the movie is bad. Wil says that whether the movie is good or bad, it won't change their lives. Leonard agrees that whatever happens they will still be back the next day to see it again.

Back in Apartment 4A, Bernadette wonders if Sheldon will really go through with it. Penny replied that he said he was ready. Bernadette added that he also said he was ready to pull the guys out of a pumpkin this year.

Later, Sheldon is in Amy's bed wearing only a white T-shirt as Amy enters in a knee length white nightgown. Both shyly say hello to each other. Sheldon notices that Amy is shaking and he asks her if she's cold. Amy admits she's nervous because this is their first time and doesn't know what to do. Sheldon gently assures her that they will figure it out together. He then takes her in his arms and they kiss.

The guys are at movie where Raj asks Wil if he heard something bad about it. Will Wheaton showed up dressed as Mr. Spock and is booed.

Now naked and with their hair messed up, both enjoyed it more than they thought they would, all while holding hands. Sheldon tells her he can't wait for her next birthday so they can do it again. Amy smiles and says "That's fine."

Back at the movie, Wil Wheaton says that they enjoyed more than they thought they would.

A few nights later, Professor Proton visits Sheldon again and he asks how he liked it. I saw it a few days later and it was amazing. What about Amy? She really liked the movie too.

The Sales Call Sublimation

Season 9
Episode Number: 195
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 7, 2016
Writer: Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Saladin K. Patterson, Steve Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Jane Kaczmarek (Dr. Gallo)
Production Code: 4X7212
Summary: Leonard visits a psychiatrist so Penny can make a sales call on her and they learn some things about their interactions and marital issues. Stuart moves out of the Wolowitz House. Sheldon works with Raj looking for extra-solar planets.



Amy is away for the weekend at a neurobiology conference and discussing the merits of Best Westerns motels and Best Buy stores via Skyping. She really does appear to miss him. Sheldon has time on his hands and wants to know what others are doing inquiring who wants to get their "Sheld-on". Howard and Bernadette are cleaning their house. Not interested. Raj is using the telescope to look for new planets, which Sheldon finds interesting. He asks what Leonard is doing and he's having a "Sheld-off" weekend.

Penny comes home complaining that Dr. Gallo, the psychiatrist, won't let her pitch her drugs to her. Sheldon is upset that she is trying to see a doctor since he thinks she is sick. Raj suggests that Leonard might visit her as a patient though he argues that he doesn't have any problems. The guys mention several which prompts Leonard to go visit her. Finally Leonard agrees to visit her.

Howard and Bernadette are in bed au natural after their incredible love making session. Both wish they didn't have to be so quiet since Stuart lived next door. Stuart knocks and they decide to let him in. Since they are going to start remodeling he has found an apartment and is moving out. He thanks them for everything and then creepily says that it's the first he's been in their bedroom when they were awake.

While Raj is working on the telescope, Sheldon is bored and keeps asking him what he was doing. Sheldon insists that he can help. When Sheldon was taken to work with his father, Sheldon figured out in ten minutes who was taking money out of the register. It was his father's and he got him fired. Sheldon got a fudgsicle for turning him in. Raj sits in front of a numerical database from six months of observations to look for patterns or anomalies that might indicate a new planet. Sheldon immediately finds a pattern and then suggests that he get a fudgsicle.

Leonard visits Dr. Gallo who asks about Dr. Beverly Hofstadter. That is his mother. She has read all of his mother's books so Leonard thinks she knows him better than himself. She

doesn't agree with Beverly's mention of raising children. He wonders if she finds them cold, cruel and unsuitable for a little boy who just wants to be happy. The doctor thinks that he still has a lot of anger toward her. He denies it. Leonard still sends her mother a card and gift on his birthday because Beverly insists that his birth was her accomplishment.

Howard and Bernadette are helping Stuart pack his car. Howard mentions that they could now get romantic in any room in the house. Bernadette can know show him where the laundry room is. Stuart finishes filling his car and wonders if everyone thought he would still be there two years after moving in with Debbie. Howardette both deny that unconvincingly. After Stuart drives off Howard appears in his underwear ready to have sex in the garage.

Back in the telescope lab, Raj combines all their photographic images and discover that Sheldon found a new medium-sized asteroid that they hoped it would be a trans-Neptunian object or a dwarf planet.. First Sheldon calls the discovery "Chicken fingers" until they both admit that they like chicken fingers. Sheldon wonders if it's on a collision course with earth ready to destroy all life. Now they get to come up with a name for their new asteroid and one people can't make fun of like "Uranus".

Leonard returns home feeling great about his talk with Dr. Gallo. Leonard has always been insecure that he didn't feel that people wanted to listen to what he had to say.. and then Penny interrupts him asking if she can see her. After they discussed how his mother ruined Leonard's life, she agreed to see her. Now she feel that Leonard is the best husband ever and she guesses she will go to Who-Con with him. Leonard could even hear her rolling her eyes.

Howard and Bernadette are cleaning out Stuart's old room and start to wonder if they are going to turn it into a home theater, game room or a man-cave. Bernadette suggests a woman-cave or a home office. She then finds a bear that Stuart had won since they couldn't guess his age. They wonder how he was doing since he hadn't called. He could have done that. First they deny it and then Bernadette realizes that they are. "Ewww, we are missing him!"

Raj and Sheldon return to his apartment and are talking about naming their discovery. Sheldon suggest "Koo" from Koothrapoli and "per" from Cooper for Kooper. Raj adds that at least he would know what the K stood for. Leonard is feeling good since Dr. Gallo made him feel that his feelings matter. Raj learned that from a cat poster. Returning to the asteroid, Leonard suggests that they name it after their girlfriends to show them how much they care about them. Sheldon feeling that that is romantic and would get them out of giving Valentine's Day presents forever. He suggest "AM" for Amy and "Y" for Emily or Amy. Raj is not impressed.

Penny finishes her pill pitch about and anxiety medicine and asks Dr. Gallo if she has any questions. She wants to know why she made Leonard pretend to be a patient. What were you thinking? Penny quietly tells her that she was talking about the drugs. Then asks why she would married Leonard. Leonard was raise by an overbearing woman during his formative years. Is he continuing that by marrying a woman like Penny? Penny replies that she used to wear a lot of tank tops.

Sheldon is again Skyping with Amy. He called her an asteroid. Amy doesn't understand. Sheldon explains that they discovered one and named it after her. She thinks that that is romantic, but wonders about Rajesh. She doesn't seem enthusiastic about having to name all their children Raj, even the girls.

Penny is now on the couch with Dr. Gallo saying that how can she not be like his mother since he has all these toys (Including a stuffed Wookie) in the room they have sex in. She thinks that he is turning her into his mother. She used to be an actress and a pretty good one. Hot, girl-next-day type. Doable. Not only is she his mother, but they have a man-child living with him named Sheldon. Dr. Gallo says that Leonard mentioned him a lot and she didn't even think he was real. He is as real as the fines he gives Penny for using too much toilet paper. Penny admits that Leonard was right that talking things out with her helped. Dr. Gallo gives Penny a prescription to help her through her anxiety issues. She suggested Penny take some, but she did not want the product that might give her fits of homicidal rage.

Sheldon misses Amy. Amy misses Sheldon. Howard and Bernadette miss Stuart. Penny misses when life was simpler. Leonard is skipping rope with some little girls because one decide to do what makes one happy, not their controlling mothers. Finally, while Howard and Bernadette are asleep, Stuart is staring at them in the darkness. He claims to miss them too.

The Empathy Optimization

Season 9
Episode Number: 196
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 14, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Dave Geotsch, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Saladin K. Patterson
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney)
Production Code: 4X7213
Summary: After being forced to deal with a sick Sheldon, the rest of the gang try to treat themselves to a Sheldon-free weekend.



As Penny, Bernadette and Emily are setting up dinner, they are discussing superheroes, Superman, Batman and Iron Man. The guys are in shock until their conversation veers to Ben Affleck and Leonardo DiCapio and other movies. Sheldon enters in his pajamas announcing that all his flu symptoms are gone and he can return to work. No one is concerned since he managed to peeved everyone who tried to help him while he was sick.

Flashbacks: Sheldon wanted Penny to rub on his Vicks after she did everything else for him that morning. He remarks

sarcastically that she'll grope every other male on the planet except him; Bernadette brings over some flu medication from work. Sheldon snarks that he's hopes that laughter is the best medicine because her present was a joke. Howard tries to defend her as Sheldon sneezes in his face; Raj shows up with Emily so she can take a look at him. She may only be a dermatologist, but she did go to medical school. Sheldon then tells her to remove that irritating patch of dark skin next to her; Leonard brings him a meal which angers Sheldon because it was chicken and stars soup instead of chicken noodle.

Skpyng with Amy who is still at the neurobiology conference, Sheldon complains that everyone is mad at him for no reason. Amy asks him to tell her what happened and she will in a gentle and loving way tell him how he is wrong. Sheldon explains that when one is sick, they can be cranky and say things where other people's feelings don't matter. Knowing that her gentle and loving explanation will be tricky, she tells Sheldon that he can be unbearable when he is sick and that is why his friends skip out to the movies...or spend an extra few days at a neurobiology conference. Sheldon is surprised, but Amy finds Detroit beautiful when it is sleeting.

The guys visit the comic book store to take a break from Sheldon. He had been there to buy a comic book and told Stuart that death was now a this door. Jeez. Leonard tells him not to take it personally; however, Stuart is on so many anti-depressants that nothing bothers him. Wanting to do more things without him, they noted that Amy's break from Sheldon improved their relationship. Raj is in as long as it doesn't end up with having sex with Sheldon. Leonard

and Penny were thinking of a weekend in Las Vegas, so maybe they could all go. Raj suggests the party bus which excites Leonard and Howard. Chanting "party bus" does not excite them.

Penny gets interested in the party bus idea as long as its booze and music and not juice boxes and video games. Sheldon comes in and asks where they were going. Vegas did not appeal to him since it was Atlantic City without the taffy. Leonard tell him that he's not invited and that everyone else is going. He has to hang out with Stuart. Ugh!

Again Sheldon is skyping with Amy who asks "What's new?" All his friends are jerks and he is mad at them. That wasn't new to Amy. He tells her about their trip. She asks if he refused to apologize and act like they were stupid for being mean to him. Sheldon tells her that there is no mystery left in their relationship. Amy realizes that he is upset, but he should just apologize to everyone and that he should do it because he feels bad. That is empathy. Sheldon says that he has empathy. Very sarcastically he says that Leonard made him soup and he was mean to him. Amy wants him to try again. Saying it more convincingly, Sheldon actually does feel terrible having had said it. Neat. Amy is glad that she could help. Then Sheldon wants her to apologize for staying in Detroit. She says flatly that she feels so, so bad. Sheldon thinks that they are both getting better at this.

Sheldon marched into the living area to tell Leonard to get ready for an apology. Leonard took care of him when he was sick and he was mean to him. He is truly sorry. Leonard accepts his statement. Back handedly, Sheldon then wants to be invited on the trip even though he claims that that was not he reason for the apology. Leonard explains that he upset a lot of people and that they all must agree to let him on the trip. Sheldon accepts his challenge and decide to embark on the Sheldon Cooper Apology Tour. Leonard sarcastically hopes that it is as much fun as the Sheldon Cooper Spell Checks Local Menus Tour.

Sheldon goes to Howard's house and apologizes. They accept and are impressed. Then Sheldon wants to play Brenda Lee's song "I'm sorry" on the pan flute. Not necessary. And to memorialize the event he has T-shirts for them which say "Sheldon Cooper apologized to me." on the front and "and he made it better." on the back. Sheldon also takes a commemorative picture.

Later Sheldon apologizes to Penny while she's in the shower. She accepts it. Sheldon still wants to take a picture of her with the T-shirt. Naked? She ends up screaming for Leonard to get him to leave.

At the comic book store, he apologizes to Stuart who accepts it. He wasn't doing it to just to get to go on the trip to Vegas. Stuart asks about what trip he was talking about.

Visiting Raj he says that Raj is a good friend and he treated him badly. Raj accepts his apology. To Emily, he apologizes that he called a dermatologist not a real doctor. She must hear that all the time. Now she is insulted again and doesn't accept it. Also she gets mad at Raj for not standing up for her and walks out on him. Now Sheldon again feels terrible and tries out a couple of apologies on Raj who is not happy with him.

Now having dinner, Penny asks Sheldon if they had a bad fight. Sheldon counters that it was excellent for a fight. Sheldon did go over to Emily's place to straighten things out and finally reduced her to tears. Sheldon thinks that he should go over a apologize and everyone screams, "No!". Emily is not going on the trip if Sheldon is going, Sheldon tells them that the only way to show true remorse is for him to not go at all.

Now on the party bus, Howard finds the stripper pole that he figures Raj will be on before they reach the freeway. With champagne, Leonard proposes a toast to a well deserved weekend of... Sheldon pops out from the bathroom surprising everyone. He was going to pop out later, but one of his nose plugs fell in the toilet. Penny asks why can't he give them one weekend alone. Stuart then pops out telling them all that he thought it was a bad idea. Sheldon also wanted to apologize again to Emily who looks thrilled. He tells her that he is a bit odd, but that he means well and that she is a smart and wonderful woman. And can do better than Raj. So he apologizes for his past and future gaffs. She is satisfied and says that Sheldon can go. Sheldon declines since they will have a better time without him. He leaves dragging Stuart along. Leonard and Penny really feel bad now and invite them back.

Finally, Sheldon tells Emily that he was glad she and Raj could patch things up. She doesn't think so at the moment, because Raj is dancing on the stripper pole and the other girls are throwing dollars at him.

The Meemaw Materialization

Season 9
Episode Number: 197
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday February 4, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Alessandra Torresani (Claire), June Squibb (Meemaw), Declan Churchill Carter (Five Year Old)
Production Code: 4X7214
Summary: Sheldon's grandmother, aka Meemaw, visits and there's friction between her and Amy, which intensifies after the elderly woman blurts out a secret about Sheldon. Meanwhile, Raj is conflicted when an attractive writer for a children's sci-fi show asks to collaborate with him.



Entering the lobby to get his mail, Sheldon tells Leonard and Penny an interesting mail fact. If someone breaks his right thumb outside of the mailbox, they are under the jurisdiction of the Pasadena police. If it's his left thumb is in the mailbox, that is under federal jurisdiction and the F.B.I. would be involved. Leonard quips to Penny that if he were to go to jail, it would be because he killed Sheldon. Sheldon receives a letter from his Meemaw that he lets Penny sniff. Roses, Ben-Gay and Dr. Scholl's foot powder. In letter she describes how she got a new set of teeth and then found her old ones and

that she is coming to visit.

At the airport Sheldon checks up on her on the I-phone that was unknowingly slipped into her luggage by Sheldon's sister. Meemaw walks into the waiting room calling Sheldon Moonpie. Leonard is pleased to meet her and also calls her Meemaw. Sheldon snaps at Leonard that he has to call her Constance and his grandmother makes him apologize. Leonard asks her if she could live with them forever.

At the comic book store, Howard and Raj are in a long discussion about the attributes of the movie "Frozen". A cute blonde woman next to them adds her own factoids in their argument and then joins in. She is shocked that they had been arguing about it for an hour.

Meemaw is resting in Sheldon's spot after climbing what she describes as 800 flights of stairs. Sheldon things that her huffing and puffing was so cute. Sheldon gets really excited as Amy arrives to meet Meemaw. He is sure that they will hit it off since they both have the same fashion sense. They both greet each other and Amy asks about her flight. Sheldon wants her to ask for a tissue so that his grandmother can pull one out of her sleeve. Just like grandma Spiderman. Sheldon runs off to get her room ready, but not to look in her suitcase for any presents. He might find her brassieres and bloomers. Meemaw then gets honest with Amy. She came to Pasadena to

"size her up." Amy retorts that she'll probably like her once she gets to know her. Meemaw snaps that she better hope so. Sheldon runs in excited about the train set that she brought him.

At the comic book store, Raj and Howard sit down with the woman whose name is Claire and talk about the comic she was reading. Raj introduces himself and Howard. She is a screenwriter/bartender/a month away from living in her car. Raj admits that he is an astrophysicist which excites Claire. She wants to pick Raj's brain for her screenplay, an animated sci-fi film for kids. She give him her number and then takes off. Howard wonders about his girlfriend Emily. Raj is going to help Claire, but not mention it to his girlfriend.

Leonard and Penny have joined them in 4A. Meemaw turns down Penny's offer of wine, but does want her tall glass of whiskey. Amy asks why she calls him Moonpie. He's so nummy-nummy she could just eat him up. Leonard and Penny join in the explanation. Penny learned it years ago while going through Meemaw's letters to Sheldon ("The Terminator Decoupling". Meemaw wants to know why Amy didn't know that. Sheldon replies that she never bothered to ask. "Now I know," snaps Amy. Meemaw talks to Penny about her new job. She thinks it's wonderful that these modern gals have it all. Amy has a job and a relationship that doesn't set well with Meemaw. Besides Sheldon takes a lot of caring for and Leonard's job is more of a hobby according to Sheldon. Amy tells her that maybe she knows more what Sheldon needs. Meemaw appreciates her honesty and tells her that she doesn't like her. Amy replies that maybe she doesn't like her. Sheldon gets upset that they have to like each other. Amy decides that she should leave. Meemaw exclaims that under no circumstances should he give her that engagement ring. That stops a confused Amy. Sheldon admits that he has one. Amy asks Penny if she knew about it; however, the Hofstadters leave to give them privacy. Amy finds out that he has had it since before they broke up. Meemaw reiterates that her ring is never going to be on this woman's finger. Sheldon doesn't want to correct her Meemaw and Amy says that she might not want to be engaged to Sheldon or have her old hand-me-downs. Sheldon argues that they have only known each other for less than a day and then wonders if their cycles have synced. Meemaw tells Sheldon to leave so that the grownups can talk.

While fixing dinner, Bernadette summarizes Raj's dilemma as they met, exchanged phone numbers and are meeting just to discuss her screenplay. That seemed okay with her. Howard insists that something was going on between them. A little flirting never hurt replies Bernadette, but don't you do it my dear husband. Raj still wonders if Emily is the right person for him.

Leonard and Penny are in her apartment talking about Penny's grandmother. The most exciting thing about her was wondering if the ash from her cigarette would fall into her pudding. Sheldon joins them and explains that Meemaw and Amy are having a private discussion. And he wants one of them to go over and get his train set. While having dinner, Raj has decided to call Claire and also tell her that he is in a relationship. Howard and Bernadette figure that he has decided to breakup with Emily. He gets Claire at her job and she wonders when he is free. Raj first wants to tell her that he has a girlfriend. She thinks that that is great. Raj doesn't want to mislead her since she asked him out. It was only to discuss her screenplay she insists. Raj thought they had a vibe together which she reluctantly admits to. Raj asks them what his next move should be. Bernadette says that he still has a girlfriend. Raj agrees and wishes Claire good luck on her screen play. Claire wonders why to adults can't get together. Raj was already planning their wedding. It's just coffee, science and if Raj proposes she promises to say no. She'll text him later. Raj is still not planning on telling Emily.

Amy tells Meemaw that she is still Sheldon best shot and that she has no idea how much she had to put up with. Meemaw replies that she knows her better than she thinks. She had to live with Sheldon's Pop-pop who was also a stubborn, egoistical man. On some days, she wanted to fill his pockets with corn and throw him to the hogs. Then why was she giving Amy such a hard time? She says it's because Amy broke up with him and it hurt him really deeply and she doesn't want that to happen again. The other guys return with Penny explaining that Sheldon has something to say. He disagrees, but then tells his grandmother that he has to defend his girlfriend. Amy is very thankful. Sheldon watched his grandparents and saw how she made his Pop-pop a better person. He has been working on improving Amy the last five years. Amy rephrases it as they have grown together. Sheldon gawks at it until Penny makes him agree. Meemaw concedes that if they feel that strongly, she won't stand in their way. Sheldon thanks here and then Amy asks if it's okay for Sheldon to give her the ring. Meemaw says, "I suppose" as Amy breaks into a big smile and strokes Sheldon's shoulder. He tells her to cool her jets. He

just gave her his virginity.

Raj is helping Claire at the comic book store. She doesn't want her screenplay to be too scary for children. Raj starts dreaming about having a family with her. They have a son and baby who is currently being fed by Claire. Raj is finishing explaining to his son how his parents met. Claire asks if he is ever going to tell Emily. He still plans to.

The Valentino Submergence

Season 9
Episode Number: 198
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired:	Thursday February 11, 2016
Writer:	Steve Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role:	Laura Spencer (Emily), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke)
Guest Stars:	Alessandra Torresani (Claire), Creagen Dow (Maitre D), Shane Blades (Customer)
Production Code:	4X7215
Summary:	Sheldon and Amy host a live Valentine's Day episode of "Fun with Flags", Leonard and Penny look for a way to enjoy Valentine's Day, Howard and Bernadette prepare to try out their new hot tub and Raj struggles with his feelings about Emily.



Sheldon joins the guys in the Caltech cafeteria ask them to join him and Amy for the first live episode of Fun with Flags. He welcomes them to join the timeless love affair between wind and flapping fabric. Leonard says he and Penny are going out for dinner and wouldn't do it any other time either. Howard and Bernadette are going to be breaking in their new hot tub, if you know what he means and Sheldon doesn't. Raj is spending the holiday with Emily, but is not excited about it. He is still wondering about his relationship and is still dreaming of Claire that strong sexy angel. Howard tells him

to just get it over, though the guys admit that none of them have ever broken up with a girl.

Raj visits Penny in Apartment 4B to seek advice from Penny. She has had lots of experience breaking up with guys including at least four times with Leonard. Go to her place, tell the truth, make it quick and be prepared for tears. Raj's of course.

At Emily's she is pissed that he is breaking up with her just before Valentine's Day. Raj offer to stay with her a few more days and talk again after Valentine's Day. He then calls Claire and asks her to spend Valentine's Day with him; however, she has just gotten back with her old boyfriend. Raj goes back to Emily, who closes her door in his face after he claims that their love is meant to be. Raj gets very depressed and cries while Penny comforts him while Leonard admits that Penny was right about the tears.

Sheldon and Amy are setting up for their live broadcast. Sheldon hopes for a lot of audience reaction. Amy tells him to trust her that those interested in flags will be home on Valentine's Day to watch. Also since Amy has become such an integral part of his life and the show he renamed it, "Sheldon Cooper and Dr. Amy Farrah Fowler present 'Sheldon Cooper's Fun with Flags' as Amy's only Valentine's Day gift.

Howard and Bernadette get ready to use their new hot tub. Bernadette wants him to check the temperature to make sure it's not too hot. Howard retorts that "too hot" is the only temperature he comes in. Seems that he has completely shaved for their romantic encounter. Howard thinks he sees a rat floating around in the tub. He goes for a kitchen strainer while Bernadette turns off the hot tub jets. Neither knows how to do it so they quickly exchange tasks. Leonard and Penny are waiting for their table; however, there is a wait of an hour even though they had a reservation. Leonard thanked him in a bad-ass fashion. Penny suggests that he slip the maître d' some money. Leonard goes over to again check on their table and he drops a twenty dollar bill on the floor. Leonard asks the maître d' if it was his and the guy announces to the room whether someone lost a twenty. A customer next to him claims it.

As "Fun with Flags" is about to go live, Amy realizes during her countdown, they are already on the Internet. After announcing the new title of the show, Amy offers to take any flag related questions or comments. To answer some initial questions. Yes, he is a real doctor. And yes, Amy is his girlfriend. Amy says that she just blinks a lot and is not sending out "rescue me" in Morse code. There first call is from Raj who wants to know what is wrong with him and why was he so self-destructive. Anytime things are going well, he messes it up. They seem happy. Amy attributes it to good communication. Sheldon wants to cut him off and take a flag question.

Howard tells Bernadette how much he loves her as she is stretch out over the hot tub trying to catch the animal. It's a rabbit that is alive, but unconscious. Howard checks his phone while Bernie wraps it in a towel. He is to be kept warm, but then he was in a hot tub. If dehydrated, give him some fluid with electrolytes, and wash down his face and genitals. Howard thinks that that would be fun.

Penny is getting tired of waiting and decides to flirt with the maître d'. Leonard is uncomfortable with that until Penny reminds him that she'll be sleeping with him. Penny starts to get friendly, but he claims that there is nothing he can do, "ma'am". Penny jokes that he doesn't have to call her ma'am since they are the same age. He disagrees since he is twenty-one. He asks how old she is. Penny tells him to shut-up and then makes Leonard leave while she's still young.

Still talking to Raj, Amy explains that it is common to have doubts after a breakup. Sheldon wants to give out flag facts; however, Amy reminds him that his friend is hurting. Sheldon tries to help but still comes back to flag facts. Another call comes in and it's Barry Kripke who wants to talk about how lonely he is. He's looking for a young slim Asian woman while Sheldon tells his viewers to just call in with flag questions. So Kripke asks if his pole is a flag relate topic. Sheldon is clueless and agrees.

Howard and Bernadette have the rabbit taking some fluid and are very happy working together. Howard tells him that he can't go swimming for another hour. They decide to name him Valentino after the holiday. Check episode title. Not Peter or Roger. Valentino Wolowitz Rabbit. Howard plays with him and gets bitten, but Howard is worried about getting rabies. Bernadette tries to calm him down.

Leonard and Penny are now eating fast food in the car. Leonard is worried that it was a good substitute and Penny calls it freaking amazing. She was both hungry and cranky about getting called ma'am. How about Leonard. He was first called sir when he was in the sixth grade, but he was wearing a sport coat and carrying a briefcase. Penny complains that when they met she was only 22. Where has all that time gone? Leonard quips that she did watch "The Bachelor" a lot. Penny then reminds him that he is almost out of his thirties. They decide they want to do something to make them feel young. Leonard tries to start a food fight and Penny just stares at him.

Amy continues to give the guys advice as Sheldon gets more and more disgusted. She tells then to take time for themselves after a breakup like she did. When Belize became an independent country, they created a flag with a tree on it. Sheldon wants to hang himself from it. Kripke insults Amy, so she cuts him off. Raj still feels lonely so Sheldon shows him the Isle of Mann flag that has a figure with three legs on it. Amy then asks the viewers for any interested ladies to call in if they want to meet Rajesh. Another call comes in, but it is just Kripke who wants to know how many men she has had sex with.

Penny is looking up fun things to do like dancing. Skinny dipping at the beach. A sing-along "Moulin Rouge" movie is playing. Leonard isn't happy that it's at midnight, but agrees. Then Penny finds out that it is sold out; however, both are happy about that. Howard finds out that rabies in rabbits is highly unlikely, but even the smallest chance bothers him. Bernadette

suggests that they take him to the vet and have him tested. Unfortunately the rabbit has to be killed and have his brain checked. Howard notices that he is not showing any symptoms, but he wants to go to emergency room just to be safe. Bernadette says to Valentino, "We'll find another time to tell him I'm pregnant."

Sheldon now has his head in his lap while Raj goes on. Then he decides that this no longer fun so he erases the word on the white board behind him. It's no longer about flags so he erases that. And Sheldon hasn't been talking so he erases his name. The new Internet show is "Dr. Amy Farrah Fowler presents with". Amy reminds Sheldon that he knows how painful breakups can be. Sheldon then gets dragged in and tells Raj that pain is part of the evolutionary process that provides information from the environment that that behavior isn't good for one. Also, Sheldon admitted that when they broke up he suffered, but was glad that they did breakup since they are a much stronger couple now. He realized how much she really meant to him. During Sheldon's confession, Leonard and Penny burst in dressed as cupids, wishing everyone "Happy Valentine's Day" and throwing confetti around trying to feel young. Sheldon adds the Fun back to this whiteboard. Sheldon says that he has been corrected and they are having fun.

Finally, Sheldon and Amy are toasting a successful live "Fun with Flags" show and a lovely Valentine's Day. Penny and Leonard are cleaning up the confetti which Penny does not consider to be young and fun. Sheldon drops a factoid that the singular of confetti is confetto. Amy wonders when you would use the singular form. Amy has one stuck on her nose.

The Positive Negative Reaction

Season 9
Episode Number: 199
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 18, 2016
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Saladin Patterson, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily)
Production Code: 4X7216
Summary: Bernadette tells Howard that she's pregnant, but his reaction is not what she thought it would be. The guys take Howard to a karaoke bar where Penny's Posse join them to celebrate.



Howard comes in for breakfast and finds a note on the coffee machine that says "WE". Checking the back, the note directs him to the milk container which has a note that says "ARE". The next note is in the spoon drawer. Bernadette speculates that the message is "We are Groot." "We are the champions." "We are family. I got all my sisters with me." The final note says "Pregnant." Howard looks over to her and asks whether she is sure. Pretty positive like the pregnancy test she is holding. They kiss and Howard exclaims that

they can now board planes first and use the mall family bathroom. They both agree that the situation is crazy. Then Howard starts to panic and wonders how everything is going to work. Get a pretty nanny? An ugly nanny? The pretty one would wreck their marriage. The ugly one would scare the kid. Then he worries about whether they should raise it Catholic or Jewish or get him circumcised.

Getting ready to play a board game, Leonard mentions that someone in Raj's department thinks they have discovered a new planet in our solar system. Why wasn't Raj involved? He was making homemade jam for his friends' Christmas presents. Sheldon quips that Raj should let him know when he wins the Nobel Prize for boysenberry. Howard arrives and tells the guys that he is going to be a father. Leonard and Raj instantly congratulate him, Sheldon immediately thinks that a baby will change everything and ruin all their fun activities. How can you have fun with a kid going to Disneyland? Leonard says there is enough room for two babies in the group and Sheldon immediately concludes that Penny is pregnant; however, Sheldon is the other baby.

The Posse is meeting on the back porch. Bernadette has something to tell the girls, which Penny ruins it by blurting out a text she is reading off of her phone from Leonard. He also told Penny not to say anything. Bernadette still says, "I'm pregnant." and the girls quickly congratulate her. Bernie happy, but worried about Howard flipping out. And she is going to get fat. Penny reassures her that she will glow and have the cutest little baby bump. Bernadette tells her that she has nothing to worry about since she is a skinny bitch. Sorry, [[Wikipedia:hormones. Amy and Penny tell her that it may have just been his initial reaction and that he'll calm down.

Howard is now shouting at his friends that he shouldn't be having a child because he doesn't even eat his own vegetables. And what if the kid has his big nose? Sheldon is worried that he won't be over as often to play games. Raj thinks that Howard can bring him over. But then they will have to baby proof the apartment. Even Sheldon can't operate the lock on his sister's toilet. He is also worried about the cost of raising a child. In LA, the cost through college could be one million dollars. Howard has to earn more money. Raj thinks that Howard could ask for an increase in his allowance. Leonard tells him that this is great news and Howard does know it. So they decide to go out and celebrate.

Penny thinks that going out to celebrate would get Bernadette's mind off her problems. To a bar? She can't drink. To that sushi place she love? She can't have sushi. Why not use her hot tub? She can't do that either. Amy thinks that she can't laugh anymore either.

The guys take Howard to a tiki bar where they toast his big heart, his beautiful soul and his tight pants that didn't make his sterile. Howard still worries about his financial future. The guy that invented those little umbrellas has not problems with money. Sheldon keeps downing his drinks getting plastered. Howard wants to invent larger cocktail umbrella, but Apple already has the market on making things different sizes. While Sheldon heads to the bathroom which is the kitchen, the guys propose an improvement to a sophisticated guidance system. It was originally from an idea of improving a guidance system for drunks to keep them safe and on track from using Leonard and Sheldon's superfluid theory. Drunk Sheldon returns and is amazed at a bathroom that has people cooking in it.

While the girls continue talking about the news, Amy mentions how much fun it is to buy toys and cute little clothes. She already does that with Howard. And she'll never get hungry with a minivan whose floor is covered with Cheerios. Amy wonders when they decided to have a baby. They are all grownups and have had sex. Amy chimes in that she IS a grownup and has done it. The baby wasn't really planned. One night when Sheldon was going on about time zones and railroad schedules, they ended up in his bedroom and conceived a child which shocks Amy.

The guys are checking the Internet to see if anyone else had that idea. No one. Then Sheldon and validates their calculations. Even when drunk he was smarter than all of them. Howard wants them to get a patent for their idea so they can license it to companies to use un their guidance systems. Sheldon then tells Howard that they both know how hard it is growing up without a father; therefore, Howard is going to be a great father. Howard thanks Sheldon who then ruins their moment that if he has twins, he can do all kinds of neat experiments on them.

The girls now have their feet daggling in the hot tub. Penny gets an invitation from Leonard to join them for karaoke. Amy gets a message from Sheldon and knows that he's drunk because he used a period instead of a question mark.

When the girls arrive, Leonard and Raj are singing "Bust a Move." Penny congratulates Howard. Amy sits next to Sheldon who is very glad to see her, but doesn't know how to "bust a move". Howard is finally excited with Bernie and apologizes. He says that he's done with being scared. Bernie replies that it's okay to be nervous since she is. They kiss, embrace and tell each other that they love each other. And that's not just because Bernadette's breasts will be getting bigger. Penny and Amy sing Justin Bieber's song "Baby" to Bernadette. Howard then sings to her "((w—Baby I Need You're Loving))." Sheldon raises his glass and smiles. Leonard and Raj then sing "Push It" by Salt-N-Pepa both embarrassing her. In contrast to everything else, a drunken Sheldon sings "My Country, 'Tis of Thee". Howard gets up and sings a touching "Havin' My Baby" to Bernadette while dedicating the song to her. He doesn't finish it because Sheldon shouts at Howard about using his bed to procreate.

In Apartment 4A, Leonard and Penny say how happy they are for Howard and Bernadette and Leonard asks whether she is thinking about babies and she says she's not in a rush, but agrees and she asks Leonard what he thinks. Leonard says that he thinks they would make amazing parents. Meanwhile, a hung-over Sheldon is laying on the couch with a Harry Potter face and a mustache and beard and line on his nose drawn on his face. Penny says that on the other they may lack a certain maturity, and holds up a marker indicating that she did the drawing on Sheldon's face.

The Celebration Experimentation

Season 9
Episode Number: 200
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday February 25, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Sara Gilbert (Leslie Winkle), Wil Wheaton (Himself), Adam West (Adam West), Stephen Hawking (Himself), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke)
Production Code: 4X7217
Summary: Sheldon has always hated birthdays due to many bad experiences when he was younger, so the gang tries to throw him the best birthday party ever, which includes getting Adam West to appear at the party.



Sheldon, Amy, Leonard and Penny are descending the staircase and Amy wants to ask Sheldon that since they never let him celebrate his birthday, that this year they could. Sheldon agrees that that is a discussion they could have and then he disappears up the stairs. Amy thinks they are still together talking until she realizes that he is gone. Neither Penny nor Leonard are surprised that he leaves once the subject of this birthday comes up.

Entering the apartment Penny wonders where Sheldon is. As Leonard goes off to check his room, Sheldon jumps out from behind the couch and shouts "Surprise!" scaring them. "Just one example how birthdays can be terrible," exclaims Sheldon. After some prodding, Sheldon finally explains why he hates celebrating his birthday. He shared his birthday with his twin sister. No one he invited would come though he never liked any of them anyway. His sister and her friends would always be mean to him like when he was six they told him that Batman was coming. He waited by the window for hours. Amy assures him that they would never hurt him like that. Sheldon made her last birthday so memorable, she wanted to return the favor. There are lots of his friends who would be glad to come. Eventually he will accept a party with cake, presents and demonstrations of admiration and love; however, Amy owes him "big time".

The guys are at the the comic shop and Howard asks Raj what he getting Sheldon for his birthday. Raj suggests getting him a dinosaur fossil, but Leonard reminds him not to get him anything Jurassic since he believes that whole chunk of time has gone Hollywood. Leonard then thinks of the idea to invite a real Batman to his party due to Sheldon's bad childhood experience. He then asks Stuart for Adam West's contact info since Stuart tried to get him for a comic signing for his store. Stuart gives it to them, but warns them that he is something of a diva. He won't take the bus or pack his own lunch.

Meanwhile at 4A, the ladies are asking Sheldon what he wants at his party. He would like chocolate cake with strawberry frosting. No messages on the cake in capital letters since he

doesn't like his cake yelling at him. Mylar (foil) balloons, not latex. And if Amy brings water balloons, he'll jump off the roof and aim for her car. As to music, he likes marching bands and Tibetan throat singing. Penny nixes the music.

Leonard, Raj and Howard in Leonard's car going to pick up Adam West and they start getting into a debate over who is the best Batman. For Raj is Michael Keaton, Christian Bale, Lego Batman and then Adam West. Howard tells Raj not to discuss that with West even though he did beat out George Clooney.

At the apartment. Penny, Stuart and Bernadette are there decorating. Stuart is frosting his cake, and is glad to have been invited. He doesn't always feel like he is part of the group. Penny wants him to hurry up so he should frost the cake and hate himself at the same time. Barry Kripke enters and asks Bernie how the glowing mother-to-be is doing. Stuart is hurt that Bernie never told him she was pregnant. Penny jumps on him do work on the birthday party now and the pity party later.

Adam West is now in the car. also discussing the best Batman actors. Adam West that Christian Bale is overrated. Raj adds that he thought Michael Keaton brought a sense of humor to the role. Adam scoffs saying that if you're factoring in humor, HE should be number one. West, Keaton, Kilmer, Lego, Bale and that pretty boy Clooney. Howard thinks that Bale should be higher since he personified that term "I'm Batman." West adds that he didn't have to say that. He showed up and everyone knew he was Batman. Also Adam West had his own muscles and none were built into his costume. He also is not aware of Ben Affleck being the next Batman or even who he was.

At Penny's apartment, Sheldon and Amy are getting ready. Amy is Sheldon with his tie waiting for Penny to call them. She then smiles and tells him how handsome he is in that suit. Amy then adds that maybe later, she can see him in his "birthday suit". Sheldon looks confused and says he is wearing his birthday suit. Amy looks disappointed and Sheldon wonders if she is having a stroke.

In 4A, everyone is there. Leonard and Penny are talking to His mother. He wonders why she came so far and it was because he came to her sixtieth. A little gathering of a few close friends and Leonard's brother and sister. Leonard hadn't been invited. Penny adds that to be fair, they did get married in Las Vegas and didn't invite her. Beverly adds that she never thanked them for that.

Back in Apartment 4B, Amy got a text from Penny saying that it was okay for them to come over and as they're walking, Sheldon suddenly starts to feel light-headed, but agrees to go ahead. Once they open the door, everyone jumps and yells "Happy Birthday" and asks him to make a speech. Sheldon thanks everyone for coming. Beverly, Wil Wheaton, Adam West for some reason. West says, "Happy Birthday, Sherman." He tell them that they are all so thoughtful and then starts to hear his own heartbeat loudly and then retreats to the bathroom to hide. Adam West says, "I'm still getting paid, don't I?"

Once he runs off, Leonard suggests that he talk to him. Amy butts in and says that she should instead. Leonard may have known him longer, however, Shamy has seen each other naked. Penny rushes off to confront Sheldon. He suggests that he might be on the toilet, but Penny dismisses his claim since she knows his bathroom schedule. The whole party of people and presents was just too much for him. Penny explains that if she was at his party with his sister, she would have probably have tortured him. Now Sheldon is one of her favorite people and if he wants to spend his party in the bathroom, she is staying there with him. Sheldon thinks that people will think that he is weird. Penny retorts that he is weird, everyone knows he is weird, yet they still came to the party to honor him because e they love him so much. Kripke then knocks on the door because he needs to check his hair since he might have a shot with Beverly.

Leslie approaches Leonard and mentions that it has been quite a while and that so much has changed. Leslie looks around and asks, "Has it?" He adds that Penny and he has gotten married. She offers her congratulations. She thought that he would be living with Sheldon forever. Leon gives her a "Yeah" and tells her not to be a stranger.

Penny comes out announcing Sheldon's return, but tells everyone to be extra nice. Kripke adds that he will be extra nice, but says to Beverly that he is a sinner in the sack. Sheldon returns, apologizes for his behavior and tells everyone to enjoy themselves. Amy then proposes a toast to him. She says that it is customary for the birthday boy to receive the presents, but she feels that she got the greatest gift the day he was born. Sheldon thinks that what she said

was lovely and that he wants everyone else to say something wonderful about him. Howard then says that he has known him for a long time and it is a pleasure to work with him and to say that he is his friend. Sheldon finds that a little generic. Wil Wheaton says that despite their ups and downs, his life is so more interesting because he is in it. Sheldon may be a fan of Star Trek, but Wil is a fan of Sheldon Cooper. Live long and prosper. Beverly says that the future holds great things for her and they all can't wait to see what they are. Raj is quoting Gandhi and Sheldon just wants him to speed it up. Leslie Winkle mentions that in the past she would have said something obnoxious like "Happy Birthday, dumbass," they have both grown and it is just nice to see everyone again. Happy Birthday, Sheldon. Sheldon adds that he doesn't like change so Leslie shouts, "Happy Birthday, Dumbass!" Adam West wishes Sheldon a happy Birthday and that he is also available for other events.

Bernadette has nothing to add that hasn't already been said, "So here's to you, Sheldon." Leonard says that he can't remember a time when he wasn't in his life though he tries. He makes him laugh, makes him a better scientist and makes him crazy. He's not his friend, he's his brother. Stuart tries to speak, but Amy interrupts him with a Skype call. Stephen Hawking wishes him a Happy Birthday slowly until they realize he is singing the song. Leonard asks him to pause while they light the cake candles and all do it. Hawking agrees though he thinks he was "crushing it". Penny makes Sheldon hug him. He says "I used to hate these hugs... but now I find them extremely irritating" and he gives her a long one. Finally they sing to Sheldon with Hawking finishing last. Sheldon blows out the candles and everyone cheers. West then demand that someone take him home.

The Application Deterioration

Season 9
Episode Number: 201
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday March 10, 2016
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Adam Faberman, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Laura Spencer (Emily)
Guest Stars: Alessandra Torresani (Claire), Jim Holmes (Tim)
Production Code: 4X7218
Summary: When filing for a patent for their infinite persistence gyroscope, Leonard, Sheldon, and Howard learn that the university owns 75% of the patent's revenue, so they decide to write a contract between the three of them to split the remaining 25%. Also, Raj looks to the ladies for advice when both Emily and Claire contact him.



Sheldon, Leonard, and Howard are patiently waiting to talk to the patent attorney to get a patent on their gyroscope idea from "The Positive Negative Reaction." Howard wonders why Sheldon is wearing a bowtie. He wants to make a good impression. The guys are invited in. All their paperwork in is order and the legal team need to look for other overlapping patents. They start musing about what they are going to do with their royalties and they learn that the university will get 75% of the total proceeds from their idea. On top of that, since Howard is a federal employee on loan from NASA,

he'll get nothing. The lawyer tells him that he might get a plaque. Sheldon exclaims that that isn't fair. They should all get plaques. Leonard thanks him for his time and they leave the office without applying. Sheldon still wants to know about the plaque.

The girls are hanging out at Leonard and Penny's apartment talking about Bernadette's pregnancy. She has had a little morning sickness and an increased sense of smell. She found where Howard hid the Girl Scout cookies. Raj shows up with a gift he received from Emily sent to him after Valentine's Day. The girls think that she is trying to manipulate him. He's unsure if he should open it especially if it's something vindictive or dangerous. Penny has Bernadette sniff it and she detects some machine oil. In the box Raj finds an antique sextant used by sailors to navigate by the stars. Bernadette thinks that it is the perfect gift for an astrophysicist. Raj replies that he has too much self-esteem to let her get him back through a guilt trip. Amy quips that she doesn't have to be pregnant to smell that load of crap.

Howard looks at the university's website and finds out that they can't patent it themselves. The university has rights to anything they develop as long as they are employed. Sheldon is bummed that they get a part of his T-shirt and mug ideas. Leonard offers to at least split their 25% three ways. Sheldon gets very excited about getting to write up their deal in a contract. Leonard once found a stash of contracts under Sheldon's bed found the whole situation weird.

Examining the sextant, Amy checks the Internet and finds that may have cost at least \$500. Penny is sure that she is trying to get back together with him. Raj admits that he is easy to manipulate. Emily then calls him. The posse tells him to be strong. Emily wonders if he got the gift and if they could still be friends. Then Emily asks him to get coffee together. Raj hesitates as the girls do a lot of whispering between themselves. Emily ups the level by saying that she misses hanging out with him and that he lost her best friend. She wants him to come over as the girls shake their heads no. She also is having a really hard time which causes Penny to gag. They say good bye and the girls tell him that he showed strength. As Raj leaves Penny tells him to say hi to Emily. Will do

Howard is reviewing Sheldon's contract and is happy with it. The girls come over to Sheldon and Leonard's, because Bernadette is tired and wants to go home. They learn about the contract and how the guys want to split up the royalties. Bernadette wants a lawyer to look it over. Howard is just happy that they found a way not to leave him out. Leonard mentions that everyone did contribute. Bernie tells him to go ahead and sign it if he wants to. The Wolowitzes adjourn to the hallway. Bernadette explains to Howard that he is about sign a legal partnership with Sheldon Cooper. She doesn't want to spend the rest of her gestation little to her husband complain how Sheldon is driving him even more crazy than usual. Anything they ever worked on together did not come out well.

Raj is driving to Emily's when he got a call from Claire. She says that she broke up with her boyfriend. Raj is interested, admits that he's going to see Emily. Claire that asks if Emily said that she feels like she lost her best friend. That is page on of the girl's playbook. Raj wants her to send him a copy of it.

Returning, Howard explains that they are concern about the partnership, so Sheldon suggests a limited liability corporation. Howard is more concerned with how Sheldon treats him. Penny suggests that they include a clause that Sheldon cannot make fun of Howard. That was fine with Sheldon who will follow the clause to the letter of the law. Amy adds and also because of his obsessive-compulsive disorder. The Wolowitzes agree. Sheldon gets excited that now he gets to write an addendum.

Emily calls and Raj tells him that its not he best time to come over. explains he's being manipulated. Raj calls Emily to say he isn't coming. Emily breaks into tears, so Raj calls Claire to change his plans. She again quotes Emily's line. He calls back Emily who again changes his mind and Claire tells him that she is manipulating him.

The whole gang is reviewing the contract. Sheldon agrees to not mock Howard and his profession, hair cut, clothing or his love of the Ghost Rider movie. Also Sheldon donates one quarter of his profits to a college fund for Baby Wolowitz. Sheldon has always valued education over money and he realized how dismissive he had been of Howard's contribution. And he hope that his efforts will rescue the child from the subpar profession of being an engineer. Amy yells at Sheldon for his comment; however, Sheldon had not yet signed the contract.

Finally, Claire is telling him that she knows how this is going to play out and to have a good life. Raj insists that they are just going to talk. They end up in bed together with Raj exclaiming, "Good talk."

The Solder Excursion Diversion

Season 9
Episode Number: 202
Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday March 31, 2016
Writer: Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Saladin K. Patterson
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Laura Spencer (Emily)
Guest Stars: Michael Croner (Andre)
Production Code: 4X7219
Summary: Amy is shocked by a revelation from Sheldon when she buys him a new laptop. Raj rats on Leonard and Howard to Penny and Bernadette.



Sheldon is skyping with Amy who can't understand him due to video and audio problems with Sheldon's old computer. Sheldon sent her a cryptic email because the S, R and M keys had stopped functioning. Amy tells him to buy a new computer since his video and audio signals are cutting out. He can't read the sign she held up and can't hear her so she calls him to tell him again to get a new computer.

Leonard and Howard are in the lab. It had been over a year since they built something scientific together, but only last week since they built a Lego Millennium Falcon together.

Bernie and Penny show up and bring them lunch join them. Their progress is slow so Penny asks if they could help even though it was a rhetorical question. The girls could wrap some of their pipes with Teflon tape. Penny wonders if it would be funny if after all his years of work if the girls came up with a scientific breakthrough. Leonard didn't find that funny.

Sheldon gasps as the video on his computer goes completely dead. Amy rushes in having missed the computer's passing. Sheldon starts to play "Taps" and then covers his laptop. Amy insists that he is being silly, however, Sheldon reminds her of the lab monkey she got emotional over when he passed away. That monkey had told Amy that he loved her in sign language. Amy gives him a new computer which should make him feel better. Sheldon is upset that she deprived him of all of the fun of picking out his own since it's a very personal choice. He goes through several requirements for his system which Amy and the "guy" at the computer store have already anticipated.

Leonard showed the girls how to wrap their pipes and then they realize that they ran out of solder. Howard and Leonard leave to get it at the hardware store. The girls stay to handle all of the sciencey stuff. After they leave, Penny asks Bernadette what solder is.

Next Sheldon asks Amy if she was going to rob him of the fun of setting his new laptop up. He gets excited when it sets up so fast. With the new 4K resolution, Sheldon tells Amy he'll be able to count to nose hairs in her nose. Amy suggests that he just stare into her eyes. Amy wants to take the old one back to the store so they can recycle it Sheldon doesn't want to do that or get

store credit. Amy wonders why he is being weird about it. Instead of explaining it to her, Sheldon wants to show her. Amy has to drive them and sign a nondisclosure document like she did before they slept together.

Walking down the street with Howard, Leonard says that it's funny that Penny is having fun working on the prototype. She used to have fun at nightclubs and drinking games. Passing a theater, an employee asks them if they'd like to see a preview of the new Wil Smith movie. Howard guesses that it is "Suicide Squad". Since the girls are having so much fun working on the project, they decide to go in and see the movie.

Penny is marveled that she moved to California to be an actress and ends up in an engineering lab at Caltech working on an advanced guidance system. Bernadette adds that she has made fourteen pieces while Penny has only done three. Raj comes in since he was bored at home and had no one to play with. He is disappointed that everyone can work on the project instead of him. He leaves, but the girls call him back though he hadn't gone out of ear shot.

Amy is driving Sheldon and wants to know where they are going. People are on a need to know basis. Amy is driving the car and needs to know.

Sitting in the movie eating popcorn, Leonard has a problem with lying to the girls, though Howard doesn't think it's a problem. They text them that they had to go to San Bernardino for the solder and got a flat tire. The girls accepted their lie, though Howard told Leonard that they had to put the spare on the car to verify their story. An announcement is made that they are going to be among the first to see Wil Smith in "Suicide Squad". Howard was right. Then Howard texts Raj to make him feel bad since he really wanted to see this movie. Raj gets the message and immediately tells Penny and Bernadette. Penny doesn't believe what they are doing, but she doesn't want Raj to bust them. Bernadette wants to see how deep a hole they are going to dig themselves into.

Amy and Sheldon walk into a storage unit building. Amy wonders what he could be storing and how long he has had it. Sheldon opens up the sliding door and welcomes Amy to his Fortress of Shame. Inside is everything he has ever owned. Books, T-shirts, broken electronics. Even old Zip-lock plastic bags. Amy tells him that there is nothing to be ashamed of though she needs another minute to tell him why.

Back in the lab, Raj suggests that they find him making out with both of their wives. Penny doesn't think that he could handle both of them. Bernadette wants them to tell their convoluted story like the girls believe them and then Raj can jump out of the closet and shout, "Busted!"

Sheldon is giving Amy a tour of every clock radio, every calculator, every VHS tape, and sporting equipment. One golf ball his brother threw at his head. He still has his collection of pine cones. Every time he thinks of trying to throw something out, his head and stomach hurt. Sheldon doesn't want Amy to think less of him which Amy doesn't. Sheldon thinks less of himself every time he comes there. Some day how can Sheldon become one with the Internet when he can't even throw out one toothbrush. Amy says that she has some weird stuff too like her first brain dissection.

Penny runs in that the guys are back and Raj goes to hide. They come back to the lab with flowers, an apology and an offer to take them to dinner. Penny accepts their apology and reiterates that they really had fun working in the lab. Raj jumps out from a closet to scare them; however, the girls know the truth. Raj feels that that was anticlimactic, and then Howard wants to tell him the end of the movie. Raj jumps back into the closet and the rest leave for dinner.

Back in the storage unit, Sheldon admits that only Amy knows about this place. She thanks him for trusting her. A girlfriend is made for dumping his psychological sewage on. Amy offers to help him with it someday. Sheldon decides to start with the golf ball. Amy is proud of him, though the golf ball gets rolled back inside as Sheldon closes the door.

Back at Apartment 4A, Amy and Sheldon tell each other that they feel closer to each other. Also Sheldon still has two hours before he has to go to bed. Amy wants to know what he means. Sex? He sends her home so they can skype together while he lies in bed. Sheldon goes crazy over Amy's image on his new hi-def screen. Amy wonders why they couldn't do it back at his place.

The Big Bear Precipitation

Season 9

Episode Number: 203

Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 7, 2016
Writer: Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Chuck Lorre, Dave Goetsch, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Laura Spencer (Emily)
Production Code: 4X7220
Summary: Sheldon spills a secret of Leonard's when the two take a weekend cabin trip with Penny and Amy. Also, when Raj goes overboard with a fetal doppler and Bernadette's pregnancy, Howard and Bernadette must draw the line.



Viewing a beautiful forest scene, Sheldon comments about the beauty of nature and how he should do this more often. He is using his virtual reality simulator while in Apartment 4A. Leonard and Penny enter while Sheldon reaches out to touch a butterfly. Leonard sticks his face in the way allowing Sheldon to touch him. Actually feeling something in his virtual world freaks him out. Penny asks what was going on. Sheldon explains about his virtual simulation and was using a pine scented car air freshener to give him the

smell of the forest. She denies that the forest smells like that. Even though he hates being outdoors, Amy found a study that those that spend time outside increase the reasoning abilities. Leonard says he will be happy to leave him in the wilderness at any time.

Still in his virtual forest, Amy brings Sheldon some tea. Again he freaks out at someone's touch and asks her when she got there. Amy tells him that if he really wants to be out in nature, they could rent a cabin. Penny has a client who has offered her a cabin at Big Bear Lake. Amy thinks that if they all go it could be fun though that's not Sheldon's definition of the word. Leonard and Penny decide to spend the weekend there. Sheldon wants them to say hello to all the mosquitoes, bees, bears, snakes, possums, poison oak and teenagers with guitars. Amy points out that if the study is right, Leonard could come back smarter than Sheldon. Now he wants to go.

While Howard is playing a video game, Raj is carrying in all of the grocery bags for the pregnant Bernadette. Raj tells her that the only thing she should carry is their hope for a better future (the baby). Since she went to the doctor and was at the grocery, Howard asks if she bought graham crackers and quickly corrected himself by asking if the baby was okay. Bernadette smiles. Yes and yes. She also thinks it was sweet that Raj is making such a fuss over her. He pops in and mentions he forwarded her his list of the top lactation specialists in Los Angeles and wanted know her thoughts. Now Howard thinks things with Raj are getting weird.

Penny enters to tell Leonard that Amy is downstairs and finds Leonard wearing a backwards baseball cap. Penny wants to know which team it was for and it turns out to be the Hufflelump from "Harry Potter". Good thing they are going to be in the woods. Sheldon come out wearing a

hat with a net over it and Penny remarks that HE has a nice hat. Leonard leaves the hat as they head for the woods.

Bernadette is watching an on-line video of a woman giving birth in a river that Raj had found. Howard turns off all the screaming and wonders if Raj is getting carried away. He bought a fetal monitor so that they could hear the baby's heart beat. Howard wants to use it; however, Bernadette promised to wait so that Raj could participate too. Howard asks Raj if he wants to be part of the experience. Yeah. Then Howard quips that he I surprised Raj didn't help with the conception.

Driving through the woods, Penny thinks everything is so cute and rustic. Leonard thought the last video store they saw looked like Colonial Williamsburg. Sheldon can only get one bar on his phone. If they need medical help or need to tell someone their political views are stupid, they better do it now. Amy wonders if Sheldon had ever been off the grid. Only when his battery quit and then he had to switch to his iPad.

Howard sees that Raj has pulled up and he wants to talk to him. Bernadette asks that he leave Raj alone. She feels that he is just being supportive and is not acting over-the-top. Raj then walks in with a teddy bear at least seven feet high and wider than the door. Bernadette asks if Howard saw him carry that in. Howard replies that astronauts saw him carry it in.

The two couples arrive at the cabin. Amy remarks that it was so nice of the doctor to let them use it. Penny replied that she also has to go to an Indigo Girls concert with her. Sheldon thinks that they should all be checked for ticks even though all they did was walk in from the car. He drops his pants and asks if anyone wants to check him. Amy volunteers.

Amy and Penny look out the window at the downpour of rain and note that their hike is definitely cancelled. Sheldon is sarcastically unhappy about it. Leonard explains that you don't want to be with Sheldon out in the rain. One would want to kill oneself. They could kill their time with some board games, but Sheldon already checked that the games have too many missing pieces. Penny wants to light a fire. As Sheldon and Leonard consider the best scientific way of building a fire, Penny turns on the gas. Instant fire.

Bernadette and Howard are having a serious talk with Raj. They appreciate his enthusiasm, but they feel they should set some boundaries. The three of them are not having the baby, just the two of them. Raj now understands and is happily going to back off to give them some space. He then struggles with the bear to get it out of the house knocking over everything.

Late at the cabin, the couples are having some wine. Penny proposes a drinking game. Sheldon figures that she has the advantage. The game is "Never Have I Ever". One person says something that they haven't done and then the others have to take a sip if they have. Penny tries to start. Amy doesn't think there is anything she hasn't done. She was right because Penny passes. Leonard says that he has never been arrested. Sheldon takes a drink. He was arrested for jaywalking, but only after he kept pointing out to the policeman that he wasn't doing his job in an annoying Sheldon-fashion. Sheldon is surprised that Penny was never arrested.

Bernadette is getting upset feeling that they made a horrible mistake. Howard insists that they only asked him to back-off and he wasn't kicked out of their lives. Bernie breaks into tears. Was it being sad or pregnancy hormones? She can't tell any more. Howard goes to get Raj. And Bernadette wants him to bring back the bear.

Leonard thinks that their game could get dangerous. "How?" asks Penny. Leonard says that he never used Sheldon's toothbrush to wash out the sink. Sheldon gets upset. Penny takes a drink. Fine. Penny never gave a nickname to her genitals. Leonard takes a drink. FYI: Alvin and the Chipmunks. Amy adds that never has she ever rocked her girlfriend in w—bed. Sheldon takes a drink. Penny tells Leonard that he can take a drink. Sheldon says that never has he ever kept a secret bank account without telling his wife because he doesn't think she can handle money. Penny can't believe Leonard. He just put a little money aside. Penny insists that married couples should share everything. Leonard then mentions Penny's massive credit card debt which drives her out of the room. Sheldon thinks that he won the game.

Coming out of the dining room, Raj says that he appreciates the apology. Howard says that he should do more himself. "I hear that," chirped Bernadette who was so wrapped up in the bear that all you can see is her head. Raj asks if there is anything he can do. Howard tells him to go get the fetal heart monitor and he can listen to the baby's heartbeat with them. Raj wants to squirt the ultrasound gel on Bernadette's stomach. Howard now thinks it's getting weird again.

Penny is pacing the bedroom. Leonard comes in and apologizes for keeping the money a secret.

He has just been keeping a bit aside for emergencies. \$6427. Penny tells Leonard to think of what they could do with that money. Leonard reminds her of all the shoes she has that she loves and doesn't wear. He has money he loves and never spends. Penny also has a secret. She hates her job having to flirt with doctors all day to just make sales. She also knows how important it is to him for her to be a success. Leonard is willing to support her whatever she wants to do. How about going back to acting and waiting tables. Leonard says yes, but Penny doesn't want to do that. Her job is getting her out of debt and she is going to continue doing the grownup thing. Leonard agrees that it is the grownup thing and they say they love each other and kiss. Leonard then quips that he has never made love in a cabin when it was raining. Penny then leaves because she has to take a drink.

Howard gets ready to use the ultrasonic fetal doppler and keeps trying to find the baby's heartbeat. They all gasp when they hear the heart thumping. Bernadette is excited while Raj says that they made a little person. Howard puts his head on Bernie's shoulder and admits that they did. Raj does the same saying that he helped.

Finally Sheldon and Amy are in front of the fire still playing the game. Sheldon never drank milk past the expiration date. Amy never cancelled a dentist appointment. Sheldon never put his foot in the ocean. Amy never honked just because she liked something. Sheldon never played or even touched a Frisbee. Amy never put salt on her food before at least tasting it. Sheldon never pushed all the buttons in an elevator. Amy takes a drink with a devilish look on her face. Sheldon's jaw drops, scandalized. Amy then shrugs, puts her glass down and says, "Everyone has a past."

The Viewing Party Combustion

Season 9
Episode Number: 204
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 21, 2016
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Laura Spencer (Emily)
Production Code: 4X7221
Summary: A minor argument between Sheldon and Leonard escalates quickly and drags the rest of the gang into it during a "Game of Thrones" watching party.



At the comic book store Sheldon gets the guys in a discussion about Batman and Manbat. If Manbat wore Batman's costume, what would he be called? Raj gets a call from Claire and has to run. Leonard thought he was back together with Emily, but he is really dating both women. Leonard is astonished that the guy who couldn't talk to women for years, now is dating two of them. now and Leonard struggles to believe it.

Sheldon comes in and wonders why Leonard got a party sub when the gang is getting together to watch Game of Thrones and they are not having a party. He also reminds Leonard there is a quarterly The Roommate Agreement meeting is the next day. Leonard does not want to have one. Sheldon exclaims that that sounds like something that should be brought up at the next meeting, that happens to be tomorrow. Also, it's Penny's first chance to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. but that leads them into an argument. Penny arrives and learns about Leonard's problem. She complains that she learned the Pledge just for the meeting. And if they decide to not have a meeting, Sheldon still wants them to have a vote on it. Leonard wants Penny to talk to him; however, she is still planning on attending. The meeting is important to Sheldon and they both did sign the Roommate Agreement. Sheldon appreciates Penny's attitude which may allow her to make the Color Guard, which causes Penny to smile.

Howard and Raj are playing a video game and Howard complains that it is exhausting. Raj knows how he feels since he is now dating two women. Raj thinks Howard is lucky being at home every night with the woman he loves. Raj never knows which apartment he is waking up in since he is dating Claire and Emily. Bernadette comes in and Raj asks how she feels. She's a little tired. Raj knows how she feels since he is dating two women. Bernadette tells Howard to go watch the she is going to snuggle up in bed with s good book. Raj wishes he knew what it was like being in bed alone wince he is.....

Sheldon wants to know if Penny is up on the Game of Thrones storyline. Dragons, snow zombies and all the hot guys are dead. Leonard is still pouting about their argument and that Penny took Sheldon's side. He feels he's the only adult in the room. Sheldon still insists that if they are going to talk about it, it should be brought up at the meeting. Meeting. Meeting. Meeting. Amy arrives with her famous spinach dip.

Howard is driving Raj over and it talking about whether their child is a boy or a girl. If it's a boy he'll have to teach him how to play catch after he learns himself. And if it's a girl, he'll have to worry about guys. Raj knows what he means since he is dating two women. He left one woman's leftover in the other's refrigerator. Howard is angry that even though Raj claims to be complaining, he is really constantly bragging.

Amy wonders what is wrong with Leonard. They tell her about his complaining about the Roommate Agreement meeting and she understands. Amy never enjoyed their Relationship Agreement meetings. Sheldon thinks that she is kidding. Amy that sarcastically says that she never thought that re-filing a matter in a standing committee could be so fascinating. Sheldon then asks Penny what she thinks of Amy's comment.

Raj is following Howard up the stairs and wants to know if something is wrong. Raj claims that Howard is jealous because of the number he has. Penny marches out of Apartment 4A carrying part of the sandwich telling Sheldon that they'll watch the show in her apartment. Leonard is calling to Sheldon that it'll be nice to watch the show without Sheldon complaining that it doesn't follow the book. Howard learns about how their arguing and Raj joins the group heading to 4B since he is not talking to Howard.

Leonard, Amy and Howard are still in 4A. Both Leonard and Howard are sick of the nonsense they get from Sheldon and Raj. Stuart arrives in costume because Howard told him it was a costume party. He goes over to Penny's because he is mad at Howard. Penny's takes his fur cloak that kept getting caught in his bicycle chain. Sheldon explains who is mad at whom. Raj explains to Stuart about him constantly talking about his dating life and that he called him jealous. Stuart is jealous because the closest he came to dating two women was the time he dated one woman.

Leonard doesn't know how she puts up with Sheldon. They don't need a meeting to decide which breakfast cereal to eat. He thanks Amy for sticking up for him. Amy could care less. She just wanted to take his side because she is annoyed because Penny and Sheldon are so close. Leonard challenges her. Who always comforts him? Who get him to take his medicine? Who has Sheldon add things to the Roommate Agreement so she can have her way and not fight with her husband? Son of a bitch! Howard laughs at Leonard's problem even though Leonard explains that Bernadette does the same thing between him and Raj.

In 4A Raj tells them that it's almost game time. Game of Thrones. Get it? Leonard comes over and tells Penny that she doesn't have to use the Roommate Agreement to get her way. How did he know that? Amy told Leonard and now Penny is mad at Amy. Amy retorts that she always defends Sheldon. Leonard cites the weird brother-sister-Elliot-E.T. relationship they have. Penny thinks that his relationship is weird. He thinks that he is like the little girl in Poltergeist and Sheldon is the weird thing on the television. Howard comes in wondering about nuts in the food and is obviously having an allegoric reaction to them.

At the emergency room, Leonard apologized and did not know there were pistachio nuts in the party sub. Bernadette comes in and reassure everyone that Howard is going to be fine. Stuart feels that that experience puts everything in prospective. He mentions why he is in costume and Bernadette doesn't think that Howard was nice. Because Howard had a brush with death, Stuart is still cool about it. Raj tries to equate their night with a real Game of Thrones, though none really sees his analogies. Howard comes out embarrassed and apologizes to everyone including Penny who had to carry him down the stairs like a baby. Amy exclaims that the whole experience was scary. Sheldon thinks that the important thing to remember is that the party sandwich ruined their night just how he predicted.

Stuart us getting on his bike at the guys are making fun of him and his girl's bike from the apartment window. He is also wearing a helmet unlike the riders in the show. Sheldon applauds his safety stance. Stuart rides off pissed until his cloak gets caught in the chain and he flips over the handlebars.

The Fermentation Bifurcation

Season 9
Episode Number: 205
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday April 28, 2016
Writer: Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Anthony Del Broccolo, Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Nikki Lorre
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Laura Spencer (Emily)
Guest Stars: Brian Smith (Zack Johnson), Alessandra Torresani (Claire)
Production Code: 4X7222
Summary: Sheldon and Bernadette spend a night together while the rest of the gang goes to a wine tasting party, but things get uncomfortable for Raj when Zack also attends and takes an interest in Claire.



While fixing dinner, Penny tells them that she won a night of wine tasting at work. Leonard wonders why scientists don't win things. Howard claims that they are in it for the groupies. Sheldon claims that he is just pursues science for the intrinsic joy of discovery. Amy reminds him that he always says that he wants to win a Nobel Prize. Howard, Amy, Raj and Leonard plan on going; however, Bernadette is pregnant and Sheldon has had enough of wine. Sheldon then tells Bernadette that it'll just be the two of them. "Me? How?

Why?," exclaimed a shocked Bernadette. Sheldon wanted her to join him and explained that all the things she has to avoid, he never liked in the first place. She decides to give it a try. Sheldon tells her to come and "party hardly". Working on their invention, the infinite persistence gyroscopic navigation system, in the Mechanical Engineering Lab, Raj wonders if he can bring Claire. Leonard wondered if he was still dating Emily. Raj concurs and says that he is keeping the two relationships casual. Howard is ready to start up their gyroscope while Sheldon documents it on video. The three rotating rings start up successfully. Raj thinks it looks beautiful, while it makes Howard and Leonard dizzy. Sheldon falls down dizzy while trying to video tape it.

Raj calls up Claire and invites her to the winery. She is fine with it as long as meeting his friends is not too big a step. Claire wants to know if she'll be introduces as his girlfriend and what happens if they don't like each other.

Leonard is reading a scratch-and-sniff book about wine tasting. Leonard can't really smell anything because his sinuses are acting up. Sheldon tells Penny that he is going to prove that you can have fun with alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, sushi, soft cheese, processed meats, Jacuzzi's or anything else that is harmful to a pregnant lady. Then Sheldon drives Leonard and Penny out of the apartment after his list of verboten things get more disgusting.

At the wine tasting, Howard and Amy are the first to arrive. At first they are nervous with nothing to say; then they remember that the last time they were together, it was three years ago during the scavenger hunt. They though they should do it again, but they never did. Amy mentions about Bernie and Sheldon hanging out together and she has no idea what they are

going to talk about. Leonard, Penny and Raj show up. Claire is going to meet them there and Raj doesn't want them to ask too many questions since they are keeping it casual. Leonard then won't ask her about how it is being in his harem. Amy then notices Zack, her old boyfriend, however, Penny doesn't know whether she want to talk to him. Peeved Raj wants her to ask who was better in the sack. Bernadette shows up with some bubbly apple cider which unfortunately tickles Sheldon's nose. Sheldon has a fetus friendly festival of fun discussing trains and types of toast that thrills Bernadette.

The guys are describing what they smell in the wine, except for stopped-up Leonard. Zack comes by to say hello. Zack sees that they are married and wonders if it's to each other. Despite breaking up with Leonard and keep coming back to Zack, he was always rooting for them. The guys tell Zack about their navigational system and he wonders if it could be misused by the military. Zack then asks if it better than the one they're using now. "Yea!" they exclaim as they realize that the military would want it. Zack then wonders if they really are smart.

Sheldon is describing the various model train gauge scales. The smallest gauge engine he accidentally swallowed and had to pass. Bernie wondered why he liked trains. Life was confusing when he was young and trains represented order. He could line them up, categorize them, etc. They gave Sheldon a sense of calm in a world that did not.

Leonard is talking to Howard that he is worried about the military applications ever since Zack mentioned it. Raj adds that any scientific advancement can be used for destructive purpose. Amy cites Einstein's theory and the development of the atomic bomb. Penny knows the The Fermentation Bifurcation equation and what the letters mean. Claire then joins them and is introduced as a causal friend who need no other questions. Leonard asks her if she would like some wine. Raj shouts that he said no questions.

Now Sheldon has laid out all the different types of toast including Star Wars toast. It has a light side and a "dark side". Next on the evening's agenda is D&D. Bernadette says that she might play for a little while. Sheldon doesn't think that she will want to stop or will be allowed to. The game was designed for her. Her character's name is Bernadetrix, a tall brave warrior queen. She likes being tall. Also only the men get pregnant in this universe. She thinks it might be fun. She starts out having a drink at the tavern. Bernadette says that she storms into the tavern, throws down her sword and wants his strongest ale in the skull of a goblin.

Penny tells Claire that they have heard nothing, but good things about her. Claire stumps them by asking what they had heard. Zack comes over and then hits on Claire. Raj counters that she is seeing him. Zack asks why she was introduced as his friend since she is so great. Claire says that she doesn't know, so Zack then asks Raj who is stumped. Leonard is still worried about their project and wants to take another look at it. Howard doesn't want to stop because he needs the money. How do they know that their invention is not going to be used to destroy the world? Howard retorts that no one has come back from the future to kill them. Back at D&D, Bernadette is killing the ogre that attacked her. After being in a hot spring, the ogre is reduced to sushi and begs to be eaten. Bernadette enjoys the sushi, bathes in the hot spring and does not have swollen ankles. The end. The night was much more fun than she thought it would be. She thanks him since for one night she didn't have to be "pregnant Bernadette". Sheldon tells her that if she ever needs another break, Bernadetrix the Warrior is there for her. Only unto the third trimester because he can't risk getting amniotic fluid on his spot.

Raj asks Zack to not come onto Claire since he is bigger and more handsome. Zack apologies. Raj doesn't want him to talk about how great Claire is. That's fine with Zack. Claire then asks Penny and Amy if he brings around other girls. The girls are stumped. Leonard calls Raj loyal to a fault. Zack comes over and tells everyone that Raj is right that Claire is not so great. Raj counters with that he says crazy things all the time. So what had they been talking about while he was gone? Claire kids him that they were discussing all of of the girls he had been dating. Raj complains that he didn't want them to mention that. Penny tells him that they didn't, he did.

Leonard wakes up, walks into the kitchen and tells Sheldon that he over did it that previous night. Sheldon did to, but it was making too much toast. Leonard then inquires if Sheldon has ever thought about the military applications. It first bothered him and then he talked to Alicia and Fred about it and they put it into perspective. Leonard wondered who these people were. Sheldon tells him that friends are like toilet paper since it's always good to have a couple of extra under the sink.

The Line Substitution Solution

Season 9

Episode Number: 206

Season Episode: 23

Originally aired:	Thursday May 5, 2016
Writer:	Steve Holland, Saladin K. Patterson, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director:	Anthony Rich
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Blake Anderson (Trevor), Amanda Payton (Ainsley)
Production Code:	4X7223
Summary:	Penny has trouble when Leonard's mother comes to town. Sheldon hires Stuart to hang out with Amy while he goes to a movie screening.



Penny and Sheldon are on the couch with flashcards trying to expand their respective knowledge bases. Penny has celebrity pictures and Sheldon has scientific terms. Leonard comes in and is able to guess both of their cards. Leonard asks Penny to go with him to the airport to pick up his mother. Penny agrees to join him. Leonard then asks her since she will already be at the airport, could she pick her up? It would give her a chance to bond with her and Leonard wouldn't be subjected to her criticism. Penny agrees and

that she should have a good relationship with her mother-in-law.

At the comic book store the guys are discussing the screening of the new Avengers movie that includes deleted scenes on a first-come first-served basis. Joss Whedon will be having a Q&A. They guys plan on getting in line early. Beverly is busy with Penny; however, Sheldon has to go shopping with Amy. The boys offer to hold him a space in line; however, Sheldon feels that that violates line etiquette. Howard mentions that he could hire someone to stand in line for him. Stuart thinks that is pathetic until he finds they can make \$20 an hour.

Leaving the airport, Beverly is not surprised that Leonard avoided her and is asking Penny about their sex life before they leave the parking lot. Penny changes the subject to talking each other about the latest books they had read, but her last one was a Pottery Barn catalog. "Don't psychoanalyze everything I say." Penny then proposes dinner together, but adds her friends to make the night sound less chilling.

Stuart gets into the car with Amy. Amy remarks that he is not Sheldon. Stuart figured that that might come up. Sheldon has paid him to go shopping with her. Amy says that they are not going to do that and she is very annoyed. Stuart snaps that he just works here.

At the movies, the guys reminisce about previous lines they had waited in. Stuart shows up and calls Sheldon the most inconsiderate man he has met in his entire life. Amy hired him to yell at Sheldon. Sheldon tells him that turnabout is fair play; while Stuart then really shouts at him calling Sheldon a selfish jerk.

Amy is complaining about the progress she thought she was making with Sheldon. Beverly knows how brilliant Sheldon is and that being in a relationship could be trying. She admires Amy's resolve and tells her that she is an extraordinary woman. Penny wants to bond with Beverly like Amy is. Stuart arrives with flowers and an apology that Sheldon paid for. Amy offers Bernadette five dollars to slam the door in his face.

Stuart returns to the theater and tells Sheldon that his apology was not accepted. Leonard suggests that Sheldon apologize in person. Stuart offers to hold Sheldon's place in line for a price and Sheldon leaves.

Bernadette tries to talk Penny up mentioning her status as the number three salesperson at their pharmaceutical company. She mentions that she is a microbiologist and her work with some new anti-anxiety drugs that all three scientists find interesting and discuss in front of Penny. On Bernadette's urging Penny had mentioned something great about her new company car. It has seat warmers. Sheldon then shows up at the apartment gives Amy a specific three part apology. Amy replies, "Fine." Sheldon has to leave because he has an Uber car downstairs and the movie line could start moving any minute.

Leonard and Howard are making fun of Raj and the cane seat he was using. Sheldon rushes back out of breath explaining that his apology went fine. Stuart is then relieved of his duties, but not before insulting Raj and his stick chair for Howard. A young man runs up and joins his friends in front of Sheldon. Leonard tells Sheldon to let it be. Sheldon confronts the interloper, who says that his friends saved him a place. After Sheldon rants about line etiquette, the guy wants to know who made him line monitor. Mrs. Wunch in the fourth grade. Next he wants to know if Sheldon is for real. Leonard replies that unfortunately, yes.

Beverly is impressed with their relationship and wants to interview them for a new book she is writing about high achieving couples. Amy mentions that Bernadette is married to an ex-astronaut. Would they like to be interviewed? Sure. In the bathroom, Howard pretends to interview himself. Bernadette wonders if she would like to interview Penny. "About what?" replies Beverly. Now Penny is angry since she has been trying to connect with Beverly all day. Beverly wonders if she is trying to connect or have some form of validation. Penny then says that she has been insulting her all day. Does she even know what an insult is? Like when Penny married her son without even telling her? Penny is stumped and tells her that that is a good example.

Now Sheldon is arguing about line-cutting and the rules that the Avengers live by. Then he ask the rest of the line behind him whether they take issue with this guy line-cutting. No one does. Someone at the back of the line is not getting in because of him. Then he brings up the story of Rosa Parks who stood up for a cause, though she actually remained seated on the bus. An African-American woman reminds Sheldon that he had paid Stuart to hold his place in line, so he cut. But to Sheldon his circumstance was "swapsies" and not "cutsies". The line starts to move and Leonard tells him to let it go since he did everything he could do including denigrating the memory of a great civil rights leader.

Penny tells Beverly that she is surprised that she even cared about the wedding. Beverly said that she was human and wanted to get an invitation. Amy tells her that none of them knew. Bernadette mentions that live-streaming of the wedding. Penny asked Beverly if she would have come. Beverly replied in the negative, but would have told her that she was making a big mistake. Penny is crushed. On the other hand Beverly has never seen Leonard so happy so perhaps she was wrong. "Wow", replied Penny who then proposed that they get married again in front of her and their friends while Beverly was in town. Beverly finds that perfectly acceptable. Penny exclaims joyfully that she would find that "perfectly acceptable" and that they have bonded. She gives Beverly a big hug as Beverly doesn't change her expression and gently pats her.

Finally, Bernadette is getting ready for bed and asks him if he was okay since he'd been in the bathroom a while. He's fine. As Bernadette leaves the bedroom, she smiles listening to Howard interview himself.

The Convergence Convergence

Season 9
Episode Number: 207
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 12, 2016
Writer: Steven Molaro, Tara Hernandez, Adam Faberman, Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Judd Hirsch (Dr. Alfred Hofstadter), Marcus Folmar (Police Officer)
Production Code: 4X7224
Summary: Leonard and Penny try to have a wedding ceremony everyone can attend, but it creates serious conflict among Sheldon's mother and Leonard's divorced parents. Howard's invention draws the attention of the Air Force.



The episode opens with Lenny in Leonard's bedroom. Penny is sitting on the bed and Leonard joins her and asks how it was picking up Beverly at the airport. Penny is very flirty with Leonard and says it went well and is excited that she even got a hug from Beverly. Penny is flirting with him to get him to agree to a wedding redo while Beverly is in town. His reaction: "What?, it was only one hug. Why are you promising this?" However, Penny is excited about a redo and suggests that this time, they will be able to

invite family and friends. Penny mentions that her brother is out of prison and it would be a good time for family to be there. Leonard agrees.

Next scene, Penny tells the girls about the redo and explains that it won't be legal or anything, but just for show. Amy begins to hint at being maid of honor. Penny then asks Bernie to officiate at the wedding, which makes Amy feel bad about having a lesser position. Sheldon comes in and says he has invited Mary who says she is coming. Penny questions him, asking why he invited his mother to she and Leonard's wedding; Sheldon assumes that when Penny says "OUR wedding", it means her, Leonard, and himself. Sheldon reveals he also asked Stephen Hawking, Robert Downey Jr., and Erno Rubik (the inventor of the Rubik's cube).

In the next scene, Beverly yells at Leonard for inviting his father, Alfred Hofstadter.

Shamy head out to go pick up Mary at the airport. Mary is not at all excited to see Beverly again. She pulls out her cross necklace and puts it on. Sheldon says she is a atheist not a vampire, Mary wants to get garlic at the store anyway!

Raj and Howard are at the Engineering lab. Howard completes the project and discovers it works! They are very excited with their success until about a second later when Howard gets an email from the Air force about the project. The boys freak out and Howard feels he is being watched because the email came at him so quickly.

Leonard has Alfred and is taking him upstairs. Alfred asks about the elevator and when it will be fixed, to which Leonard lies and says "any day now." Alfred teases Leonard saying that if he dies before they get up the stairs, at least he won't have to see Beverly.

When they get to the apartment, they do introductions and Alfred says hi to Bev by calling her a hateful old shrew. She says "Hi, you wrinkled bastard."

Back at the lab, the boys are really freaking out. There are two scenes with Howard wondering if he should open the email and if he is being watched. Howard is worried that if they don't open it, they will be killed.

At the apartment, tensions rise when Beverly and Alfred, exchange barbs and get snarky with each other. Leonard and Penny yell at them and tell them that they are going to dinner for them and that they are the reason that they are doing the dinner was for them. They tell Beverly and Alfred that they need to behave.

At the Wolowitz House, the boys are still freaking out and Bernadette yells at them and reminds them that they have to go to Lenny's dinner. They head out to dinner (Raj, Howard and Bernadette) and are on their way driving there when they begin to notice a car is following them close. Is it a government car? No, it is Beverly with Penny and Leonard! Leonard sees it is Howard and Bernie's car and speeds up to catch up to them. Howard, Raj and Bernie begin to freak out because the car is tailgating them. So they do a quick turn to "throw off the government car." Leonard thinks Howard knows a way to avoid some traffic and get there quicker so follows. Raj then screams that they are still being followed, the car turned and followed them. Penny then suggests to Leonard to flash his lights to get their attention. But the flashing lights only make Howard, Bernie and Raj even more freaked out. Bernie then tells Howard to floor it as she is not going to raise the baby alone. She wants them to loose the car following them.

Mary and Alfred are in the backseat of Amy's car (with Sheldon in front with her). They are getting along great. Alfred tells Mary that he is an agnostic but often prayed that Beverly be turned into a pillar of salt. Mary tells Alfred that God got close; He turned Beverly into a block of ice. Sheldon is oblivious to any flirting going on between Mary and Alfred, but Amy notices and suggest to Sheldon to just keep playing games on his phone.

Penny calls Bernadette after they get to the restaurant and wonders where they are at and why they have not arrived at the restaurant and why they turned their lights off and sped away when they were following them. Bernie was surprised, and relieved, to learn it was Penny and Leonard following them. Bernie tells her that they have been pulled over. Bernie tells them to eat without them as Howard is being given a sobriety test. Howard is only making things worse by trying to explain to the officer that he is not on drugs, but That the government is after him.

At the restaurant, Mary and Alfred are talking. Mary complements Leonard on his father's charm. Beverly interjects that he is also broke. Leonard toasts Penny thanking her for a wonderful year of marriage, and for saying yes when he asked her to marry him. Penny thanks him for continuing to ask until she said yes. Alfred also makes a toast happy that Leonard has found a woman that loves and cares for him. This irritates Beverly and they begin arguing. Alfred decides to leave the restaurant, calling it an early night. Mary also says she is going to call it an early night. They find out they are staying at the same hotel and decide to share a cab. As they are walking out, Alfred invites Mary up for a nightcap, and she accepts. Sheldon says they both had to leave early because they filled up on bread.

Sheldon tries calling his mother and Leonard tries texting Alfred but neither respond. Penny laughs saying they turned their phones off. Sheldon and Leonard are quite disturbed at what is being suggested. Penny thinks it's hilarious.

Season Ten

The Conjugal Conjecture

Season 10
Episode Number: 208
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Monday September 19, 2016
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Keith Carradine (Wyatt), Judd Hirsch (Dr. Alfred Hofstadter), Katey Sagal (Susan), Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Jack McBrayer (Randall), Dean Norris (Colonel Richard Williams)
Production Code:	T12.15303
Summary:	As Leonard and Penny attempt to hold another wedding ceremony everyone can attend, they have to deal with Penny's family arriving and Leonard's father spending the night with Sheldon's mother.



Leonard and Penny are sleeping in bed when Sheldon calls through the wall that they could be brothers. Leonard denies that it's true. Sheldon hopes so because tells a grown man living with his brother and wife was weird. Sheldon also wonders if Leonard's father is currently doing despicable things to my mother. Penny reassures him that they are old and would be finished by 9:30. Leonard and Penny start to talk about how awkward the wedding will be with Sheldon and Penny's brother when Sheldon tells them

to stop talking. As is leaving to pick her family up at the airport, she stands at the door telling everyone not to bring up last night in front of Beverly and play dumb. Beverly steps up behind while Sheldon comments Penny was showing them an example on how to play dumb. Penny is embarrassed and tries to leave. Beverly stops her, thanks her for going through all the trouble to have the ceremony, but she cannot attend because Alfred is going out of his way to humiliate her parading around with some Bible-thumping bumpkin. Sheldon objects to Beverly's description of his mother though he agrees that it is accurate. Leonard tells her that he really wants her to stay. Penny adds that if she leaves, Alfred will know that he really got under her skin. Sheldon adds that if the did have coitus, they will all be needing the aid of a skilled psychiatrist.

Howard, Bernadette and Raj are having coffee in their kitchen. Raj thinks that the whole experience the previous night was funny. Howard denies it since he got a \$500 traffic ticket. Bernadette agrees with Raj because he was driving like a lunatic thinking that he was being followed by the secret government agents. Raj answers the doorbell and finds Colonel Richard Williams who wants to talk to Howard. A nervous Raj denies that he was there even when Howard asks who was at the door. The Officer won't explain what he wants, but leaves his card asking Howard to call him.

Penny is driving her parents and brother back to the apartment. Penny can't wait for everyone to meet her family. Her mother is annoyed that they know about Randall's arrest and prison record. Wyatt suddenly mentions the Walgreen's they were passing. Susan tells him to knock it off. Penny can't believe Randall is visiting her in California after all these years. He adds that it is a good thing that he is a non-violent offender or otherwise he couldn't leave the state. Susan wants to discuss jail again. Randall adds that Penny knew where she was since she sent him cigarettes. You sent him cigarettes? Wyatt justifies Penny that because of what he was making, he can probably ignore the cigarettes. Susan snaps at him to stop trying to be the cool Dad. He owns a shirt with their cat's picture on it. Wyatt adds saying to Penny "Anyway, we're here, Slugger."

Howard is now worried that the Air Force knows where he lives. Bernadette adds that if he wants to live off the grid, he has to move out of his mother's house. Howard calls the number, greets the Colonel and mentions that the guy at the door was Indian and he doesn't know his immigration status. Raj has a heart attack. Howard was on hold and just kidding. Then Howard sets up a meeting Thursday at work and the Colonel still will not discuss the purpose.

Leonard gives his mother a cup of tea and tells her how special it will be for Penny and him to share it with her. She can't wait for the day to be over. Mary and Alfred arrive at the boy's apartment. Asking how everyone is, they described themselves share a round of awkward "good's". Sheldon asks Alfred that asks Alfred if he defiled his mother. Everyone is shocked. Alfred assures him that they only shared a cab and a conversation. Sheldon then asks if that conversation included the phrase "Your genitals are a joy to behold?" More shocking expressions occurred as Alfred remarks that neither he nor anyone has ever said that. Leonard quips that he doesn't know Amy very well. Sheldon adds that his genitals are a sight to behold.

Penny's family has arrived at her apartment. Her brother is surprised that he has never met Leonard. Wyatt assures him that he buys his drugs from a local vendor. Susan wants all the drugs talk to stop and considers her family an embarrassment. Penny tells her mother that no one is going to judge their family. Susan is worried that Leonard's parents are intellectuals and academics. She doesn't want them to think that they are white trash. Randall wonders what color she thinks they will believe.

Now back at the boy's apartment, Mary is asking how Sheldon could believe she would sleep with a man she just met. Leonard considers that whole episode over. Alfred says that he and Mary are planning on visiting each other. Beverly thinks Alfred is doing it just to antagonize her. Alfred feels that she is a wonderful woman. Mary genuinely likes Leonard's father. Sheldon is angry since he is a mediocre academic and his sexual prowess is subpar (according to Beverly). He is Leonard with a bigger prostate. Leonard is insulated that his father isn't good enough for his mother. Now everyone is complaining about who they have to stay with as Sheldon tries to diagram where who should be in which apartment. Amy walks in exclaiming, "Who's ready for a wedding?" Sheldon is disgusted that he has to start all over again.

Back in 4B, Wyatt asks his daughter about the world of pharmaceuticals. She just got a better territory. Susan tells her son to see what happens when one works hard. Well, Penny just sells them while he had to make them. Susan doesn't want any more drug talk for the rest of their trip. Wyatt wants another beer while Susan thinks that he has had enough. Penny drinks more than her father. Penny quips that she learned from the best. Awww! Susan says that she can see why Randall turned up in jail. Leonard and Beverly enter the apartment and Susan is very glad to see him again. Leonard introduces his mother. Randall immediately exclaims that they are not white trash.

Back to the boy's apt: Alfred tells Amy that he sorry because of all the trouble he has caused. So is Mary. Sheldon quips that she made God sad today. Amy is happy that Alfred and Mary like each other. Sheldon doesn't want them rushing into anything. Look on him and Amy. Alfred reaches for Amy's hand and says, "You are a patient young woman." Sheldon growls and tells him to take a cold shower "Grandpa". She's mine!

Howard is still worried about what the Colonel wants and figures that it is bad news. They could that away the invention and Howard is left with nothing. Raj tells a story about the scientists on the Manhattan Project who got nothing from it. The tale doesn't help Howard's frame of mind and Raj only told it because he had just read a book on the subject.

At Penny's, Beverly asks Randall what he does for a living. Susan steps in that he is between jobs. Randall adds that he is also between court appearances. Wyatt is happy to meet the woman

who raised Leonard, this fine young man. He can't wait to meet his father. Beverly tells him to prepare for disappointment. Susan tells Wyatt that he doesn't need another beer. Penny comes in hoping that everyone is getting to know each other. Randall denies that that is happening.

In a park setting backed-up with trellises, the guests are seated while Bernadette stands in front to officiate with Leonard. Amy is has her harp. Stuart walks in and sits in the empty seat between Leonard's parents. They don't want to sit next to each other. Bernadette says that they are ready. Penny is wearing a short lace wedding dress and is escorted up the aisle by a very proud father. Amy plays the traditional wedding march; Wagner's Bridal Chorus. Penny is glowing. Wyatt welcomes Leonard to the family and advises him to not loan his brother-in-law any money. Bernie speaks that they are there to celebrate love. Not just the love between the bride and groom, but also for the love they have for them and between each other. Love is patient and doesn't but up with all the side-chatter coming from the audience's comments. Penny realizes that there is some tension so she begins. Standing in front of all their family and friends brings up a lot of feelings, like eloping was a good thing. Leonard has also made her very happy and she thanks him for marrying him. Hopefully for the last time. Leonard describes how as a scientist he has to explain why things happen and he can explain why someone like him ended up with someone like her. He doesn't have to understand it, just be grateful because he loves her. Bernie asks if anyone has anything snarky to say. Alfred stands up and says to everyone even though he and Beverly don't bring out the best in each other, the best thing to come out of their relationship was Leonard. Beverly agrees. Sheldon stands up and says he has to say something to a person who is pretty special. Amy starts to stand up and says, "Its happening!" Leonard. Mary comforts Amy as she sits back down. Sheldon tells Leonard that he has always considered him family. He may not always show it, be they are both very important to him. Leonard and Penny thank him. Bernie says "I now pronounce you husband and wife. And the weird other husband that came with the apartment." Three-way embrace. Everyone applauds.

Leonard drives both his parents to the airport. They seem to be getting along until they start arguing about Leonard getting into the carpool lane. Amy is driving Mary to airport with Sheldon in the back seat. They will get there in plenty of time. Sheldon snaps that she will have plenty of time to find a new geriatric boy-toy. She yells to him to stop being disrespectful to her. And he apologizes. Then Amy says that Mary being attractive and Sheldon needs to get used to men being interested in her. Sheldon tells her to just drive and mind her business. Amy says "I will not have you be disrespectful to me" in a nice voice. Sheldon says that she is not his mother. Mary yells "Don't be disrespectful to her." He says he's sorry. Mary turns to Amy and says that she will get there and that she has to put some zing on it. Penny is driving her folks to the airport. Her mother doesn't know what she was worried about since Penny's friends are lovely. She does find Sheldon a bit peculiar. Penny claims to have never notice. He reminds her father of a turkey they had that drowned looking up at the rain. Everybody has a laugh until Randall sees some cops and hides.

The Military Miniaturization

Season 10
Episode Number: 209
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Monday September 26, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Josh Zuckerman (Marty), Dean Norris (Colonel Richard Williams), Kimberly Brooks (Computer (voice))
Production Code: T12.15301
Summary: The guys heads are in a spin when an Air Force bigwig approaches them about their revolutionary gyroscope invention; and Bernadette is upset with Penny after she accidentally leaks a secret to the mom-to-be's coworkers about her being pregnant.



In apartment 4A, Leonard and Sheldon are at their computers. Sheldon discovers that Elon Musk has a theory that everyone are all characters in some advanced civilization's video game. Leonard wonders if some alien kind got him the upgrade for an inhaler and eye-glasses. Sheldon retorts that it didn't indicate it was a good game. Howard and Raj complaining that there is a problem since the military visited Howard and wants to have a meeting about their gyroscope. Raj found his encounter with the Colonel

when he answered Howard's front door terrifying. Leonard adds that if the research is declared classified, the government could take it away from them and ending their "big payday". Howard really wants the extra money so due to Bernie's larger salary, he doesn't have to try so hard in bed. Sheldon is worried that they are missing the main point. All of them could become faceless cogs in the military-industrial complex AND he finds that exciting. He loves the faceless storm troopers in Star Wars when they run over the civilian populace. Howard objects that they could be working on a weapon system that could oppress mankind for the next thousand years. Sheldon feels that Howard is then on board and asks Leonard if he is too.

In apartment 4B, Penny's Posse is having wine while Bernadette (apple juice) says that she is worried about Howard being a nervous wreck since talking to the military. Penny suggests that she get some anti-anxiety medicines from work; however, Howard won't take anything that is not chewable. Bernie gets a text from work from somebody congratulating her on her pregnancy. She hadn't told anyone at work. Penny denied having had spread the story. Bernadette figures that it was Barbara Chen from Retrovirus who heard her throwing up in the bathroom. She snaps that ever since she got that hearing aid she thinks she knows everything. If the company knows that she is pregnant, she could lose a big immunotherapy project. She did the same thing to Barbara Chen last year when Bernadette learned that she was pregnant.

Returning to 4A, the guys stop Raj from putting on Snapchat the fact that they are working on a secret government project. They wonder if they should talk to a lawyer. Raj asks Howard if there was one in his family. Just because he is Jewish? Howard snaps that Raj must have a cousin working at a call center, which turns out to be true. And Howard does have a cousin that works as a lawyer. Sheldon says they don't need a lawyer, they have him. Leonard tells Sheldon that he isn't a lawyer just a know-it-all. Sheldon denies that and that he is just a person who knows lots of things and likes to correct other people when they are wrong. And that IS the definition of a know-it-all.

Back discussing Bernadette's pregnancy, she said that she was going to hide it by leaving Dove Bar wrappers all over the place to explain her weight gain. Amy wonders where she would get the wrappers. Bernie snaps that she ate them and that: "I'm pregnant!" Bernadette leaves to find out if her boss knows. Penny gives her a loving send-off and then tells Amy that she was the one that accidentally let her fellow employees know. Penny feels bad, that she lied to her; however, Amy thinks that she does it so well. Amy wants to scan Penny's brain while she is lying to see what parts light up.

In Howard's lab, they are setting up a video chat with Howard's lawyer cousin. Sheldon wonders how a tax lawyer from Fort Lauderdale could give them advice on intellectual properties. All right, Boca Rotan. thinks it's pointless as Howard's cousin doesn't do this kind of law and lives in Ft. Lauderdale. Howard retorts that he is really smart because he lasted two days on "Jeopardy!" They call his Cousin Marty who is peeved that Howard went into space, so whatever he accomplishes, his mother will be disappointed in him. Howard introduces the guys and asks if he has any advice. Marty claims to not know much about patent law. Marty's advice is to listen to them, tell them as little as possible and not to sign anything. Sheldon is perturbed and compares it to finishing an oil painting and his advice is to not sign it. Marty denies that that was what he meant and gets into an argument with Sheldon. Howard ends the call, though Leonard mentions that when he gets up on murder charges, he'll call him.

In Bernadette's office, comes by because she was attending a seminar on a sleeping pill which put her to sleep. Bernadette still doesn't know who told them about her pregnancy and is furious. After Bernadette says that she plans on getting revenge on Barbara Chen. Reluctantly Penny confesses, tells her that it was an accident and is very sorry that she lied about it. A shocked Bernadette just tells her to get out. Penny sadly leaves.

The guys are waiting in Howard's lab to meet with Colonel Williams. Sheldon is not allowed to say anything since his comments enrage people. Can he exchange pleasantries with him? Yes. Can Sheldon inform him that Colonel Saunders was not in the military? Leonard is now enraged. Colonel Williams enters. Sheldon just huzzahs him. He asks who the main brain behind it, Howard humbly takes that credit. Sheldon says nothing, but is very upset.

Later, Howard and Leonard are explaining the gyroscope to the Colonel who understands it, because he is an engineer (Sheldon gasps) who went to M.I.T. (Another gasp.) The Air Force has an application for their invention and wants to fund it. They are happy, but are worried that it might be used for weapons. The Colonel wants to put their mind at ease that whatever they use it for is none of their business. He tells them that it's just a guidance system and not like they are handing him the Death Star from Star Trek. Sheldon goes silently ballistic over this inaccuracy. He does need them to reduce the size down to a cantaloupe. Howard wonders if that's even possible. The Colonel says that some people at M.I.T think they can do it in four months. Sheldon finally explodes stating that they can do it in two months. After he introduces himself and adds that engineers aren't real scientists, M.I.T. is a trade school and the Death Star is from Star Wars. And he thanks him for his service in the military giving him a salute.

Bernadette is in her office working late, so Amy brought her dinner. Bernadette needed the time to work alone without everyone congratulating her every five minutes. Amy had been in her lab waiting for a rat to die of anthrax. Amy wonders if she is worried that people will start treating her differently. Bernadette exclaims that she has always been treated differently because of how she sounds and looks. People don't see a scientist, they wonder if her Mommy knows where she is. Amy knows feels sorry that she brought her a Happy Meal. Bernadette complains that it took her time to get where she was and doesn't want to start over just because she is pregnant. Amy wants to help her. Calming down, Bernadette was pleased that at least she brought her French fries. Apple slices, because she was pregnant. Bernadette then snaps asking what lunatic goes to McDonald's and brings back fruit. Amy quickly exits to retrieve fries while Bernadette also

demands a chocolate shake.

Penny enters her home while Sheldon is making Leonard lemon bars. Leonard is mad at Sheldon, so he is making him something. Sheldon is mad at Leonard so he's making something that Leonard doesn't like. They had asked Sheldon not to talk and now everyone is mad at Sheldon which doesn't surprise Penny. They have a ridiculously short timeframe finish the project thanks to Sheldon. Penny adds, that if it makes him feel any better, Bernadette is mad at her. Sheldon tells her a random wasp factoid that doesn't make Penny feel any better because her Bernadette story did not help him. After Sheldon asks, Penny told him that she let Bernadette's pregnancy slip at work and now she feels terrible. The exact same thing happened to Sheldon except that he told it on purpose and have no regrets.

Now in Howard's much emptier lab, the guys are boxing up his project. Howard figures they will have to work 24/7 to meet the two month deadline. Leonard won't be able to make Penny breakfast every day. He quips that his French toast is the only thing keeping her in the marriage. After Sheldon told the Colonel, Howard had an awkward pause and then agreed. Raj is sad that he won't see them much. They are off with the military and he knows how those Army wives feel.

Bernadette walks up to apartment 4B, and Penny let's her in awkwardly. She apologizes to Penny because she knows that it was an accident. Penny is sorry about lying to her. Bernadotte compliments her that she is a great liar, just like Amy had noted. As to the project, Bernadette reminded him that she was a sweet little pregnant woman who wasn't afraid to cry in front of a jury. Penny asked if she was going to sue. Bernadette replied that when your four foot eleven and looking in every guy's crotch, you know where to hit him. She then tells Penny that it is just a research project and that the most important job in the world is to raise their child so that she can give her life meaning. Penny that that was beautiful. Bernie perks up happy that she believed. her. All she needs is eleven other chumps like her on the jury.

Sheldon, Leonard and Howard are walking down a hallway inspecting the university's building where classified work is done. They reach the door of their new lab and discover that the door has a retinal scanner on it. Howard and Leonard try it out. An hour later they are still playing with it.

The Dependence Transcendence

Season 10
Episode Number: 210
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday October 3, 2016
Writer: Steven Molaro, Saladin K. Patterson, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian George (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali), Brian Posehn (Bert), Brandon W. Jones (The Flash), Dean Norris (Colonel Richard Williams)
Production Code: T12.15302
Summary: Bernadette confides to Raj she isn't sure if she's ready to be a mother. Penny accompanies Amy to a university mixer, and Sheldon goes to unusual extremes to assist Howard with his military project.



First storyline is Wolowitz, Leonard, Sheldon trying to work on their idea after they promised the Colonel Williams that they can do it in 2 months.

First scene: the guys are working late and Sheldon wants to leave. Leonard tells him that he was the one who promised such a ridiculous deadline, so he has to stay.

Next morning, Sheldon and Leonard come to the kitchen and there's Amy and Penny, preparing breakfast for them, because they know they won't see them much. Amy mentions that Sheldon was supposed to go with her to some party,

but now she knows he won't.

He replies that it wasn't going to happen anyway. Penny is kind of interested, so Amy explains that it's just scientists from different fields meeting, talking about current stuff from their fields etc. and apologizes for calling it a party. Penny still wants to go.

Leonard is confused and Penny says "I'll drink wine while listening to a bunch of crap I don't understand. How is that different than every single day of my life?" Sheldon says "The difference is that he won't be there". So Leonard goes "Oh look, it will be a party!" (That was a set-up for the Amy and Penny storyline)

Next day, Sheldon is still tired so Wolowitz and Leonard basically convince Sheldon to get a coffee or energy drink because he's moaning.

Next he's in the cafeteria sleeping and suddenly he has a dream and The Flash is standing right next to the vending machine. He convinces him to take one of the energy drinks so he does.

Next Sheldon is hyper as always after drinking caffeine. Then he's tired again and goes "I'll get one more energy drink" and then he, horrified, realizes that he's addicted already because he needs more.

Howard says that a problem can't develop this quickly to which Sheldon replies "Want to bet? — Oh great, now I'm addicted to gambling too!"

Next, Leonard tries to get him to work, telling Sheldon that let's say that he has a problem — lots of "I do" and "No, you don't" between these two after that — if the best way to get over it would be to start working and forget about his addiction problem — to which Sheldon replies "So now I DO have an addiction problem?"

Last scene, Sheldon asks Leonard if he can ask him a question. Leonard says that if it's about his addiction to caffeine and not about the stuff it should be about... awkward pause... "Hey Howard, can I ask you something?" Howard says nope, so Sheldon decides to just throw it out there in the room.

He's googling how to get over caffeine addiction, saying they don't make any patches, but they do make xxxx (couldn't really understand) and he has a fun fact about a rectum.

Leonard loses it and says that they can't move forward without Sheldon doing his part. He says he can't. Leonard says yes, he can. And Sheldon goes "You don't understand. I've been trying to figure out the Math for days now and I don't know how." Then he starts crying, apologizes that it's his fault that they will never make it on time and leans into Leonard. Leonard rubs his back, saying it's okay. Sheldon doesn't reply, he fell asleep.

Tag scene is the guys going to the Airforce guy, explaining they can't do it in 2 months. He asks how much time they think they need? 2 years. And the guy goes "Okay!"

They all look kind of confused and he says "Do you think this is going to be the first project for the government that will miss the deadline?"

So the guys go and leave and right after closing the door you can hear them "So, wanna go to the cinema tonight?" and Sheldon saying that he'd pay for all of their popcorns.

Second storyline is Amy and Penny and the party. It turns out it's at Bert's place.

Bert opens the door and thanks them for coming and says he's going to play some rock music — that's a geology joke. Amy explains to Penny that he's a geologist and Bert jumps in and adds "And a joker!"

They look around and there's no one else. Penny asks how early are they. Amy replies that they are actually an hour late.

Next scene starts with super awkward super long silence, Amy and Penny drinking and Bert on the other side of the room.

Then he goes and tells them that they can leave, because he wants to start cleaning up. He asks Amy not to tell anyone about this, because "you are you and I am me and it would be embarrassing".

Penny asks what does he mean with Amy being her and Bert says Amy is the most popular girl at the campus. Both girls go "Uhm, no?".

Amy suggests she's popular just because of dating Sheldon, Bert says no, Sheldon is popular because of dating you... Penny is super confused, Amy and Sheldon are popular?! What's happening?!

Then they are sitting on a couch, Bert gives an example how Amy came up with some new idea how to clean something in the lab and then everyone started doing it too.

Amy blushes in her typical way, saying it was just the right idea at the right time. Penny wants to know if Leonard is popular and Bert says that he's 'alright'.

Apparently he's just known for convincing a hot girl to marry him. Penny is happy and says "that girl is me! And he just wore me out."

After that Penny and Amy are leaving. Penny says that Bert is nice and that they won't take him for granted (pronouncing it basically as granite) — she made a geology joke. Bert says that they should really leave.

Last storyline is Bernie and Raj. Raj made a breakfast for Howard, because he knows he won't see him much now. He wants to spend his day off with Bernie, she says "He doesn't have to".

Raj wants to go shopping for the baby, buy pretzels and get some side looks from racist women working in the stores. Bernie says that she already gets those when she comes with Howard to her grandma's for Christmas.

Raj suggests cleaning the room for the baby. Bernie says "it's really messy and basically doesn't want him to see it". Raj says "she shouldn't be embarrassed with him, after all, he's going to be in the room when she's giving birth". Bernie is just staring at him with "Nope, you are not".

Raj is still pushing it, they could at least choose the colors... Bernie loses it and walks out of the kitchen, then yells that she's upset and why is he's not following her.

There's one more scene that I don't remember, but it starts with Bernie apologizing for snapping at him, saying it must be the pregnancy hormones. Raj says she was mean even before that, but that's fine. (After this I don't remember anything :haha:)

Then they are driving in a car, Bernie is afraid she may not be a good mother, she simply doesn't care about all the stuff she probably should care about.

Raj ends up calling his dad to talk to Bernadette, his dad picks up with "Do you need money? Do you need anything that costs money?" Raj says no, so his dad replies "Great, what's up?!". Raj's dad then talks to Bernie about how Raj's mother loved Raj and then he broke her heart when he moved so far away and started dating white girls. Bernadette really feels better at the end.

The Cohabitation Experimentation

Season 10
Episode Number: 211
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Monday October 10, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: T12.15304
Summary: When Amy must vacate her apartment for repairs, living arrangements are made with Leonard, Sheldon, and Penny. Howard and Bernadette don't want to know the sex of their baby, but Raj finds out.



Amy, Leonard and Penny enter the lobby with the night's take-out food as Amy describes the plumbing problem in her apartment. A pipe broke over her clothes closet destroying all her clothes and her apartment will be uninhabitable for five weeks. Penny suggests that she stay in Leonard's bedroom while the Hofstadters stay across the hall. Technically Amy would be moving in with her boyfriend while Penny gets to live "alone" with her husband. A big step in the right direction for both of them. The trio enter apartment

4A and stare at Sheldon who is at his desk. Sheldon then asks them why they were standing there smiling like crazy people.

While setting up dinner, Sheldon comments that cohabitation is a lot to process. Penny reminds him that it is only for five weeks and that they'll be right across the hall. Sheldon is worried that it could kill the romance especially since she will see him unshaven. Leonard reminds him that if he shaves now, he is good for three months. Amy proposes it to him as a scientist to collect data about their compatibility. Sheldon considers her luring him in with some "sexy talk". Like Star Trek, Leonard compares it to Sheldon's own five-week mission. Now that is what Sheldon considers as sexy talk. Next Sheldon is worried that he might find it being comfortable with a Amy because he was in a familiar environment. They need a neutral ground. Penny tells them to move in across the hall. Then Sheldon is worried about his knocking and spot privileges. Leonard tells Penny to keep nodding since he is almost out of the apartment. Finally Sheldon accepts the five-week mission as Amy grabs and hugs him happily.

Howard, Bernadette and Raj enter the kitchen as Raj tells them how happy he is with their OB/GYN. Howard complains that he doesn't have to come to every appointment. Raj reminds them that he is the son of a gynecologist. Bernadette does not like him describing her textbook cervix. The parents look lovingly at the blob on the sonogram photograph and jokingly call the baby Blobert, Bloberta or Blobbi. Then they consider whether to call back the doctor to find out the baby's gender. Raj casually says that he knows what it is, horrifying Howard and Bernadette, as they don't want him to know at all.

Sheldon and Penny are sharing a drink in apartment 4B with Penny telling Sheldon how proud she is of his decision. Sheldon explains that the experiment would be better if their were four pairs of Amy's and Sheldon's. Sheldon then asks Penny for advice about living together and Penny tells him to be willing to compromise, do little things for her and respect Amy's space. Amy is seeking advice from Leonard who wants to frame it so that she won't want to stop thinking about it. She can't leave any belts on the floor (They look like snakes.), keep M&M's in her pocket for long waits in lines and no photoflash photography.

Sheldon is packing his underwear as Amy wants to discuss the sleeping arrangements. Sheldon is excited, concerned and scared, just like when he goes on Space Mountain. Amy realizes on the subject of coital expectations, she knows that he is way out of his comfort zone. She proposes that they take that off the table until they get more comfortable living together. Sheldon agrees. Their discussion was getting him all worked up and he was about to kiss her. Amy had the same feeling having seen his Teen Titans underwear.

In the hallway, Sheldon has his clothes in a laundry basket and Amy has her suitcase as Penny gives them the keys to their apartment. Penny tells them to enjoy their new place, while Leonard tells Sheldon to enjoy his mission to go boldly where no one has gone before. Sheldon remarks that since it's Penny's bedroom, many men have gone there before. Amy is ready to go while Sheldon keeps giving Leonard chore reminders. They say their final farewells and then Sheldon and Amy are in the apartment alone officially living together. Sheldon declares that the experiment has began. Penny and Leonard can be heard yelling, "WE DID IT!"

Later, while Amy is unpacking, Sheldon wonders which side of the bed she wants. Since Sheldon is more fuzzy about things, she wants him to pick one. They argue about who should pick and Amy insists that Sheldon do it. The left is closer to the door for exit in case of emergency, but is closer to the entrance in case of attack. The other side is closer to the window, but perverts could be watching him while he slept. Amy then closed the drapes as a solution. That solves the problem until Sheldon wonders who was standing behind the drapes.

Howard is coming to bed while Bernadette remarks that it is ridiculous that everyone else knows the sex of the baby including the doctor, the sonogram technician, Raj and his entire "Gray's Anatomy" chat room. Howard thinks that it will be more fun like a magic trick. Like the never-ending hanky that he pulled out of his fly which ended in a flower bouquet for her, the doctor will pull something beautiful out of her.

Amy is getting ready for bed making noises from the bathroom. Sheldon makes a sour face and then moves over to the side of the bed away from the bathroom. Amy notices his move and Sheldon remarks that she should be glad he was still in the room. Amy climbs in and then asks that since sex is off the table, can they snuggle. Sheldon wants to build a wall of pillows between them. Amy shoots his idea down. Sheldon says that he is very sensitive to heat and that her bottom should have iguanas lying next to it. Amy looks shocked as Sheldon turns over to go to sleep.

Over to Apartment 4A, Leonard looks at his wristwatch declaring that it is Sheldon's bedtime and he is in for the night. Penny asks what he wants to do and he takes his jacket off. She says he's a genius and that that's the best he can suggest. Leonard replies that since Sheldon is not there, they are going to put on some music and dance in their underwear. Penny just wants to have sex. Leonard tells her that that is inevitable after she sees him dancing. She does not look convinced as he pulls down his pants and gets rocking.

Howard throws down a magazine and says that he is calling Raj which excites Bernadette. Then Bernadette has second thoughts. Raj is asleep with Cinnamon and picks up the phone just as Howard hangs up. Sheldon is now snoring and Amy can't get any sleep. Next Penny is comforting Leonard who exerted himself and is now on his asthma inhaler. Raj gets another call and hears Bernadette shouting to hang up. Amy is now spooning with Sheldon looking very happy. Sheldon keeps moving toward her side of the bed and then pushes her onto the floor. Sheldon wakes up and wonders what she is doing on the floor. Amy takes out her phone, takes a flash picture on him and he runs away.

Next morning Amy and Penny are having coffee and everyone's tired. Amy complains that she got very little sleep. Penny smiles at her and told her to "Yeah, get it, girl.". Amy says that it's not what she thinks. Leonard joins them complaining about he pulled something. Penny quips that it's really not what Amy thinks. Sheldon enters without knocking) telling them about his good night's sleep. Amy sighs that she was on the floor all night and that maybe living together was

a bad idea. Sheldon argues that she is a scientist and should stick with the experiment. Then he questions her integrity as a scientist. She replies that a theoretical scientist like him wouldn't even understand the experiment variables. Then they agree that for science they should continue the experiment. Amy then suggests that they return to their apartment and make out which is fine for Sheldon. Their argument about science turned each other on. Penny jokingly comments on how their "new neighbors" are weird.

The Hot Tub Contamination

Season 10
Episode Number: 212
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Monday October 17, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: T12.15305
Summary: Sheldon and Amy go through a period of adjustment with their new living arrangement. Howard and Bernadette are forced to vacation at home when she falls ill and keep it a secret, unaware Raj and Stuart planned to use their hot tub.



The new couple across the hall, Sheldon and Amy enter apartment 4A without knocking with Sheldon telling Leonard and Penny to explain to Amy how much they enjoy their bathroom schedule. Untrue. Amy retorts that Sheldon can't control every aspect of their lives and that he has to be willing to compromise. Sheldon tells her to look at Penny who compromised and married Leonard Hofstadter. Leonard explains that she didn't compromise, she settled. Penny agrees.

At the Comic Book Store, Howard and Raj are at the register buying comic books from Stuart. Howard says that he and

Bernadette are heading out to Palm Springs for a quick vacation because Bernadette wants to do more things together before the baby comes. Also, he is now at the comic book store because Raj wants to do more things together before the baby comes.

Back in 4A, Leonard tells Sheldon that living together breeds conflict and that you have to learn to compromise. Amy suggests that for starters they keep their toothbrushes in the same holder. Sheldon then says that they should start to see other people. As a male, he has an evolutionary urge to spread his DNA as much as possible. He blames her friend for that urge, biology. Amy tells him to go see other people. Sheldon is worried that he might end up moving back in. Penny just wants to separate them for a while so they can cool down.

In Howard and Bernadette's bedroom, Howard asks her how she is feeling as she continues to throw up. Not so well. She is not well enough for a hot three-hour drive through the desert. So they decide to have a secret vacation at home without telling their friends. Howard also tells her how sexy that is because even though she had been throwing up, he was so turned on.

Penny is driving Sheldon in her car. He is complaining that as much as they call him difficult to live with, he finds that Amy is even more challenging to live with. Penny does not believe him. Amy breathes on him at night. Leonard does the same thing to Penny. Amy is always complaining about the people at work. Leonard does the same thing to Penny. When Sheldon steps out of the

shower, she eyes him like a piece of meat Leonard does the same thing to Penny and give her a thumbs up. Now Penny is getting annoyed. Sheldon says that for once, he would like to be appreciated for his mind. And so does Penny!

Howard is rubbing Bernie's feet which feels great until he pulls a quarter out from between her toes. Then they hear the front door opening and they start panicking that someone is in the house. After locking the bedroom door, they realize that they don't have their cell phone with them. A bubbling sound indicating that the hot tub is on. Looking out the window they see Stuart using it looking like a boiled chicken breast.

Leonard and Amy are discussing Sheldon in 4A. Leonard describes him as the worst; however Amy considers him high maintenance. Amy has never lived with anyone before and as Leonard adds, she is starting out with Sheldon Cooper. He was making her feel any better. Amy adds that he posted a sign in the bathroom showing the number of days in a row that he didn't without find one of her hair on the soap. Leonard's record was six.

Watching Stuart from their bedroom, Bernadette thinks that is fun watching him float in their hot tub, not unlike having a fish tank. The back porch lights come on and out walks Raj in his swim trunks. Raj jumps in the seemingly empty hot tub, then Stuart pops up gasping for air. Raj screams at him asking what he was doing there. Stuart comes over whenever he thinks that the Wolowitzes aren't home. Once he hid in the bushes pretending to be a raccoon. Bernadette snaps at Howard that she was sure it wasn't a raccoon.

Penny is still driving Sheldon around and now they are both complaining about their partners. Sheldon suggest that they stop for ice cream. Penny agrees. Sheldon wishes that Amy would be that subservient. She has sex one time and then she's Gloria Steinem. While at the ice cream parlor he can look for other women. Penny points out that he had a hard enough time with one woman. Sheldon retorts that being with Amy has awoken the sexual creature within. When he sees a pretty woman walking down the street, he thinks "Hubba-hubba!"

Raj and Stuart are now having wine and they toast Howard and Bernadette and the house key they never asked him to return. Now Bernadette is mad at Howard for not getting it from Stuart. Stuart has no electricity since he hasn't paid his bill. Raj invites him to crash at his apartment since he has broken up with his girlfriends. Their choices. He never told anyone. Stuart asks him how his dating was going and his best date was sitting in the hot tub with Stuart.

Amy and Leonard talking in 4A at the kitchen island. Leonard encourages Amy to hold firm on the bathroom schedule unlike he did. Amy thinks it is easier to give in. Leonard reminds her that she did get him to stop sanitizing his pocket change, putting things other than gloves in the car glove box (Mittens), and he got him to eat a turkey dog. No, that was Koothrappali. She can't walk out on Pinocchio before he becomes a real boy. Amy says that she is also in their relationship and that if he doesn't like it, he can move back to 4A. Leonard says that he can, but he will need a good locksmith.

While Penny and Sheldon eating ice cream at the ice cream parlor, Penny suggests the girl behind the counter and the one eating strawberry ice cream, Sheldon's favorite. He rejects them. Penny asks him if Sheldon is really looking for someone else. Sheldon tells her that she is wise beyond her years, though at her age she is getting up there. Penny wants to know the real story is. Sheldon begins a story that he has told no one. When he was 13, on a break from college (They ran out of math that they could teach him.), Sheldon returned home and found his father in in his parents' bedroom having relations with another woman. That is why he knocks three times. the first is traditional and the other two gets one time to get their pants on. What worries Sheldon is that he and Amy have been bickering like his parents dis and he doesn't want to disappoint Amy down the road. Penny yells at him that she only wants to share a toothbrush holder together. Sheldon also figures he should apologize to Penny for not first hitting on her since he was looking for another partner. He thinks of Penny as a nanny. Penny tells him to finish his ice cream so she can get him home to bed.

While enjoying the hot tub, Raj suggests that it is time to leave. Raj gets out, while Stuart doesn't since is not wearing shorts. Howard finally loses his temper and tells them to buy their own hot tub.

Back in 4A, with Amy enjoying sitting in Sheldon's spot saying how nice it was and that she would start there standing up to Sheldon. Penny and Sheldon return from the ice cream parlor, and Amy quickly shifts to the center of the sofa. Sheldon apologizes for his earlier behavior and he is willing to forego the bathroom schedule. He was never interested in other women and to

prove it he is willing to take their relationship to the next level.

Next in Penny's bathroom, Sheldon tells to Amy, "Amy Farah Fowler, will you share this toothbrush holder with me?" Amy would love to do that. They both put their toothbrushes into the holder and hug with Amy looking very happy. Penny and Leonard are looking on. Leonard wants to know why they had to be there. Penny sheds a tear. "Call me crazy, but I found it moving."

The Fetal Kick Catalyst

Season 10
Episode Number: 213
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday October 27, 2016
Writer: Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Steve Molaro, Saladin K. Patterson, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian Posehn (Bert), Michelle Arthur (Mrs. Petrescu), Josh Banday (Nolan), Bryan Safi (Daniel), Tucker Albrizzi (Christopher), Jareb Dauplaise (Jeff)
Production Code: T12.15306
Summary: Feeling his fetal offspring kick sends Howard on a baby-items buying binge with Raj; Sheldon and Amy host a brunch in their new digs; and Penny, by virtue of her virtuoso performance in "Serial Ape-ist," is invited to a sci-fi convention.



Penny gets a message about a Van Nuys Comic-Con to sign autographs at for her roles in the "Serial Ape-ist" movies. First Leonard says that it's a sad convention, but she gets excited and tells Penny that'll they will have fun. Besides if she doesn't like nerds fawning over her, their marriage is in trouble. Penny decides to meet some fans and make a little extra money.

Sheldon and Amy are having dinner together in their apartment and Amy asks that since they are living together, then maybe they could have some people over. Sheldon says that they have delivery people over all the time. Amy tells Sheldon

that he knows what she means. Sheldon goes on whether it should be a lunch, a brunch, a dinner, a surprise party etc. wearing Amy down to forget the idea. Sheldon thinks that they are working together with her coming up with the ideas and Sheldon helping her knocking them down. That's teamwork.

At night, Howard is holding Bernadette and feels the baby kick. He gets excited while Bernadette is nonchalant. Howard then really realizes that a baby is coming and that they aren't ready. Bernadette insists that they have plenty of time. Howard tells her to look at herself and that she looks like Willy Wonka will send her to the juicing room. Now Bernadette wants to kick him.

Penny walks into the living area and finds Leonard is helping her out sorting and her photos and markers for her autograph table. Penny even doubts that one person would ask her for her autograph. Also he got a change maker that he thinks is great.

Amy comes home and finds a table prepared for a brunch that Sheldon prepared to surprise her since he dismissed her previous request. Their guests will be Stuart, Bert from the geology

department and Mrs. Petrescu, a Romanian apartment residence who doesn't speak much English. Since it was their first time hosting an event, he put together a bunch for a trial run. They also debate how surprised Amy was which starts to turn Sheldon on.

Howard and Raj return from shopping with a new expensive crib that is the safest on the market. It is very expensive and Howard tells Bernadette that they can always return it...in their new minivan. It was on a 24-hour test drive. Bernadette doesn't want it because it is such a mom's car.

At convention, Leonard is excited being on the other side of the table. Penny feels like she is selling candy for her team's new uniforms. One guy comes up who loves her movie and that it is the worst thing he has ever seen. He does want an autograph while asking if she acted that bad on purpose or is she just a horrible actress.

At the brunch, Sheldon spends fifteen minutes trying to open a bottle of champagne. The cork pops out scaring Sheldon who is ready to make the mimosas. Stuart arrives with flowers for Amy. Mrs. Petrescu is learning English from television and uses a lot of commercial expressions.

Another fan walks up for an autograph and really likes Penny's shower scene as did several others. A new fan walks up who like her movies and wants a picture with her and asks for a kiss. Leonard as her husband is not happy with that. The fan doesn't believe that he is her husband even though Penny confirms it.

Howard happily shows Bernadette the car's features. A rear mounted camera, a DVD player, an automatic rear door opener. The back door also opens when one's foot is placed under the bumper. After they finally get it opened, Howard tries to remove the crib so she can take it for a test drive. Howard hurts his back and wants to use the GPS to get to the nearest emergency room.

During the brunch, Sheldon lets it slip that the brunch is a practice round. Stuart compares himself to a lab rat used before their real friends. Amy tries to help, but Sheldon doesn't help being too honest.

Leonard explains how he met Penny and she adds that he wore her down. Another fan also doesn't believe him because he is wearing a change maker Penny thinks that that it is hot.

Howard is in pain while Bernadette drives him to the ER. She wonders if they want to spend hours there when she can do the same treatment at home. Howard keeps trying to sell her on the van and she relents. Raj gets Howard to stop complaining by showing him an episode of "Batman: The Animated Series." He has been babysitting Howard longer than Bernadette.

While eating, Stuart just gets fed up and gets ready to leave. He always thought that they were his family and they don't act like he is even a good friend. Sheldon admits that he knows how it feels to be left out. Even though, Sheldon explains, that they might take Stuart for granted, he is still considered a valuable member of their social group. Sheldon then offers a toast to Stuart as a fine friend and good guest.

Leonard is now holding court before four fans on how an asthmatic nerd landed the hot fox. They proposed many times so that she had to work for him. She even makes more money than he does. The guys think that Leonard is awesome.

Finally, while Amy is trying to clean up, a drunken Stuart and Sheldon both keep complementing each other ignoring Amy. Stuart has impeccable handwriting. Sheldon always carries around a paperclip. Sheldon never uses swear words though according to Sheldon one can be hurt even without using them. Amy wants some help in putting things away. Sheldon claims that he has already put away five mimosas.

The Veracity Elasticity

Season 10

Episode Number: 214

Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday November 3, 2016
Writer: Steve Molaro, Eric Kaplan & Maria Ferrari, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: T12.15307
Summary: Sheldon finds out that the repairs to Amy's apartment have been completed for weeks, while Leonard discovers that Penny has been removing his collectibles from the apartment.



Sheldon and Amy are streaming a live "Fun with Flags" on-location from Penny's old apartment. Raj and Howard or "Footprints on the Moon", are the new house band providing music and they sing the new "Fun with Flags" theme. Since the two hosts are co-habiting, the theme of the show is areas that come together like St. Kitts and Nevis. Penny, Leonard and Bernadette are watching the show in apartment 4A where Bernie drops the bomb that her apartment has been fixed for weeks. Leonard was shocked that Amy was lying to Sheldon though he lied to Sheldon to get him out.

Raj and Howard leave with Sheldon's gratitude though Raj is annoyed that they didn't get paid or even a sandwich. Amy asked what Sheldon wants for dinner and he suggests that they get Thai food and swing by her apartment to check it out. Amy is nervous and counters that he would not like that since it's a construction zone with stray nails and butt cracks. Sheldon wonders if she keeps changing the subject on purpose which she denies and then gets him to start a lecture on kings and their subjects.

At the Caltech cafeteria, the guys are discussing JPL's plan to catch an asteroid that might hit the earth. Sheldon is uncharacteristically quiet because he thinks that Amy is acting a little odd. Howard wonders what Sheldon considers to be odd. It was her behavior that was bothering Sheldon and he feels that she is keeping something from him. It bugs him since he shared his body with her AND his Netflix's password. Leonard tries to reassure him that it is nothing bad. Her apartment had been ready for a couple of weeks and she was enjoying living with him so much. Sheldon then felt both hurt and flattered. Howard then tells Leonard that he knows that Penny is doing something behind his back. Penny has been secretly moving his collectibles to storage for weeks.

Going through the bedroom, Leonard finds Superman, his Star Wars' Storm-trooper, his Klingon calendar, though he finds his Where's Waldo character.

Penny and Amy are bringing dinner up the stairs with Amy and inquires about her apartment. Amy gives her a convoluted dry wall lie which Penny calls her on. She agrees not to tell anyone.

Sheldon and Leonard are discussing their significant others lying activities including the Spider-man figure that had disappeared from Leonard's desk. The girls show up with the food and Sheldon immediately asks Amy about her apartment. Amy says that it still being worked on and Penny says that is still a mess. They swung by and saw it. Sheldon is now confused. He asks Leonard in Klingon if he thinks Penny is lying. He doesn't know. Amy then asks Penny in her secret language Ubu Dubbi whether she thinks that Leonard knows. Maybe. Sheldon then curses in Klingon and Penny demands to know what is going on. Leonard explains that Sheldon knows, but wants to know why Penny says that she saw the apartment. Amy admits that Penny is covering for her since they finished two weeks ago. Sheldon wants to know how Amy can lie to him. Penny butts in that she had enjoyed living with him because she was in love. Leonard wants to know what it is called when you secretly get rid of your husband's stuff. That is NOT true! Leonard explains that Bernadette told Howard, Howard told him and he can see the results. Penny then gets upset that he'll believe his friend, his friend's wife and his eyes over HIS wife. Wow! Penny is sure that her husband wouldn't notice especially since he is missing his Batman on his key ring. Howard, Bernadette and Raj arrive and they get yelled for their part in this conspiracy. Amy then apologizes to Sheldon, while Raj asks them if they plan to keep living together. Sheldon considers is a positive experience. Amy asks if he still wants to. Sheldon agrees. Amy gasps when Penny tells her in Ubu Dubbi to be cool. She changes her response to "Whatever." Howard suggests that Leonard keep his stuff in Sheldon's old room which bothers Sheldon. That's my room. Everyone keeps telling him that he ISN'T going to be living there anymore.

Sheldon and Amy are getting into bed and she appreciates him understanding. Sheldon thinks that everyone wants to spend more time with him. He also wonders where they might live. Apartment 4B, Amy's Apartment, somewhere else. Amy finds it kind of exciting since they could move wherever they want. Sheldon then starts to worry about smokers, pets, mold, traffic noise, bus routes... Amy starts to hum the "Star Trek" theme. Sheldon does not consider himself a child. Try the "2001: A Space Odyssey" theme. He finds that soothing as he turns over and Amy cuddles up to him. Amy really knows her boyfriend.

As they get ready for bed in Apartment 4A Leonard tells Penny that she can make the bedroom really feel like hers and he presents to Penny her own pink Power Ranger action figure. Penny is happier about the room plans over her new toy. Leonard wants to know what of his he is going to keep. She replies a candle and HIM.

Sheldon is tossing and turning. Amy asks him what is wrong? He is having a struggle about leaving his old bedroom so he wants to check it out. Entering the living area he hears some music. Entering his room, he finds a stone wall with Leonard strapped to the wall and Penny dresses in leather holding a whip. They turned his room into a sex dungeon as Penny whips Leonard. Sheldon screams and wakes up next to Amy. It was a dream.

Back at the comic book store, Howard wants to know how Leonard was dressed in Sheldon's dream. Sheldon wants help with the decision he has to make about moving. Leonard does not want him moving back in. They ask him if he loves Amy. Yes. They ask him if he enjoyed living with him. Yes. Sheldon complains that they are not helping him.

Sheldon approaches his 4B and then stares are 4A standing right in the middle of the hall. Amy shows up and asks him what was going on. He is contemplating Buriden's donkey. A hungry donkey left between two equidistant bales of hay will starve to death while trying to make a decision. Amy understands his dilemma and starts to discuss it compared to other's experiments. Sheldon gets into her discussion and then follows her into their place.

Penny shows Leonard his new bedroom. He exclaims: Wow. He wants her to have the bedroom she wants. They exchange "I love you"s though Leonard looks distraut. Leonard then hides some of the new stuff in Sheldon's bedroom and tells him to not tell Penny.

The Brain Bowl Incubation

Season 10
Episode Number: 215
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 10, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Saladin K. Patterson, Steve Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Maria Canals-Barrera (Isabella)
Production Code: T12.15308
Summary: A successful gene experimentation leaves Sheldon excited to procreate with Amy, and he pulls out all stops to get her on board. Meanwhile, Koothrappali is reluctant to reveal what the new woman in his life does for a living.



Sheldon is sitting in Amy's lab lamenting how much the skin tissue sample she is about to take from him is going to hurt. Amy wants to synthesize a neural network using their joint skin cells. Sheldon is willing to do it for science though the alcohol swap is very cold. Amy gives him a count of three before he takes it. Three. Two. Swab! Sheldon doesn't even feel it, but does make her say three due to his need for closure.

Raj is in the telescope lab eating Funyuns and looking for extraterrestrial planets. Isabella the maintenance worker comes in. Raj finds a gravitational wobble

that could be an extra-solar planets that could have life on it and could be named after him. Isabella wonders if there is life, maybe it already has a name. Raj helps her with the trash and they do stare at each other for a moment and then say goodbye.

While Amy is checking their brain cells, Sheldon pushes her aside and all he sees is his own eyelashes. Amy then checks and finds astrocytes which means they have grown a primitive neural network. Sheldon then finds himself with a profound sense of creation since they used his DNA. Not unlike when he made sea monkeys. Since it was also using Amy's DNA, he redefines their creation as we-monkeys. They then start to test it to light and sound to see how it reacts.

The gang is around the table in Apartment 4A. Howard figures the order was screwed up since they got steamed broccoli which was for Raj. Penny is sure that he must be seeing someone since he has switched to broccoli. Finally he admits that he meet a woman in telescope room named Isabella. Leonard figures that she is an astronomer and then Raj doesn't correct him.

Bernadette is discussing their DNA experiment at their place (4B). She can't believe that one can turn skin cells into functioning brain cells. Amy counters that she turned Sheldon into a functioning boyfriend. Sheldon is showing Bernie pictures of their creation. They have provide that it reacts faster than any other network made by Amy. According to Bernadette, her baby

is now facing down getting ready for w—birth. She gets uptight when Sheldon compares their growing neural creation with her gestating human child. Sheldon agrees to think of both of them special in their own way, though they didn't have to have sex with Howard to have theirs.

Raj is helping Isabella clean the men's room calling it fun. He also mentions that he had a cleaning lady and other servants when he was growing up. Raj finds out that she is unmarried and has a 19 year-old son at UCLA studying law. She appreciates the interest, but she works two jobs and has no time for dating. She tells him "Good night", though Raj while leaving says that he still thinks that there is something going on between them.

Amy and Sheldon are very happy with their results since their little network is processing more information than most. He wants to go onto step two. Amy says that would be to try replicate their results again. No. Sheldon wants them to have a baby. Amy asks what he is talking about? Sheldon points out that their DNA combination is truly exceptional and that it might be the next step in mankind's evolution. Amy is not ready to have a baby, even though Sheldon insists that her menstrual cycle is just right for it. Sheldon then leans over and starts wiggling his bottom at her. Amy gets disgusted and leaves.

Isabella comes into the telescope room and has found that Raj has made them dinner since she was too busy to go out. He even cleaned up the next offices so that she could take a break. He made what he claimed was food from her homeland. Cuban food? Raj then wonders if they had Mexican food in Cuba.

Amy is discussing Sheldon's need for making a baby with Leonard and Penny. Penny wonders if he wanted to make the baby out of Lego. Penny asks if they would have a super-intelligent child? That was possible, but not guaranteed. Sheldon's father once picked a fight with a cactus, but that didn't include his extraterrestrial parents that sent him to earth. Reaching the top of the stairs, Amy finds a path of rose petals going into her apartment. "Oh, man!" she exclaims. Leonard and Penny to have fun with whatever nightmare is behind door number two. Amy finds the lights low, candlelight, cool jazz playing and Sheldon dressed up with his hair slicked down drinking brandy from a snifter. Sheldon offers her a brandy and Amy declines. Being himself for once, Sheldon replies that it is just as well since it's disgusting. Amy tells him to stop trying to seduce her and then leaves. Sheldon calls to her that he doesn't know how to open the oysters.

Raj is now having dinner with Isabella. They are talking about when they first came to America. She mentions that she has some time off on Sunday as Howard comes in. He asks if she was the astronomer that Raj met. Isabella is not happy and leaves because she is not going to waste her time with someone who is embarrassed by her. Raj runs after her to apologize and he tells her embarrassing things about him. Finally she says that he can take her out to a nice place to eat on Sunday night and it can be Pakistani food if he likes. He says he's Indian, to which Isabella says now he knows what it's like to be stereotyped.

Amy is talking to the Hofstadters. Penny wonders how much she was turned on. Amy said it felt like being hit on by Rat Pack Pee Wee Herman, meaning she wasn't. Sheldon comes in and starts to flamenco dance to Amy, the world's most sexiest dance. Amy calls Sheldon ridiculous and then leaves. Leaning up against the wall outside of 4A, Amy is obviously turned on and exclaims, "That was a close one."

The Geology Elevation

Season 10
Episode Number: 216
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 17, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Erik Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (C Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Recurring Role: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke)
Guest Stars: Brian Posehn (Bert), Stephen Hawking (Himself)
Production Code: T12.15309
Summary: A geologist coworker's MacArthur Genius fellowship award leaves Sheldon stone cold jealous. Meanwhile, Howard stumbles upon a remote-control Stephen Hawking action figure that he invented. Hawking appears as himself.



While having lunch, the guys learn that Bert, the large geologist friend of Amy's, has won a \$500,000+MacArthur Fellowship for a research paper he wrote. Sheldon is very jealous and congratulates him with sarcasm and then doesn't notice that Leonard sarcastically says that his sarcasm was great.

Climbing the stairs with Amy, Penny and Leonard, Sheldon is still cranky complaining about the bicycle on the stairs and whether people still listen to the radio. Amy had heard Bert on the radio explaining that his research could help indicate if there is life on other planets. Amy

suggests that he read Bert's paper especially since she has run out of taffy to keep him quiet.

Bernadette is busy on her computer when Howard comes in and introduces her to remote controlled Stephen Hawking, a toy that Howard had built and had just found in a box. The toy can talk and spin around. Bernadette thinks that it is in bad taste while Howard is just having fun.

While Sheldon is reading Bert's paper, the other guys are watching his reactions. Penny thinks he looks like her emoticons, while Amy finds his noises the same as the night they had sex. Afterwards Sheldon is even angrier now that he knows that his paper is remarkable. Leonard takes him for a walk to cool down.

Howard shows Raj his Stephen Hawking toy and he finds it offensive. Howard says that he found Stephen Hawking to have a great sense of humor so Bernadette challenges Howard to call him to ask the professor's opinion. Howard is about to do it until Bernie asks if he'll think it was funny that the toy Hawking got caught under the refrigerator.

Walking in the park, Sheldon tells Leonard that he admires him since he doesn't get jealous. Of course, he also thinks that Leonard has done nothing so he shouldn't be jealous of others. Sheldon is still angry that someone that studies rocks would better him. He picks up a rock to throw to metaphorically throw away his anger.

Next, Leonard is helping Sheldon back into Apartment 4A as Sheldon complains about his feet. He threw the rock down hitting his foot and then got even angrier and kicked another rock with his other foot. Leonard laughed so hard that he broke a blood vessel in his nose. Sheldon is crying in pain in his spot.

As Amy is applying cold packs to his feet, she tells him that being envious is one thing and that he has to end it since he is injuring himself. Leonard wants to note this so that he can record it next time. Amy wants him to appreciate the good things in his life. He has love, his health and a roof over his head. Sheldon then knocks Amy that she has the same things and no one is lining up to be her. Penny tries next and tells him to knock it off because his life is fine. Sheldon agrees which pisses off Amy that she couldn't do that.

Howard shows his remote control toy to Amy and wants to know if it's a loving tribute to a wonderful man. Or is it in poor taste? Yep. Leonard also finds it in poor taste since it can spin around and do tricks. Barry Kripke loves it and wants to send it into the girl's restroom. Howard now considers the toy Stephen Hawking to be offensive.

Sheldon limps over to have lunch with the guys. He has a new attitude to worry less about other people and more about himself. Not really a new version of Sheldon. Sheldon thinks that Bert deserves any accolades he get and goes over to congratulate him. Sheldon tells Bert that he read his paper and that his award was well deserved. Bert replies that a lot of people are thinking that lately. Since he won the MacArthur Award, he can nominate others. Since engineers don't get enough respect, he asks Sheldon if Howard is doing anything cool. Sheldon excuses himself, hobbles into the hallway and the cafeteria hears a thud and a scream. Sheldon cries out that he hurt himself again. Leonard leaves to help him and take some pictures.

Sheldon explains to Amy that he tried to punch a water fountain, slipped on the wet floor and then his head hit the water fountain. Bernadette didn't think that Sheldon was that violent. Leonard tells her to think of him as one of The Three Stooges. Sheldon feels that jealousy is illogical. Raj says that he is jealous of the happy relationships his friends are in. Leonard is jealous of how wealthy Raj's family is. Amy is jealous of how beautiful Penny is. Then she was happy that she cut her hair. Why? People were then asking why that hot girl cut her hair. No one liked that she had cut it. Penny is frustrated and then lashes out at Howard's dopey haircut. Others think that it's cute. Now Penny hates all the nerds in the room.

Sheldon goes over to the geology department to talk to Bert and finds a bronze plaque on the wall commemorating his MacArthur award. More jealousy. Sheldon goes into Bert's office and explains his situation. Bert always wanted everyone jealous of him. Bert thinks that they're both smart and can come up with a solution. Sheldon realizes that Bert is his enemy and that the enemy of his enemy is his friend. Sheldon is his own worst enemy and now Bert is his friend. Bert now wants to go to see the *"The Ellen DeGeneres Show"* show with him. Then Bert reminds him that Sheldon is smart and has a great girlfriend. Bert was interested in Amy, but since he got the grant he feels that he can do better.

Back in 4A, the guys learned that Sheldon hurt his hand giving Bert a Captain Kirk karate chop. Leonard brings in his laptop so that Sheldon can talk to Professor Hawking to help him feel better. Even Hawking has professional jealousy that he never won a Noble Prize. Though he has been on "The Simpsons" and "Star Trek". He reminds himself that every scientific advancement is a victory. Sheldon should not waste his time on jealousy since he is so brilliant. Sheldon thanks him and suggests that their should be statues of him everywhere. It would be easy to replace him with the sitting statue of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial. Hawking wishes that there was a little motorized version of him. Everyone gasps thinking of Howard's toy.

Finally Sheldon and Bert go see the *"The Ellen DeGeneres Show"* show together and Sheldon loves it though he doesn't seem to know who she is.

The Property Division Collision

Season 10
Episode Number: 217
Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Friday December 2, 2016
Writer: Steve Holland, Bill Prady, Steve Goetsch, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (C Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Christopher Lloyd (Theodore)
Production Code: T12.15310
Summary: Dividing up their possessions becomes an all-out war between Leonard and Sheldon. Stuart asks to live with Howard and Bernadette and tries to supplant Raj's efforts to help with the new baby.



In Sheldon and Amy's apartment, Amy wants to start redecorating their new home. Sheldon suggests that they move everything from Apartment 4A into their place. Amy suggests they start with moving the furniture around. Sheldon wants to move the couch to the street. Amy figures they should ask Penny what she wants of her stuff including the big ugly painting Amy had made of the two of them to commemorate their friendship. She still thinks it's the greatest gift anyone has ever given anyone. Walking it over to 4A Penny has gets the same sick look on her face as in the painting.

In the Wolowitz's kitchen Stuart is offering Howard and Bernadette a book of coupons he made to help them do some tasks for the upcoming baby to have breaks like sweeping or a foot massage. Bernadette sees that one coupon is written on the back of an eviction notice. Stuart has nowhere to live and would appreciate that they let him stay a few weeks which bothers Bernadette, but surprisingly is fine with Howard, especially considering Stuart's extra pair of hands will really help them with their baby (like how he successfully nursed his mom back to health), he'll finish the things Howard didn't even bother to do, and he won't even have to be paid.

In Leonard and Penny's apartment Leonard, Sheldon and Amy want to help them hang it immediately. Penny insists that they got rid of the hooks. Penny offers it to Amy since it is also a picture of her. Amy may really like the painting, but Amy insists that Penny also likes it so much which Penny doesn't deny. Sheldon figures that there is lots of things in Apartment 4A that he and Leonard should go through. The sword that Leonard and Sheldon jointly bought mounted by the front door should be Sheldon's since they have the painting or the avocado plant growing in the kitchen. Leonard sarcastically thinks that it is great that they are trading a collectible worth hundreds of dollars for a seed they rescued from the garbage. In the end, Sheldon is glad when Leonard decides to let him have both.

Cleaning out the closet, Sheldon finds the Mr. Spock cuckoo clock they got at comic con. Leonard let's Sheldon have it which trills Penny, but doesn't thrill Amy. Then Sheldon gets out

their 3-D chess set and suggests that Leonard won't want it since he never won a game. Leonard lets him have it. Then Leonard tells him to take everything because Sheldon will have some reason that he should have every item. Amy thinks that Sheldon is being a little selfish. Leonard then says that there is one thing he wants — the official apartment 4A flag. Sheldon is upset that he designed it, but Leonard insists that he wants it especially since Sheldon made him buy it. Sheldon leaves telling everyone that he knows when he is not wanted. Amy doesn't think that Sheldon really knows that as she follows him home.

Stuart is helping set the dining room table after having cooked dinner. Bernadette is impressed as Stuart runs off to answer the doorbell. Howard jests that he feels like Bruce Wayne since they now have a butler. Bernadette mentions his bat suit; however, it is just a pair of pajamas with no cape. At the door, Raj is surprised that Stuart is living there, again. He claims to be there helping out since he needed a place to stay. Raj brought Chinese food which Stuart thinks will cause Bernadette's ankles to swell.

Leonard is on his computer and Penny is on her computer pad and neither of them can get onto their Wi-Fi. Sheldon had changed their password to "Ha-ha-ha; now I've got you." Leonard asks Penny what her next move for revenge would be and it was to sleep with the guy's best friend. She feels that she is already doing that. Leonard marches over to 4B and tells Sheldon to fix the password. Leonard exclaims that he can play that game too. "All right, I tried," replied Leonard. Sheldon insists that that should be the name of his autobiography. Second degree burn! Amy shows up with the Neoprene. Sheldon shakes his head and tells her that it's a good thing that she is so cute.

At dinner Raj and Stuart are trying to top each other. Raj suggests an infant CPR class and Stuart knows somebody who will come to the house. He also tells Bernadette to relax because he'll keep everything under control. Raj feels that everything was already under control. Both keep arguing while Bernadette tells Howard to do something, "Batman".

In the laundry room Sheldon enters and finds Leonard is separating his shorts while wearing the apartment flag. Sheldon complains about the level he is stooping to. Leonard then shows the level he is stooping to by removing his underwear and rubbing his private parts on the flag. Sheldon gives him a dirty look and leaves.

Raj shows up at the Wolowitz's front door to assemble the cradle; however Stuart already did it. Raj bought the cradle. Stuart says that he read about it on WhoGivesACrap.com. He loves them and wants to keep helping so he can continue to mooch off of them. Raj points out that he is the only emotionally needy person around here. Stuart invites him in to help with the baby swing.

Coming up the stairs, Penny says that she is thinking of going for a run. Leonard declines because the last time an old lady thought he was stalking Penny. Inside they find an old gentleman named Theodore who rented Sheldon's old bedroom. Sheldon comes out and confirms that they have a roommate since his rent is paid up to the end of the month. Penny tells him that he has crossed the line. Sheldon shoots back that Theodore has no ID whatsoever, though he does have receipt from the blood bank.

Working on the baby swing Raj and Stuart show Bernadette the two mobiles that could be installed. One is giraffes and the other is zebras. Bernadette chooses Stuart's zebra mobile. Raj snaps that at least is nose his naturally brown. Bernie asks Howard to go to the market. Howard wants one of the help to do it. Bernadette insists that Howard go to the store; however, he still gets Raj to drive him. Stuart is going to paint Bernie's toenails.

Theodore is snacking, watching TV and sitting in Sheldon's spot as Leonard and Penny stare at him. They wonder if they should go to a hotel or stay and watch him. Theodore tells them that thanks to the coins he found in the couch, he can stay an extra day. He also likes the painting of "Penny's mother". Leonard goes to see Sheldon. Leonard calls Sheldon selfish, while Sheldon feels that he is being awful. Theodore provides an unwanted analysis that all of their anger is coming from love. Each is moving onto another phase of their lives and that it is easier to fight than face their feelings for each other. Amy agrees with whoever that old guy is. Sheldon has found leaving Leonard to be difficult, but he does want to stop fighting. Leonard can keep the flag and that is not just because it touched his private parts. Sheldon is even willing to do the same as is Theodore.

Later, Leonard is adjusting the painting onto the wall next to his desk where the audience can't see it. Leonard thinks that eventually they won't even notice it. Penny denies that since it

even shows up in her dreams. Theodore thinks that it brings the whole room together.

Finally Howard is lying on the couch of his living room playing on his phone asking who wants to paint the nursery. Both volunteer. Bernadette calls out saying that she thinks that she is in labor. Howard can't remember what the plan is, so Raj and Stuart take care of it. Team Baby, go! Howard and Bernadette tell each other that they love each other as they hug. Stuart comes running into the living room with Bernie's suitcase asking if they are hugging or having a baby. They all head out to the car.

The Birthday Synchronicity

Season 10
Episode Number: 218
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday December 15, 2016
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Steve Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez
Director: Nikki Lorre
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (C Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz)
Guest Stars: Pamela Adlon (Halley), Vernee Watson-Johnson (Althea)
Production Code: T12.15311
Summary: The time comes for Howard and Bernadette to have their baby and the gang all wait together at the hospital. Meanwhile, it is Amy's birthday and she and Sheldon plan on having their annual night of romance.



Bernadette, Howard, Raj and Stuart are heading to the hospital while Bernadette has another contraction. Raj wants to drive like he's in India. Howard tells him to stop and tells Bernadette how much he loves her. Raj replies that he loves him too.

Sheldon wakes up Amy just after midnight to wish her a "Happy Birthday". Amy is touched until Sheldon blows a birthday horn in her face. She takes the horn and tells him that he can have it back in the morning. Sheldon hands her his birthday present and opens up her birthday gift, a framed functional MRI

scan of his brain. She loves it. Sheldon points to the bright spot orbital-frontal cortex on the picture because he was thinking of her. Amy kisses him and then Sheldon asks if they are starting their annual coitus birthday festivities part of her the evening. Sheldon moves in on her while wearing his come-hither pajama bottoms. Penny knocks on the door announcing that Bernadette was heading to the hospital. Amy says they should stop. Sheldon agrees and says that due to childbirth and looming coitus, it was a banner night for female genitalia. Amy smiles at him.

Bernadette, Howard, Raj and Stuart make it to the hospital. Althea the nurse (from the pilot and other episodes) makes cracks asking about the three guys and one expectant mother whether this was some "Mamma Mia" nonsense. No Howard is the father though he doesn't know how far apart her contractions are. Raj does. Twelve minutes. The nurse wonders why they came so early. They also tell her that they don't know what the sex is of the baby though Raj knows. He tells his creepy story on why he knows. Althea sends them home until the the contractions are five minutes apart for about an hour. When Raj tries to over complicate the time of her contractions, the nurse suggests a home birth.

Sheldon, Amy Leonard, and Penny are heading down the steps. Sheldon didn't want to look foolish if Howard started handing out cigars, so he had to find his bubble gum cigar. Leonard then forgot his inhaler. Penny gets a call that it's a false alarm. Amy sighs that first births can take a while. Sheldon then wants to reconsider the Flash onesie he bought. Amy wants to head

back to their apartment, while Penny suggest that they go to a diner. Sheldon tells Amy that since its her birthday, she should decide. Now Penny gets excited and says that they should head to a bar. No. Leonard then states that they want to go have sex. Penny calls it their annual birthday booty spectacular as she sends them off to have fun. Leonard and Penny head off to get frisky with her wheezy sexy little man.

Back in their kitchen, Raj is filming a nervous set of soon-to-be-parents. Raj comments that she just wasn't ready to make the right entrance that Raj understands. Howard tells him to turn it off, while Raj is doing it for the baby. He says that someday she is going to see the film. Oops. Bernadette and Howard are disappointed that Raj let it slip that they are having a girl. Raj ruined the surprise and he also had already told Stuart.

Back in Shamy's bedroom, Amy asks where were they. Sheldon described and it as kissing like randy teenagers and that Amy's nose whistles. She apologized while Sheldon then called her a sexy little tea kettle. They try again and Sheldon thinks that it was being forced like all the Pirates of the Caribbean sequels. Amy realizes that the mood is different. Sheldon still wants to continue since Leonard and Penny are probably engaging and he doesn't want to disappoint them. Sheldon does want to continue since it is her birthday; however, Amy has a little surprise that might get them back on track. Sheldon thinks that it is something to do with trains. No.

Leonard comes out with his spare inhaler and ask Penny if they want to have sex. As they start to kiss, Raj knocks on the door. Raj got thrown out for telling them that the baby is a girl. Oops he did it again. Penny asks that if they are quiet, he might go away. Raj heard that.

At Sheldon and Amy's apartment, Sheldon has his eyes closed as Amy comes out in a Harry Potter robe posing in the doorway. She thought that Harry Potter could make things hotter. Sheldon is impressed, Woozers! She goes back to get him his robe. Sheldon calls her a naughty girl because wizards from different dorms will be sleeping together. Then he is a bit annoyed that she went to a Harry Potter Wizarding World theme park without him. She then asks if he wants to argue on her birthday. Sheldon doesn't want to and they start to kiss. There's a not at the door. Amy sticks her head out the door and asks if this intrusion was about the about the baby. Raj replies that people keep kicking him out of places. Amy tells him to get use to it and slams the door. Then Penny runs out of 4A out yelling that they are all head toward the hospital because Bernadette's water broke. Amy shouts that they have got to be kidding. wants to be punished.

Howard and Bernadette head to the hospital with Stuart at the wheel. Howard thinks that Stuart is driving like an old man, while Stuart says that eh can't see everything. As another contraction hits Bernadette, she yells at him that the gas pedal is on the right.

Sheldon, Amy, Leonard, Penny, and Raj are in the car heading there themselves. Penny says that it's cool that the baby will be born on Amy's birthday, She complains that she thought the baby was supposed to ruin their sex life and not hers. Raj them complains that he should be there helping them out since he has been doing it for nine months. It only took Howard five minutes to conceive it which surprised Sheldon, but pleased Amy. They end up discussing the interruptions of the their sex lives and how long it took.

Howard helps Bernadette through another contraction. She wants some ice chips; however, Stuart finished them. He goes out to get some and Howard tells him to no come back. Howard and Bernadette discuss names. Howard wanted Wally Wolowitz if it was a boy. Bernadette suggests naming her after his mother, but she hated that name. Her middle name? Melvina. Howard really missed her and thinks that she would have been a great grandma.

The gang is waiting while Leonard cannot believe that Howard was gong to be a father. Amy adds that Penny is the one who introduced Bernadette to Howard. Penny quips asking how many times does she have say that she is sorry. Then they all consider how far them have come since Penny moved in and that they all have a lot to be proud of. Raj gets mad that they all think he has done nothing. Stuart tries to console him and then Raj complains that he is as awesome as pasty-faced comic book store owner. Raj leaves and Leonard apologizes. Stuart is fine because he is in a hospital and is not the patient.

Howard is now walking Bernadette around and telling her to remember what she learned in birthing class. Yelling she complains that she thought it was stupid and she was right. Raj peeks in, hears Bernadette's next rant that she wants to snap off her uterus. He nods and leaves.

Raj returns to the waiting room. Penny starts to tell Raj all the things he has accomplished like now being able to talk to females. Raj thinks sarcastically that now he can talk to them about breaking up with him. Stuart tells him that at least he can be a dog owner. Later Penny

returns with two bags of M&M's. One of them was Raj's. Howard comes in and announces the birth of their daughter, Halley named after Halley's comet. Also like the comment, Bernadette is not having sex with him again for 75 years. Howard can't wait for They are all so happy for Halley to meet her aunts and uncles and Godfather (Raj). Raj is ecstatic that he has a dog and a godchild.

Peeking into the baby nursery, they see all the new individuals. Sheldon thinks that some will be successful and others will be homeless. They all wonder which one Halley is. All the babies look the same to Amy. Raj is sure he knows since it's his goddaughter. Then they hear one that cries like Debbie Wolowitz. Raj remarks, "That one."

Amy and Sheldon are returning from the Wizarding World Of Harry Potter dressed appropriately having had a fun day. Amy thinks that he would be tired. Sheldon replies, "I saw a magical train and reported a guy for cutting in line. If that's not foreplay. I don't know what is." They both race into their apartment for a romantic evening.

The Holiday Summation

Season 10
Episode Number: 219
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 5, 2017
Writer: Steve Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Pamela Adlon (Halley)
Production Code: T12.15312
Summary: The gang talks about what they did over the holidays. Sheldon and Amy go to visit Sheldon's mom, who is thrilled that they are living together, which confuses Sheldon. Leonard and Penny go through a hard time getting their Christmas tree and Howard and Bernadette have a hard time getting their baby to stop crying.



In their apartment, Penny wants to setting up snacks for the the gang while Leonard is packing away the last of the Christmas decorations. Sheldon always objects to decorations up past New Year's Eve. Bernadette texts Penny that they are running late because Halley got sick. Shamy arrives as Sheldon points out the mistletoe they had not taken down. Penny asks them how their trip to Texas went. Sheldon tells them that it didn't go well and that the "Lone Star State" should be its Yelp rating.

Discussing their trip. Sheldon explained that the flight down was fine except for the weird tasting juice that Amy gave him; he slept the whole way down. Amy has a little smile on her face since she obviously drugged him. On their way to Mary's house Sheldon suddenly woke up not knowing how he got in the car. She got him into the car using a luggage cart. Amy wants Sheldon to tell Mary that they are living together. He is reluctant because they will have to listen to her religious lecture on their sinning. Sheldon has already heard the lecture to his brother, his sister and his father who also had a girlfriend. Amy thinks that there might not be one since she thinks that Mary likes her. At dinner Mary is praying over their "Sloppy Joes" which Amy thinks looks delicious. Their first news is that the Wolowitzes had a little girl which Mary wonders if they are going to raise it Jewish or regular. Amy gets Sheldon to tell Mary the other news that they are now living together in sin like a couple of New Yorkers. Sheldon is confused when Mary says that she is thrilled. Though she would prefer that they be wedded, she is happy for them because of the special circumstances. What circumstances wonders Sheldon. Mary explains that by the time he was three years old, he had memorized over a thousand types of trains and she thought that no woman would want to get on any of them. Sheldon objects that his mother thought he would be alone for the rest of his life. Not true. She figured he would have

nurses near the end. Sheldon storms off. Later Amy wonders if she should go talk to Sheldon. Mary says that she should do it, but she always knows why she won't. Sheldon returns wearing some underwear on his head and swim fins on his feet thinking that his mother wants him to be the unsocialized eccentric that she always thought he was. Amy realizes that Mary and her are going to ignore Sheldon. Sheldon is mad that Amy is taking her mother's side especially since that she thinks that Amy is a weirdo too. Sheldon and Amy leave to drive around for awhile. Amy comforts Sheldon with the fact that his mother is wrong since he does have someone. Also, she already told Mary that they were living together to avoid the while issue. Sheldon isn't happy that Amy doesn't think he can run his life. Amy was only helping him out since both of them help each other with their weakness. His is in understanding how other people feel.

The Wolowitzes show up with Halley, Raj and Stuart in tow. Halley is put in their w—bedroom since she is sleeping. Howard calls his w—Sherpa Poppins and Doubtfire to come with him. They catch Bernadette up on their w—Texas story which finishes with Sheldon w—rebellious with getting an w—earring and his mother making Amy take it out. Amy thought that he looked like the w—pirate who helped the other pirates connect to the w—[[Internet.

Leonard and Penny describe their big w—fight about watching w—Luke Cage together. Penny reveals that she watched two w—episodes without him. The gang can't understand their problem. Penny admitted that it might have been because it was just after their w—adventure getting a w—Christmas tree. In is their w—car with Penny wearing w—reindeer w—antlers and Leonard an elk hat and his Spock ears. She finds a Christmas tree w—farm they can cut their own w—tree down. Afterwards they are dirty and disheveled. Leonard forgot and let go of the w—ax when swinging it. And was wearing his w—mittens in 70 w—degree heat since he w—blisters easily. Leonard doesn't want them to fight so he stops and then the Christmas tree falls off the car w—roof across their w—windshield. "There's something on the windshield," quips Penny w—sarcastically. Next they are dragging the tree up the stairs and Penny keeps asking Leonard if he needs a break. No. Then Penny is standing next to the tree which now is on top of Leonard. Finally after dragging the tree through the w—door of their w—apartment Leonard remarks that they can now decorate it while Penny wonders if he wants to take w—gasoline to set it on w—fire. Both collapse on the couch. It appears that something is in the tree which subsequently gets dumped down the elevator shaft.

Sheldon asks how life with their baby is and that he doesn't want to touch it. Bernadette claims that it is wonderful, though at their house a tired and disheveled Bernadette enters as she can't get Hallie to stop crying. She is frustrated since her breasts have been emptied and she doesn't know what else Hallie wants. The baby settles down as Bernie wonders out loud what she and Howard have done. Howard returns from shopping with superhero baby wipes as they baby wakes up. Stuart runs in and Halley stops. Bernadette breaks into tears because she couldn't do that. She thinks that everyone is a better mother than her. Raj suggests that the baby is just a jerk and Bernadette really starts balling. Stuart tells the gang that the sound of his voice puts people ot sleep. Bernadette is also seen crying in bed thinking that the baby hates her even though she also feeds her. The baby starts crying so Howard joins in. Sheldon checks on new mothers on the Internet and that 80% get baby blues. For a remedy Sheldon tells Bernadette that she is doing a good job. Stuart tells everyone that he went to see his grandmother in Bakersfield as everyone falls asleep. They are all just kidding.

As everyone leaves, Howard circles back because they forgot the baby. They are so new at the parenting thing.

The Romance Recalibration

Season 10
Episode Number: 220
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 19, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Dave Goetsch, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Saladin K. Patterson
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Production Code: T12.15313
Summary: Penny thinks that Leonard takes her for granted so she takes Amy on her spa weekend instead of Leonard. Howard is mapping the squeaks in the floor in Halley's room.



Penny comes home from work to find Leonard has prepared her wine and pizza bagels because he thought she had a rough day. She calls his efforts so thoughtful. Leonard has her favorite rose wine, which she can't remember choosing and then says that she won't explain the thermodynamic principle of the cooling of her hot pizza bagels. Finally he starts to express his feelings for her through the NSYNC lyrics of her favorite song. Suddenly Leonard belches and we see Leonard sitting on the couch in his underwear playing a video game while Penny looks on. Penny was daydreaming.

As Leonard and Sheldon are climbing the stairs, Sheldon asks about his shoe size and what he was doing over the weekend because he has decided to take a greater interest in people. He giggles at Leonard's small shoe size and finds out that Penny is taking him to a spa over the weekend which she had won at work. Then Sheldon wonders what kind of infection Leonard will get from the spa. Since the girls are having Girls' Night in Apartment 4B, Leonard invites Sheldon over.

Amy, Bernadette, and Penny are at Girls' Night in Apartment 4B with Amy now hosting it. Amy is under the illusion that Penny is upset since she is now hosting it. Also Amy is happy about living with Sheldon who is taking an interest in her life. Penny then asks the already married Bernadette whether after awhile the husband stops giving a crap. He has stopped bringing her flowers and wearing pants. Penny thinks that Leonard has stopped trying on their marriage.

At Howard's he has just gotten Halley to sleep with a Walking Dead themed lullaby. He wants to get her hooked on television so he won't have to go outside and play with her. Halley almost was woken up by the squeaky boards in the floor as Howard walked out.

Leonard and Sheldon are playing chess in Apartment 4A. Sheldon keeps telling Leonard how many moves he was going to win in. Penny returns from girls' night. Sheldon trying to show interest asks what Penny had eaten and drank while Leonard did not which annoys Penny. At first Penny doesn't want to talk about what is wrong, until Leonard insists. She complains about

being taken for granted and that Leonard isn't trying. Leonard says that he is the only one that has worked on their relationship since day one. Penny then announces that she is taking Amy on her spa weekend instead of Leonard. Leonard tells her to go ahead, while Sheldon adds that Amy is free due to her cancelled harp lesson.

Bernadette's Dad tells her that they really have to replace the whole floor. Howard is an M.I.T. trained engineer. They consider other creative ideas by staying off the floor like swinging from the ceiling, going across the room in a harness, or use a sling shot. Howard or Raj visualizes the suggestions and each end in disaster.

Amy and Penny are ready to go. Penny says that they are leaving which Leonard barely acknowledges. Sheldon and Amy start with a small good-bye kiss which escalates into a make-out session. As Amy and Sheldon keep topping each other on how much they will miss each other, Penny ends up dragging Amy away.

Sheldon makes Leonard tea because he was sad. Earl Grey tea hot like Captain Picard. Then Sheldon wants to cheer Leonard up by playing some game that he is happiest to lose at. No games. Sheldon is then worried that theirs is another relationship that he has started to phone in. Leonard insists that relationships do mellow with time. Sheldon had a similar experience with his excitement about the Pythagorean theorem.

Raj and Howard have set up a coordinate system to map the squeaks in Halley's room. Howard starts to find the squeaky squares. Then he hopes that his daughter can have the same amount of sex he had in his room. Then he changes his mind.

Sheldon and Leonard drive off to the spa to fix things with Penny. Sheldon offers a car game which Leonard doesn't want to play since it has to do with his relationship with Penny. Leonard does not want to wait for two days to work things out with Penny. Sheldon agrees. Their wedding was a spur of the moment thing, so why shouldn't their divorce. Leonard wants to throw Sheldon out of the car, but he could end up to be the only friend he has.

Penny and Amy at the resort are dressed in robes and discussing the massage they are about to get. Amy if they should be naked for the massage. Yes. Now Amy has to take off all of hers to get it. Leonard and Sheldon show up. Leonard apologizes; however, Penny wants to have some time for herself. Sheldon only has to say "hi" and Amy gets all flirty. Penny is trying to figure out what she wants. Sheldon offers to whip up a Relationship Agreement. Amy leaves with Sheldon to give them some time. Sheldon wants to find a minibar to show Amy how Godzilla gets drunk.

Showing Bernadette the path they developed, they have to take large steps and climb over furniture to get to the crib. Bernadette wonders how she is supposed to do that while holding a baby in the dark. The guys partly solved that problem with glow in the dark marks on the floor. Bernadette walks away shaking her head.

Later in a restaurant, Sheldon is complaining about the cucumber in his glass of water. Leonard and Penny arrive and Sheldon needs to know if they are going to get divorced and does he get two Christmases. The Hofstadters realize that they are facing some challenges and they ask Sheldon to prepare them a Relationship Agreement though Penny is reluctant. Sheldon is floored and then delighted to prepare one for them. Sheldon wants to get this "party of the first part" started. Amy laughs out loud, but is required to do that due to their Relationship Agreement.

Finally, they are going over the agreement and seem happy about it. Leonard is to restrict his pant-less video game playing to when Penny is not at home and Penny can't say that everything is "fine" when it is not. They sign the document and Penny has to initial that she accepts Leonard in an "as is" condition like a used car. Amy is reminiscing about Sheldon and Amy's signing their agreement. Sheldon complains that she was forgetting the no nostalgia clause.

The Emotion Detection Automation

Season 10
Episode Number: 221
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday February 2, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Saladin K. Patterson
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laura Spencer (Emily Sweeney), Kate Micucci (Lucy), Alessandra Torresani (Claire), Katie LeClerc (Emily)
Production Code: T12.15314
Summary: Penny wants to help her brother get a job with her company. Sheldon learns of a machine that will help him understand human emotions. Raj reunites some of his old girlfriends to figure out why he is still single.



On the stairs, all 4 guys carrying take-out, Leonard asks Raj how things are going with the girl he is dating and Raj says he ended it with her, when asked why he says because she didn't want to see him anymore. Sheldon says some people are not destined for a mate like Newton who was a virgin till death, Raj says he is not a virgin. The guys express sorrow to Raj who says "I'm fine" to which Sheldon continues on. Howard says what Raj means is he is clearly not fine. And Sheldon says if people mean the opposite of what they say, then Howard could be wrong.

The guys walk in and the girls are there, asking what the guys are talking about. Sheldon goes into it and Raj says again "I'm fine which means I don't want to talk about it". Sheldon is frustrated because he wishes it was easier to know what people are really feeling without words. Howard tells him there is a trial experiment going on for a human emotions detector. At first Sheldon is leary but everyone thinks it would be great. Meanwhile Raj says maybe he should ask his ex-girlfriends what went wrong, get them all together. Everyone agrees that's a bad idea.

At the comic book store, Raj asks Leonard what he plans to do with Sheldon's old room...he says game room. Sheldon tells Leonard he wanted a game room but Amy said no. Howard comes over and excitedly tells Sheldon he got a hold of the machine for him.

In their apartment Penny is on her tablet and Leonard comes out from the bedroom says he measured his new game room and his dream tv will fit (if he removes boards OR that is so big he can see it from work). Penny asks him to hold off as Randall might come stay with them. Leonard asks why and Penny says her Dad wants her to help get him an interview at her company. Leonard asks won't they mind an ex-convict drug dealer and Penny says Pharmaceuticals is just a fancy word for drugs anyway. Leonard is clearly miffed so Penny asks him how long would he

be staying, Penny says few days, more, who knows. She asks Leonard if he has a problem, he lies and says no, they hug and peck and Leonard says Randall will enjoy carrying his drugs in a brief case better than a balloon in his rectum.

At Howard/Bernadette's, Bernadette asks Raj if he really thinks its a good idea to contact all the ex's together, it will crush him, (meanwhile Raj has already begun plan the event).

At Sheldon's office, Sheldon, Amy, and Howard are beginning to try the emotion detector machine that monitors the persons lines and expressions and such and an app on Sheldons phone determines the basic emotions by a smiley face system. Howard jokes it can determine if Amy wants to think about her choices (implying dating Sheldon—eyes roll). Amy has a laptop and begins looking a pics and the machine will pick up her emotion and Sheldon will go by that. First he says "happy" and Amy excitingly says yes cause its a pic of puppies, Sheldon sorta agrees but not with their tiny pointy teeth. Next pic he says sad and Amy says softly yes its a picture of her Grandma to which Sheldon says makes sense you probably miss her and you worry about getting her turkey neck. Amy's emotion change and Sheldon says "oh wait now you are angry".

Back to 4A, Leonard at kitchen island, Penny walks out and asks Leonard to help look at her brother's resume. Leonard makes a crack about Randall's prison career. In walks Shamy and Sheldon is holding the detector saying "If you're happy and you know it no need to clap your hands, I'll know it". Shamy walks to the Island and Leonard says he is happy for Sheldon and Sheldon says he knows its true because his phone shows a happy smiley. Amy sees the resume and asks Penny whats she is doing, Penny tells her and Sheldon says Leonard is angry about it. Leonard denies but sheldon's machine keeps picking up angry faces. Penny asks Leonard and he finally says "fine, I am angry, how could you not ask me if its ok to have your drug dealer ex-con brother stay with us". Penny now gets defensive saying she didn't think she would have to check with him since its her brother. Sheldon's machine shows them both as angry.

Lenny make a few jabs like Penny defends that Randall wouldn't live with them forever, he would eventually get his own place. Leonard says when has he ever lived alone, Penny says he has, Leonard says where aside from a place with a nearby metal toilet (implying prison), Penny says that still countd. Amy tells Sheldon to stop and he points the machine at her and he says "then stop enjoying this too" (implying they are both enjoying this). Then Penny says to Leonard consider this payback for making her live with Sheldon (2 versions, one Sheldon says she was lucky to live with him, 2nd is he let her share his honeynut cheerios to which Penny snaps back that she was invoiced for those).

Sheldon is offended and Amy pats Sheldons back and says they should go, Shamy proceeds to leave and Sheldon says can he storm off and Amy says it looses its impact if they discuss it, so he says instead he'll give them the finger (which is an angry thumbs down), Amy gives a half one and stop. They exit.

Next, at Raj's apartment, Lucy, Claire, Emily and deaf Emily are seated around the coffee table. Raj explains he gathered them all together to find out what went wrong in there relationships. He explains that Howard is there to translate for Emily and take notes. Deaf Emily signs and Howard says I agree this is crazy. Raj then says its confusing there are two Emilys so he said Emily Sweeny is red-head Emily (but deaf Emily is also a red head), 2nd take called deaf Emily "Emily Jr". She signs angrily and Howard says "hey you dates him".

Raj suggests they go around the room introducing themselves and why they broke up. First up is Lucy. She admits she has severe social anxiety and Raj kept pushing her into uncomfortable situations to which Howard says "like this one" and she shakes her head yes and sinks into her seat. Raj tells him to right he has personal boundary issues and Howard says/writes Shmuck. Deaf Emily says he was too dictated by what his parents said and Emily Sweeny agreed saying he was a mamas boy. Raj tells Howard to write good son. Then its Claire who said he was too needy, and then said he was too into his look with shaping eyebrows and Raj's cuts her off. Then its Emily Sweeny. She says she is uncomfortable saying it in front of Howard. Raj says he doesn't mind so she begins to say "well when we were in bed" and Raj says "leave". Clearly Raj is getting upset so Lucy says "there is something good about dating Raj". Raj jumps in and says "thank you and yes I'll go out with you again". Lucy says "no, I mean I learned what not to do in a relationship for my next one".

All the women agree and Emily Sweeny starts talking about her new man Gary and Howard asks for his spelling. Raj cuts him off and asks them all if they moved on to better relationships and they all agree (and Claire says a little before actually). Howard steps in to defend the deflated

Raj. He says he is proud that he is putting himself out there and trying to fix it, both sorta one arm hug and Emily Sweeney says "I'm actually surprised you two (Howard/Raj) never got together. Howard says "like you ladies I had to ho through this to find Bernadette" and Raj weirdly agrees.

Next scene, we see Amy at the island mixing a salad calling Sheldon out for dinner saying she made beefloaf not meatloaf as she knows how much he hates non-describe meals. He doesn't come out so she walks into the bedroom and we see Sheldon cuddled sorta diagonal with a pillow. Amy asks whats wrong and he is disappointed because he really thought he was getting better at reading peoples emotions and she says he has, look at all the times he knows when she is upset to which he says she's sorta a downer and he quickly apologized for that. Amy climbs over behind him and says they all have challenges like you and says "although probably cause of my dad" to which she takes off her glasses and says without these all I see is a blurry blob. She rubs his arm and tells him to stop using the machine, then lingerly kisses his cheek and says she loves him to which he turns and say "I Agree with that, I love you too. Can you put your glasses back on you look like a weirdo".

Lenny knocks, Sheldon answers and Lenny says they owe him an apology and Sheldon says I forgive you for taking my suitcase when I wasn't home. Leonard says not that, but for yelling at him because he was in the middle of their fight. And Leonard says also the suitcase to which Sheldon said he had to throw it out as a sock was in there. Sheldon asks are they ok now and Lenny says yes, Penny said she will tell her Dad its just not a good time to which Leonard rubs her back and says "he won't get mad at his little girl" to which immediately Penny says he won't because it was Leonard's idea, Leonard says "you're going throw me under the bus?" And Penny says "I'm gonna throw you so fast I'll break windows". Sheldon says "wait are you getting angry again" and they look snarky back and he shouts "yes I can read emotions I don't need the machine, and slams the door".

The whole gang at 4A are eating and Sheldon is still a little bummed about reading emotions, so Amy (or Raj) says pregnant women have a great insight into that. Leonard says "but they can't get Sheldon pregnant" so Sheldon asks Bernadette what he is thinking and she says "you think you are better than us, we are all be beneath you". He is shocked and tells Howard to keep having babies.

The Locomotion Reverberation

Season 10
Episode Number: 222
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Thursday February 9, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Pamela Adlon (Halley Wolowitz (voice)), Dean Norris (Colonel Richard Williams)
Production Code: T12.15315
Summary: With Sheldon hindering progress on the guidance-system project, Leonard and Stuart figure the only way they can get back on track is to engineer a distraction by getting him tickets to a historic railroad. Meanwhile, Penny and Amy spirit away new-mommy Bernadette for a girls' night out, leaving baby Halley in the hands of Raj and Stuart.



What happens when Sheldon is given the opportunity to be a train engineer for a day? He pours himself into pre-planning, falls more in love with the wonder that is a locomotive, and threatens to give up physics. Who needs a fancy guidance system? This guy wants to work on the railroad all the livelong day.

When Sheldon comes up with a formula that can make their guidance system even smaller, Leonard and Howard balk. The device has been approved. Why would they start completely over? Sheldon refuses to back down, so Leonard pulls out a secret weapon he's been hold-

ing on to for years. Say hello to a \$4,000 solution to getting Sheldon out of their hair!

Leonard presents Sheldon with a special gift: a ticket for the ultimate train experience. Sheldon thanks his old roommate with one of his rare hugs and rushes home to prepare Amy for their upcoming trip to a historic railway. Amy listens as Sheldon drones on and on about his locomotive agenda. Will they stay in the caboose? Can he perform track maintenance? Who gets to memorize a very thick manual? Dr. Cooper, that's who!

While Sheldon learns hand signals, Leonard and Howard bask in the peaceful ambiance of their Sheldon-free lab. When Colonel Williams arrives for a visit, he notices Sheldon's math on a whiteboard and demands that his team make the device smaller. He suggests they get the kid with two shirts to work out the math.

Meanwhile, Penny and Amy decide to take Bernadette (and her breast pump) out for a night of dancing. They leave the baby in the questionably capable hands of Raj and Stuart. I say questionable because I don't think Bernadette should have to tell Stuart not to drink her breast milk.

Penny insists that there will be no talk of preschools, life insurance policies, or piles of laundry during girls' night. When they arrive at the club, Penny is annoyed to find that it's now a bookstore. Amy suggests a Latin club nearby and Bernadette perks up, thankful that she's not about to return home to her sweatpants and two morons. But Penny is ready to call it a night. She's sad.

Penny feels like she and Leonard are stagnant since they don't have a house or a baby. Bernadette reminds her that she has a wonderful job and a husband who loves her so much that he married her twice. Penny's spirits lift just as Amy's plummet. She starts crying because her boyfriend doesn't even think about marriage. This makes Penny cry, which makes Bernadette lactate.

Back at the apartments, Howard and Leonard find Sheldon welding a train engine. They explain that Colonel Williams wants the smaller device and they need Casey Junior's help to figure out the math. Sheldon refuses. He's no longer a physicist. Something clicked, then something clacked. Now he's an engineer.

A train engineer. Not a goofy one like Howard.

Leonard gets the brilliant idea to recreate the formula with nonsense as the solution. He even adds Charlie Brown's hair squiggle into the mix. Leonard figures Sheldon will be so mad that he'll fix the formula himself.

They present the board to Sheldon, who deems it a hot mess. Leonard asks him to please work the math, and Sheldon draws Charlie Brown's entire face. Leonard and Howard may be his friends, but they are blockheads.

Howard appeals to Sheldon's newfound love of mechanics and promises to let him be a part of the building process. Sheldon agrees and asks his business partners to please remove the filthy engine from his living room floor while he saves the day.

Amy has a daydream about Sheldon all sweaty and dirty as a train conductor. Having a shirtless Sheldon douse himself with a full bottle of water to Scorpions' "Rock Me Like a Hurricane" was brilliant. In so many ways. Jim Parsons' arms definitely deserve an Emmy nod.

The Allowance Evaporation

Season 10
Episode Number: 223
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 16, 2017
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian George (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali), Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler)
Production Code: T12.15316
Summary: Amy is incensed when she discovers Sheldon has shared intimate relationship information with people at the university; and Raj is knocked for a loop when his father stops sending financial support.



Raj learns that his father is no longer trying to arrange a marriage for him because it is too much work. Even though Raj didn't want an arrangement, he becomes offended. His father believes that Raj is too sensitive and depends on his money too much. Raj feels that his father has given up on him.

The gang tries to console Raj, but then they find out that his father pays for his car, rent and his credit cards. This makes them start to agree with his dad. Leonard points out that he should be able to get by on his salary. When they try to itemize his spending, they find that Raj doesn't know how much anything costs since he

doesn't pay for it. His housekeeper even does the grocery shopping. The gang arrive at the conclusion that he is definitely spoiled.

If Raj wants to be independent, he will need a cheaper place. Leonard suggests that he move in with Howard and Bernadette. Not wanting a new house guest, Howard suggests that he stay in Sheldon's old room. They all breathe a sigh of relief when Raj declines. He states that he does not want to take advantage of his friends. Later, he decides to call his dad to tell him that he'll be taking care of himself from now on. Raj starts by firing his dog walker and bringing a bagged lunch to work.

Meanwhile, Amy and Sheldon run into Burt when they are out on a dinner date. He is at the bar waiting on a date of his own. When she doesn't show up, Sheldon invites Burt to join him and Amy. During the discussion, it comes out that Burt knows that Sheldon and Amy only have sex once a year. Amy becomes embarrassed and upset when she finds out that the rest of the university knows as well.

Amy explains to Sheldon that there are certain things you don't share with acquaintances. This prompts Sheldon to draw a "zones of privacy" chart that outlines different topics and whom they can be shared with. In the middle, Amy notices there is a little dot. Sheldon says this is

for secrets he keeps to himself. Amy becomes curious and pushes him to tell her something he has never shared. That is when Sheldon confesses that he got his drivers license two years ago. This shocks Amy. Sheldon admits he likes to be chauffeured around because it makes him feel important.

The next day, Sheldon announces to the cafeteria that his relationship with Amy isn't water cooler gossip. He says everyone should focus on science. The guys inquire as to what brought this on. Sheldon says that he learned that Amy wasn't just cranky from menstruating, she really was mortified by the over sharing.

The Comic-Con Conundrum

Season 10
Episode Number: 224
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday February 23, 2017
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Saladin K. Patterson, Tara Hernandez, Steve Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Pamela Adlon (Halley (voice))
Production Code: T12.15317
Summary: With Koothrappali cut off from his father's fortune, he appoints Sheldon to help him get out of debt, and even takes a part-time job working for Stuart. Also, Penny considers joining Leonard at Comic-Con. Bernadette finally gets Howard to do some work around the house.



When we last saw our favorite astrophysicist, Raj had just announced to his friends that he would not be accepting any more money from his father. He's ready to be a man with a budget. And what better person to whip him into shape than a person who likes to control other people and steal their joy? Say hello to Raj's new accountant, Sheldon Cooper!

Raj is forced to cease and desist from all superfluous spending. This includes his emergency credit card and his intimate waxing account at Pink Cheeks. He's also going to have to say goodbye to his surrogate penguin at the LA Zoo. With

a pencil, calculator, and an old-timey green visor at his side, Sheldon makes Raj promise that he won't spend another cent without Sheldon's consent.

The pain of this reality hits Raj hard — especially when Sheldon reminds the group that Comic-Con tickets will be going on sale at the end of the week and Raj will NOT be joining them.

But guess who will be joining in on the fun this year? Penny. She's not excited about attending, but if squeezing into an Ewok costume makes her husband happy, who is she to miss out on that experience? (P.S.: Since when did Amy become the cool one of the group?)

Unbeknownst to Penny, Leonard is struggling with Penny's willingness to join him at Comic-Con. She hates lines, crowds, and panels. She will be miserable; therefore, Leonard will be miserable. The guys suggest that Leonard make it sound horrific so she won't want to go. Challenge accepted.

Raj is determined to figure out a way to earn money so he can attend the convention. Howard suggests he charge people to punch him. Howard may be ribbing him, but Raj quickly points out that as a new father with a tiny baby, Bernadette may not want her husband traipsing off to San Diego for five days. He can't very well co-parent from an Avengers panel, now can he?

While Howard offers to do all of the chores and housework for Bernadette in exchange for a five-day boys' trip in the summer, Leonard attempt to dissuade Penny from joining them. He

shows her pictures of jam-packed convention rooms, camping on the sidewalk, and the bed she will share with him and Sheldon in their hotel room. Penny remains firm. Even Raj's trick to keep warm using a bottle full of pee doesn't make her cave.

She's a stronger woman than I am.

That evening, Sheldon and Amy discover that both Leonard and Penny don't want the other going to Comic-Con. Even though Amy instructs Sheldon to not get involved, she breaks up another one of Penny and Leonard's silly quibbles by letting the cat out of the bag. Penny doesn't want to go to Comic-Con and Leonard doesn't want her there. Problem solved! Penny processes for a moment to see if she's mad and quickly forgives her husband — now she doesn't have to attend the convention covered in green paint as She-Hulk. It's a win/win for everyone.

Meanwhile, Howard tries to outsource his chores to his Indian friend. Bernadette isn't having it. Raj resorts to selling action figures to Stuart and flipping Comic-Con signs in his Aquaman outfit for some extra cash. He's one step away from researching whether he can sell his blood or sperm when Team Wolowitz intervenes.

They offer Raj an envelope full of money as back payment from all the times he babysat Halley. Raj declines, noting that he wants to do this on his own. It's not the end of the world if he doesn't go to Comic-Con. Leonard and Howard feel sorry for their friends and follow his lead, promising fun weekends with their wives. Everyone looks to Sheldon, who rolls his eyes in disgust. Nuts to that idea. Comic-Con, here he comes!

The episode ends with Sheldon sidling up next to Amy, who is washing dishes at the sink. She knows he's fishing for her to agree to go to Comic-Con with him since the rest of his friends have bailed. When he suggests "What's in My Pants" may change her mind, Mayim Bialik's face is golden, and Jim Parsons' reaction is just as epic. Sure, he pulls a list of panelists from his pocket, but the unspoken chemistry between these two actors is lovely. I guarantee they laughed a few times in order to get that specific take.

Long live The Shamy.

The Escape Hatch Identification

Season 10
Episode Number: 225
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday March 9, 2017
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steve Holland, Jim Reynolds, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter)
Production Code: T12.15318
Summary: When the gang offers a place for Raj to live, it creates unexpected conflict among everyone and an argument between Amy and Leonard's mother.



It appears that Fiscally Responsible Raj is here to stay. Not only is he moving out of his cushy apartment, but he's going back and forth playing his friends to see what kind of roommate deal he can negotiate. Howard offers a nice cot, space heater, and hot plate in the garage. Leonard suggests Raj stay in their spare room. Sheldon tries to talk Amy into introducing a life-size superhero figure into their home.

Clearly, he's not a participate in the game.

After hearing that an ornery raccoon has the habit of chewing his way into the garage on cold nights, Raj opts to accept

the Hofstadters' offer. When Sheldon learns that Raj will be staying in his old bedroom, he takes the news very well. This is the new and improved Sheldon. This version tries to hold in knee-jerk reactions and applies emotional filters. Everyone is shocked by how Sheldon isn't flipping out.

Back in his apartment, Sheldon flips out. Poor Amy has to be the brunt of her boyfriend's frustration. As it turns out, Sheldon is feeling a bit replaced. Amy understands, reminding him that he has a lot of memories in that room. It's where he first told her he loved her.

Just as I thought, "Wasn't that outside the room?" Sheldon corrects Amy. It was just outside his bedroom in the hallway. And I'm forever a Big Bang Theory nerd.

Amy goes on to say that Raj is probably feeling blue. He's lost his apartment, he's in debt, and he's obviously humiliated. Sheldon should cut him some slack. Sheldon agrees and decides to get Raj a housewarming gift — a blank notebook to journal the great ideas inspired by his new room.

Of course Sheldon tags the sentiment with what he believes to be common knowledge: that Raj must be obviously humiliated, therefore, everyone should treat him with kid gloves. Amy has the wherewithal to escort Sheldon back to their apartment before he sticks another foot in his mouth.

A confused Sheldon immediately calls Dr. Beverly Hofstadter to help him puzzle through his emotions. Leonard's mom tells Sheldon that he is obviously using his old bedroom as an escape

hatch. Clearly, he's worried about being trapped in a relationship with Amy forever. That bedroom is his safety net. Then Beverly pinpoints a problem with her son and his wife. Why is it that they are always trying to take on roommates? Are they avoiding harsh realities themselves?

Naturally, Sheldon takes this newfound knowledge across the hall and reports it to everyone. He apologizes for taking out his own insecurities on Raj and informs Penny and Leonard that Raj is free to be the buffer they need to distract them from their own marital problems. Then he leaves to go have a conversation with Amy about what order he would eat his friends in case of an apocalypse. Newsflash: He'd save Amy for dessert.

Cue Leonard calling his mom. Dr. Hofstadter defends herself by pointing out that this roommate business is a theme. Remember when Penny offered for her brother to move in? Of course this is a problem, right?

While Penny and Leonard think about Beverly's assessment, Raj leaves in the middle of the night to go over to the Wolowitz household. Meaning, he walks right up to Howard and Bernadette's bedroom, scaring the bejesus out of them, to talk about his feelings. He hates that everyone is fighting because of him.

He makes up the couch and has a heart-to-heart with fellow moocher Stuart. When Raj asks Stuart if they should live together, Stuart exclaims there is no reason to leave the Wolowitzs. Why would he choose between independence and a steam shower? Stuart plans on retiring here, and if Raj has a brain, he should too.

The next day, Penny and Leonard ask Raj to move back in with them. They are entirely comfortable in their relationship and view this endeavor as simply helping out a friend. Raj agrees and Sheldon is forced to live with a tiny dog across the hall.

He may never visit Penny and Leonard's apartment again. It's a good thing he and Amy have a life-size Batman to keep them company.

The Collaboration Fluctuation

Season 10
Episode Number: 226
Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday March 30, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Tara Hernandez, Giuseppe Graziano, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Dave Goetsch
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Pamela Adlon (Halley Wolowitz (voice)), Tiffany Daniels (Clerk), Doug Morency (Stranger)
Production Code: T12.15319
Summary: Raj moves in with Leonard and Penny and a period of adjustment begins for the three, while the usually self-centered Sheldon shows surprising interest in Amy's work.



The episode begins with Sheldon telling Amy all about his super secret gyroscope project, redacting the confidential parts by blowing Amy's car horn. He invites Amy to tell him about her latest projects, giving her permission to blow the horn during the boring parts. Amy is eager to share. She's working on figuring out where and when awareness takes place.

Cut to Sheldon in the cafeteria. Something remarkable has happened with a plastic spoon! Unlike Howard's guess that it sang "Be Our Guest," Sheldon explains that he picked it up without thinking. He somehow connects this moment

to missing link in his own research. Could Amy be onto something? He's never been interested in biology. It's just grey, squishy stuff. But pair it with physics and you've got a fiesta. A physics fiesta.

Sheldon grabs all of his white boards and encourages Amy to collaborate with him. What do you get when you combine Amy's knowledge in neuroscience and Sheldon's math calculations? Magic.

Of course there need to be some ground rules. Such as: You can't use your sexuality to get your way. Sheldon has the final say. Dr. Cooper's name will appear first in all papers. And he will speak first, too. This is all normal protocol.

Amy throws the ground rules out the window and makes a new list. This is not a competition. There are no stupid ideas. Sheldon concedes, and we are treated to a delightful montage of Sheldon and Amy cheering each other on in the spirit of camaraderie to the kicky tune of "Happy Together" by The Turtles.

Sadly, the work is crap. Sheldon no longer wants his name connected to this garbage. He blames Amy's loud breathing and she blames his sensitivity. In the middle of the argument, Sheldon discovers a mistake in the math. Problem solved!

They quickly start fighting again, yet they continue to find other areas of insightful solutions to their science/math/biology/physics problems. The result? Fighting is the reason they are making progress. Their hormones are sharpening their skills. Now they have a choice: Abandon all rules in the name of science or give up the collaboration in the name of their relationship.

I'll give you one guess which one Sheldon chooses. SCIENCE!

While Sheldon and Amy are updating their ground rules to include amendments like, "We are on the same team, but this is a competition," Leonard stresses about his wife's budding friendship with their new roommate. Penny and Raj are doing yoga, gabbing about work issues, sharing eye cream and facial masks, shopping for the same blouses, and generally becoming each other's gal pal.

Leonard crashes a trip to Target with Bernadette and Howard to complain about being the third wheel in his marriage. Leonard wonders why Raj gets to do dumb girly stuff with Penny. Howard has a better question: Does Leonard really want to do the dumb girly stuff with Penny? Bernadette suggests Leonard talk to both of them.

To Leonard's defense, he tries, but Raj and Penny discuss all his issues and insecurities while Leonard is sitting right there. Penny calls him crazy and Raj chastises her for not making Leonard feel safe. Leonard explodes, irritated that they are once again leaving him out of the conversation. In the end, Penny and Raj give him the floor and he is silent because they've pretty much covered everything he wanted to say.

The Recollection Dissipation

Season 10
Episode Number: 227
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 6, 2017
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joel Murray (Doug)
Production Code: T12.15320
Summary: Sheldon reaches his limit when he works on projects with Leonard, Wolowitz and Amy in one day.



After committing to working on the navigation system with Howard and Leonard, as well as providing input on his project with Amy, Dr. Cooper is stretched a little too thin. The day starts out fine. Sheldon double dips back and forth, spouting off solutions left and right. Much like the spork, it appears that this idea will never work. Spoiler alert: It does. Sheldon kills it and even has time to solve problems while he does laundry to get the stain out of his pants. Thanks soup sack!

It's Penny who sees the early signs of a sickness coming on. She reminds Sheldon that he is a delicate flower who got a

cold while watching Frozen and a nosebleed while watching Up. Sure enough, he goes down for the count, and Amy insists he leave his germs somewhere other than her toast.

Over at the House of Wolowitz, Bernadette is having trouble accepting that her maternity leave is almost over. She likes the idea of getting out the house and having intellectually stimulated conversation, but what if Halley forgets her? Will she have time to bond with her daughter in the ten minutes she'll have between the time she gets home and Halley's bedtime? Cue the tears.

She asks Stuart not to tell Howard, but Howard has a keen sense for when Bernadette is upset. He naturally thinks he's the reason his wife is in a mood. He begins listing off things he's done, including the time he forgot to tell Bernadette that her great aunt died. Howard has been sending Christmas and birthday cards. What in the world?

Bernadette finally confides in Howard. He understands and tells her that whatever she chooses to do, he will support her. The good news is that Halley is a baby and she won't remember anything. He says babies are stupid. Examples include peek-a-boo and got-your-nose.

Later that night, the gang finds Sheldon, naked from the waist down, on Leonard and Penny's couch. He has no recollection of how he got there. Curse you, cold medicine! He looks to Penny to help him through the protocol for remembering a lost evening. Penny's first suggestion is for Sheldon to check his body for tattoos. Sadly, our boy didn't get any ink during his wild night. I would have rejoiced for a "live long and prosper" tat. In Klingon.

Sheldon quickly realizes that his super secret notebook, the one with all of the super secret government stuff, is missing from his bag. Raj uses Sheldon's phone to check the places he visited. There's the apartment building, the university, and a cowboy bar. Yeehaw!

Sheldon and Raj take a trip to the bar where they are greeted with a boisterous, "SHELDON." He bellies up to the barkeep, who knows Sheldon by name and presents him with the missing notebook. The one with top secret quantum guidance system solutions. Say again?

Not only did Sheldon tell the barkeep all about the project, he made everyone in the entire bar pinky swear that they would never tell anyone what he shared with them. Here's hoping the government doesn't find out, because I don't know if Sheldon could make it in a federal prison.

Who would sing "Soft Kitty" to him when he gets sick?

The Separation Agitation

Season 10
Episode Number: 228
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 13, 2017
Writer: Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Maria Ferrari, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), April Bowlby (Rebecca)
Production Code: T12.15321
Summary: Howard and Bernadette have a hard time leaving Halley in daycare when Bernadette returns to work. Also, Bert introduces the gang to his new girlfriend, Rebecca.



Started with Fun with Flags: Behind the Flags — a retrospective complete with Raj and Howard on music. Shamy talk to Lenny (at the kitchen island of course!) via video link about their Fun with Flags memories. They of course show their utter contempt for the whole thing. Found Penny's repartee funny. Then they call for viewers to call in with their memories. Deadly silence is followed by excitement when Bert calls — but just to tell them he has a girl friend. They ask for callers who want to talk flag memories but the next call is just Bert again telling them her name is Rebecca.

Later at the university cafeteria, Sheldon, Leonard and Raj are joking around, Bert sits with them, Leonard invites him to come to his place for dinner so they can meet his girl. When they arrive she is a stunning blonde who is a failed actress who has become a personal trainer. She's much younger than Bert. Penny asks if Rebecca has dates a scientist before because she was thinking of starting a support group. Rebecca says she dated a Scientologist. Sheldon quips Bert is copying Lenny. We find out they met online. Raj remarks he had not much success online. Bert says he only got success when he mentioned his \$600 thousand grant. Sheldon gets sent out by Amy when he speaks inappropriately. Bec comes back and says if she'd done something wrong and Leonard just says it's just normal Sheldon. Bec says something that implies it was the money and Amy is immediately suspicious and mentions it when Bec goes to the toilet. Sheldon makes another comment, gets sent out again but Amy calls him back when Bec makes her suspicious again. It was all very funny but can't remember the lines. When Bert leaves, Sheldon compares them to Lenny - Bert's money and his groveling to get the girl and Leonard says it's completely different — Bert's money will run out but he can beg till he dies. Penny quips — all that and he's shorter than me.

Back at cafeteria next day, Sheldon tells a joke about Feynman, Einstein and Schrodinger. Raj and Leonard react slowly but eventually love. Bert comes in. He is worried about what everyone

said about being used. He says something about the relationship that Sheldon thinks is funny and tells Leonard it's his turn to tell a joke.

Bert turns up at the apartment to tell them he broke it off. Raj starts saying he did the right thing, comparing him to his story which gets depressing and says maybe someone else should speak. Amy is glad but Bert is upset she convinced him. Sheldon has a go at her and she says to raise your hand for permission to speak. Penny tells Bert he should be looking for someone who likes him for who he is not what he has. Sheldon raises his hand and Penny makes the mistake of letting him speak because he delivers one of his trademark Lenny insults and Leonard just looks up at her and says don't look at me you gave him permission. Bert then leaves saying he might buy Bec a jet ski to get her back. Then there's a Fun with Flags retrospective retrospective and a call comes through and it's Bert saying it worked he got her back.

Bernie going back to work but being really unhappy about but she is hiding that from Howard. She confides in Stuart who has clearly replaced Raj now that he's moved in with Leonard and Penny. Before going back to work, they all take Halley to the zoo but that just depresses Bernie more because she compares herself to other mammals who stay with their young longer than her. Howard has a chat to Stuart as well but he reveals nothing. They finally all share their feelings when it comes to dropping off Halley. They all cry except the baby and Bernie does her trademark angry thing telling Halley off for not caring.

Later Howard and Stuart are at daycare dropping her off, showing Bernie via FaceTime how Halley is fine. Bernie cracks it again because she ignores her The boys can't leave. They steal Halley away and take her to the aquarium. Later they come home and pretend they are back from daycare but are caught because Bernie got a call about them taking the baby.

The Cognition Regeneration

Season 10
Episode Number: 229
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday April 27, 2017
Writer: Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian Thomas Smith (Zack Johnson)
Production Code: T12.15322
Summary: Leonard is less than thrilled when Penny considers accepting a job offer from Zack, her ex-boyfriend. Howard teaches Sheldon new things.



After Sheldon's hiccup in a video game leads to all of the guys' characters getting killed, he decides he needs to start pushing his brain to keep it youthful. First he tries having Raj (Kunal Nayyar) teach him cooking, but it's not far enough from his comfort zone, and he winds up succeeding too quickly to find it beneficial. Then he turns to Howard (Simon Helberg) for physical options and throws in the towel when they prove too difficult for him to master instantaneously.

Amy (Mayim Bialik) points out that maybe he gives up too easily on things that are difficult for him, thereby robbing himself of the benefit he's seeking via mental challenges. He rejects this idea, then tells her that the optimal age to win a Nobel Prize is 40 and he thinks he's running out of time. Amy assures him that the life he's living now, full of significant contributions to science and a loving group of friends, is valuable with or without the award. He rejects this idea, too, and decides to learn still walking.

Meanwhile, while having drinks with Amy and Bernadette (Melissa Rauch), Penny (Kaley Cuoco) runs into her ex-boyfriend, Zack (Brian Thomas Smith). He tells her he's engaged and suggests that she and Leonard (Johnny Galecki) go on a double-date with him and his fiancée. Despite Leonard's reluctance, they make the date.

On the big night, Zack shows up sans fiancée, because she had an emergency—but he doesn't know what, because it didn't occur to him to ask. He does ask, however, how Penny's doing. She tells him that she isn't happy in her work, and he immediately offers her a sales job with his menu company.

After the dinner, Leonard and Penny discuss the job offer in the car, and he tells her he just doesn't think it would be smart to work with an ex. She takes offense, and they have to go to their separate corners to talk it out with their friends. Penny calms down after wine with Bernadette, and Leonard calms down after talking it through with Howard and Raj. When they come back together, Leonard gives Penny his blessing and Penny agrees to stay put for Leonard's sake.

Ultimately, they agree that she should take the new job, but when she calls Zack he says that his fiancée thought the idea of him working with an ex was so stupid that she threw a shoe at his head, so he rescinds the offer.

The Gyroscopic Collapse

Season 10
Episode Number: 230
Season Episode: 23

Originally aired: Thursday May 4, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Alex Ayers, Steven Molaro, Jim Reynolds, Saladin K. Patterson
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Dean Norris (Colonel Richard Williams), Kimberly Brooks (Computer (voice))
Production Code: T12.15323
Summary: After celebrating the completion of the top-secret Air Force project, Leonard, Sheldon and Wolowitz get an unwelcome surprise; Amy receives an offer for a summer position as a visiting researcher.



The guys are finished with their government gyroscope project, Raj has found a new place to live and Amy has been offered the opportunity to work at Princeton for the summer.

Things shift overnight from celebrating the end of "phase one" of the gyroscope project with friends and champagne (apple juice for Sheldon) to processing the shock of having nowhere else to go when the military confiscates everything the guys have been working on. Leonard, Sheldon and Howard arrive at their lab ready to dive into field tests and refinement and find that every single thing has been removed in the night

with no notice. Colonel Williams tells them that the military will take it from there, and the guys are all left a little adrift after a year of being completely immersed in this job.

Sheldon takes the project's abrupt end pretty hard, and his sense of loss is cranked up when Amy tells him she's been given the opportunity to go to New Jersey for the summer to work from Princeton. After wallowing in his feelings for a while, and playing the blues on his harmonica in the empty apartment downstairs, Sheldon listens to Leonard's advice and chooses to support Amy in taking the opportunity. He buys her some durable luggage and offers her a rare non-birthday roll in the sheets.

Howard is also having trouble adjusting to losing the project, and he acts out by following Bernadette everywhere and smothering her with affection. She complains to Penny and Amy that he's always like this when he finishes a big project and she sits him down to tell him it has to stop. When she does, though, he reminds her that she's the same way, and that during one of her equivalent unexpected breaks she signed them up for ballroom dancing and during the next she made them have a baby. She has to agree, so she invites him to "bring it in" for some loving, and all is right in their world.

Raj, who wasn't a part of the gyroscope project, is making his own change by moving out of Leonard and Penny's place to live above Bert's garage.

The Long Distance Dissonance

Season 10
Episode Number: 231
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 11, 2017
Writer: Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan, Jim Reynolds, Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Riki Lindhome (Ramona Nowitzki)
Production Code: T12.15324
Summary: Sheldon's former admirer, Dr. Ramona Nowitzki, turns up while Amy is visiting Princeton, and the gang is extremely concerned.



Amy has only been away at Princeton for a few days when old lovesick puppy Dr. Ramona Nowitzki shows up at Cal Tech. Poor Sheldon is as clueless as ever about Dr. Nowitzki's intentions towards him, but the rest of the gang sees her for what she is immediately.

It begins with lunch in the cafeteria. She's brought Sheldon a Toblerone, and he's happy to sit with her instead of the guys. Raj, Leonard and Howard witness her laughing at Sheldon's jokes touching his arm—without him immediately slapping her away or using Purell on the spot she touched.

They report what they saw to Bernadette and Penny, who are trying to decide whether or not they should call Amy and tell her that there's a shark in the water when Sheldon beats them to the punch. He innocently tells Amy via Skype about Dr. Nowitzki, saying that he thinks Amy would like her because of the things they have in common, but pointing out that Ramona differs from Amy in that she's tall, blonde and used to be an Olympic swimmer.

Amy is furious with her girlfriends and Skypes them to yell, "You had one job!"

The guys decide to lay a trap for Ramona: If Raj asks her out and she says no, they'll know she's into Sheldon for sure. Raj executes the plan by asking suavely if he can sit with her at lunch. She says a firm NO just before encouraging Sheldon to come sit with her.

Later, Raj is still licking his wounds when the guys bring the girls up to speed before they all dig in for takeout Thai. Before they can figure out what to do about the whole thing, Sheldon walks in with Ramona! He introduces her as his friend, and the group awkwardly welcomes her to the meal.

Once everyone's settled, Bernadette wedges herself between Sheldon and Ramona on the sofa. It seems like they're safe for the evening... until Sheldon offers to show Ramona some letters he has across the hall, and she jumps up to follow him. The gang, left behind, bicker about whether to intervene or call Amy, which gives Sheldon and Ramona enough time to get cozy on the sofa

in Shamy's apartment with Sheldon's binder of letters from famous people. And, of course, that's when Amy Skypes.

Sheldon naively introduces the two women, and Amy is visibly stunned. She tells him he's tired and needs to go to bed, so he takes Ramona across the hall to say goodnight to everyone and then agrees to walk her to her car. Penny jumps up and says that everyone will go, and then she and Bernadette lead a coup on the stairs that ultimately repositions Sheldon at the front of the group and Ramona at the back.

As soon as Ramona drives away, Penny turns to Sheldon and says, "We need to talk."

Upstairs, Penny and Sheldon sit on the sofa in his apartment and she lays out what's happening. He doesn't believe it, even when she gives him the analogy of him being a rare collectible, like a toy (which sets him up to say that Amy's already taken him out of his package and played with him). Despite Penny's best effort, Sheldon completely dismisses the idea that Ramona has romantic designs on him.

The next day, Sheldon is at his desk in his office when Ramona pops by with lunch. She's made them both sandwiches, and although he graciously accepts his, Sheldon asks her point-blank if she hopes for a romantic relationship with him. She basically says yes, then kisses him before he can do anything else. He's stunned and says, "Excuse me a moment."

Then he walks out of his office, down the hall... and right out of the building without turning back.

He steps into a cab, goes to LAX, gets on an airplane, hops in another cab, and without pausing is at Amy's door at Princeton, knocking his signature knock and taking her completely by surprise.

When she answers, he is already on one knee with the ring we knew he'd been holding onto for her out, and he says, "Will you marry me?"

Season Eleven

The Proposal Proposal

Season 11
Episode Number: 232
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Monday September 25, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Riki Lindhome (Ramona Nowitzki), Susan Chuang (Dr. Harris), George Wyner (Dr. Zane), Stephen Hawking (Himself)
Production Code: T12.15601
Summary: Amy has trouble deciding whether or not she should marry Sheldon. Meanwhile, Bernadette confides in Penny when she finds out some huge news.



Opening scene: Amy's room in Princeton. Leonard and Penny call Sheldon. Sheldon lets them know that he proposed, and naturally they want to know Amy's answer. Amy didn't get a chance to respond, still Sheldon was on the phone. He asks, and she says yes. He said he had to ask one man for his blessing: Stephen Hawking, who appears in a pre-recorded scene. Amy wants to know if Sheldon asked her dad, and he says he did.

Following a surprising kiss from Dr. Ramona Norwitzki, Sheldon hops on a plane, travels a cross the country to Princeton University to propose to Amy.

Amy finds Sheldon on his knee and he asks her to marry him. Immediately Sheldon's phone rings and he answer it to not be rude to the callers, Leonard and Penny. Amy wonders why he is answering his phone at that moment while the Hofstadters want to know where Sheldon has been. Sheldon explains about the kiss which shocks everyone and how Sheldon realized that Amy was the only woman he wanted to kiss for the rest of his life. Also before he left he consulted Stephen Hawking and asked Amy's father for her hand. Penny is excited about them being engaged; however, Sheldon replies that she hasn't yet answered the question. An irritated Amy tells Sheldon "Because you're on the phone!" Sheldon realizes what he is doing and tells Leonard and Penny that he'll call them back. He immediately continues the call explaining that she said yes.

First Sheldon calls his mother who is very happy for them. Sheldon how Ramona's kiss made him realize that Amy was the only woman for him. Mary wonders that since two women wanted Sheldon, that maybe she had been praying too hard. Afterwards she tells God that what just happened to Sheldon was a mighty impressive miracle.

Both Raj and Howard are excited about the news. Bernadette explains that she doesn't believe it, but she is actually responding to a positive pregnancy test. Halley is going to be a sister!

Penny and Bernadette are having tea in 4A, while Bernie doesn't seem to be paying attention to Penny's musings about Sheldon wanting a Star Trek themes wedding. Bernadette drops the pregnancy news to Penny who tries not to freak out like Bernie had asked her to. Penny tries to make her friend feel good about her new blessing. Then they both change their tune and wonder what she was thinking about doing it again.

Back in Amy's hotel room, Sheldon is booking a plane back to Pasadena. Amy wants him to stay a few days which he agrees to after she suggests he can get some clothes at a nearby comic book store. Amy is having dinner that night with some of her colleagues and she wants him to meet them. They playfully kid each other that they aren't even married and she is already nagging him.

Back in Pasadena, the gang is having lunch and they notice Dr. Norwitz eating alone. Raj goes over to give her the news about the engagement though she already knows. Raj again twice asks her out and that it's her last chance. She hopes that that will be the last time. Raj makes a hasty retreat.

Howard enters the kitchen and Bernadette shows him her positive pregnancy test. After exchanging a series of no's and yes's, Bernadette says that they are both responsible adults and that they can handle it. Howard asks whether she is sure about that and then Bernadette screams, "No!"

Raj goes to the comic book store to buy Sheldon an engagement gift. Stuart is excited though he is peeved that the couple had not called him. Stuart suggests a statue of Superman and Wonder Woman. Raj turns bitter about their engagement and asks if he has something for someone who is bitter and alone. Anything in the store!

At dinner, Sheldon meets Amy's colleagues as she gets goose bumps introducing her fiancé. They are excited to meet Sheldon, but only to talk about Amy's work. As usual Sheldon wants to talk about himself. They do ask about Sheldon's military project, but he can't discuss it since it is classified.

Amy reveals that she's upset by Sheldon discrediting her research, and him having to be the center of attention. She storms into her room, leaving Sheldon to wonder where to go. He ends up in her bathroom, skyping with Hawking.

Returning to Amy's apartment, Sheldon is complaining that her friends were rude because they only wanted to talk about her and not him. Amy doesn't have a problem with them talking about her work and then challenges him that he isn't always the smartest person in the room. And he might not be the smartest person in the apartment. Sheldon sarcastically asks if Neil DeGrasse Tyson was behind the couch. Amy storms off to the bedroom; while Sheldon looks for another room to storm off to since the apartment has only one bedroom.

In apartment 4A, Howard and Bernadette are having dinner with Leonard and Penny. Bernadette describes their news as a surprise coupled with crying and yelling. Then she realizes that it is a gift, even though Howard remarks that they already have one. Leonard and Penny assure them that they will do anything to help; except as Bernadette suggests, have their own baby so they can go through it together. Leonard plans to have one with Penny when she is planning to leave him over the subject.

Raj continues to talk to Stuart about his bitterness since both of them are alone. Stuart then mentions that he has a date with someone.

Sheldon ends up discussing his argument with Amy with Stephen Hawking. Sheldon says that his dinner companions were in the present of a world class mind and all they wanted to talk about was themselves. Professor Hawking can't get Sheldon to see the irony in his statement.

Back in 4A, Penny comes home to Leonard holding a chocolate cake with sprinkles. Penny wants to know if it's their anniversary, and Leonard says that he wants to celebrate them, since there is so much going on in their friends' lives. He didn't want her to feel sad. She still takes the cake while Leonard realizes that they both forgot their anniversary. Penny turns around with chocolate icing on her face and wishes him a happy anniversary.

At Princeton, Sheldon apologizes to Amy using the example of Iron Man appearing in a Captain America movie. He can make a movie cameo without being mad that it isn't an Iron Man movie. Sheldon should have handled dinner in such a manner. Amy thanked him. Sheldon had acted like the Hulk, though Amy quickly cuts off his Avenger metaphors. Sheldon says that he is proud of Amy and that they are a team like...um...the Dodgers. After embracing, he agrees to go back to Pasadena so she can experience the spotlight for herself. Amy replies that he just wants to

return where everyone makes a fuss over him. He replies that her colleagues are right and that she is brilliant. They kiss.

Three months later the rest of the gang are excited to see Amy and gush over her engagement ring. Raj fears that something bad is going to happen, much like when his Aunt Noopur showed up at the family reunion wearing the same sari as his cousin Sruti as Amy spots Dr. Ramona Norwitz and approaches her. Ramona is nervous as she greets Amy. Amy hugs her thanking her as a confused Ramona returns the hug. The guys are equally shocked.

The Retraction Reaction

Season 11
Episode Number: 233
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Monday October 2, 2017
Writer: Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Regina King (Janine Davis), Ira Flatow (Himself)
Production Code: T12.15602
Summary: Leonard angers the university and the entire physics community when he gives an embarrassing radio interview. Meanwhile, Amy and Bernadette bond over having to hide their success from Sheldon and Howard.



While the gang is having a meal in apartment 4A, Sheldon keeps aggravating the pregnant Bernadette with inappropriate comments. Leonard announces that he is going on NPR radio to discuss the world of physics to help promote Caltech. Sheldon wonders why the university picked Leonard until Amy whispered to Sheldon and he commented that the university picked the right person. Snicker.

Talking with Ira Flatow on NPR, Leonard is supposed to discuss all the exciting physics research that they are doing at the university. He describes the theoretical atomic particles the squark,

the selectron and the neutralino which have yet to be found. He wonders out loud what they are doing with all their money since they haven't found anything. His comments worry the rest for gang whom are listening in with dozens of other public radio listeners.

In the cafeteria, Howard and Raj want to be supportive of Leonard while Sheldon just scoffs at the guy the maligned his favorite woman, Lady Physics. (Does Amy know?) Leonard feels that he is a scientist just telling the truth about the subject.

Bernadette shows up in Amy's new lab to have lunch with her. Amy hasn't mentioned about all the new fancy equipment to Sheldon because he would be jealous. Bernadette also hides her success from her significant other and didn't happen to mention her trip to Tahiti and last year's big fat bonus check.

Leonard is keeping an appointment with Janine Davis of the Dean's office. Leonard realizes that his interview didn't go well, but he wonders how much damage it could have caused. Donors have been emailing them asking why they are giving the university money if physics is such a dead end. Mrs. Davis wants him to issue a statement that he misspoke and that he is confident that they will soon be making a breakthrough. Leonard interprets her request that she wants him to lie which she doesn't think is that hard.

Amy comes home and finds Sheldon hard at work on the biggest problems in physics. Not solving them, just figuring out that they are the biggest problems. Dark matter, super-symmetry and reconciling gravity and quantum mechanics. Sheldon denies that his motivation was what Leonard had said on the radio. Amy mentions that she has gotten some new lab equipment. Sheldon counters that he got some new markers that have a fruit flavor that he doesn't care for.

Over in 4A, Penny brings a depressed Leonard a glass of wine. No one would talk to him in the physics department not unlike it like when he was in high school. Leonard describes his trip to the administration office and how he might get fired. No one else is going to hire the guy we said that physics is dead. He needs to work on his retraction and had to sell out to keep his job. Penny encourages him to get on it while she walks away with he bottle of wine.

While Sheldon is still working though not making any progress, Leonard come over and asks for help with his retraction statement. Now even Sheldon is agreeing with Sheldon that not all science works out. Leonard now understands why everybody hates him. On the bright side, Sheldon tells him that after fifteen years, he can tell Sheldon that he was right. Since Leonard might be unemployed, his minor victory is bittersweet. Later they are writing about the Hadron collider, but can't come up with any positive discovers to justify the cost. Leonard asks if he has any alcohol, so Sheldon breaks into his supply of Romulan ale from Star Trek. Penny, who just arrived, thinks that it looks like mouthwash.

Amy describes to Bernadette how the more she talked about her lab, the worse Sheldon got. Both agree that they should be able to brag about how successful they are just like their guys do. Then they agree that they could brag to each other though they start a game of one upmanship.

Leonard and Sheldon have no idea where physics is going next so Penny tries to be supportive and ends up calling physics boring. Howard and Raj show asking everyone what they could do. Penny sums it up as science is dead thanks to Leonard and the Romulans whose ale she is drinking really know hoe to party. Raj exclaims that they sound like babies and no one wants to be stuck with two whiney babies. Now the expectant father Howard is depressed. Then realizes that he'll never have kids and everyone is depressed. Penny thanks them for coming.

Amy and Bernadette end up arguing whose work and careers are better and more important. Amy thinks her work will change the world while Bernadette plans on seeing that world from her yacht.

With everyone drinking, Leonard wonders what they would be if they weren't scientists. "Popular," suggests Howard. Penny says that they have just hit a rough patch and that they need to go out and get inspired. Howard wants everyone to go see Richard Feynman or rather his grave since he is dead. Next they are wondering around a cemetery in Altadena. Leonard used to listen to his lectures as a kid. Richard Feynman play instruments, learned foreign languages and just did physics for the fun of it. Leonard admits that science is only dead when they stop being excited about. To celebrate Richard Feynman's wisdom (All right, Sheldon said it!) they toast him and pour some Romulan onto his grave. Sheldon runs off to be sick.

Leonard is called back into Mrs. Davis's office, and is shown the email he sent her while he was drunk. He wrote that physics is undead like a zombie. If he came back as a zombie, Leonard would be cool about being bitten by Richard Feynman. And then he goes into Leonard having been being bitten by a squirrel when he was a kid. He finishes with a request for a ride home from the cemetery since Sheldon got sick.

The Relaxation Integration

Season 11
Episode Number: 234
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Monday October 9, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Adam Faberman, Maria Ferrari, Andy Gordon, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Swati Kapila (Ruchi)
Production Code: T12.15603
Summary: Sheldon and Amy struggle with picking a wedding date. Amy wants it near a cliff which Sheldon doesn't want. Meanwhile Stuart and Raj fight over one of Bernadette's co-workers for a date.



While having dinner in 4A, Sheldon mentions that he sent everyone a wedding "save-the-date" email for eighty separate dates since picking a unique date to get married was a textbook organizational problem. Amy thought they had chosen June 15, but that is just after Flag Day and Sheldon thinks that everyone will be partied out. The date can't be near someone's birthday, Comic-Con or a famous person's birth or death. Leonard suggest at Comic-Con causing Penny, Bernadette and Amy to say "No!" simultaneously.

Sheldon is dreaming that he walks into the kitchen where Amy announces

that they are out of Apple-Jacks. Sheldon doesn't care and says "Whatever." He also claims to like smooth Jazz and starts playing the coronet. Amy wakes up beside him because Sheldon is playing the coronet out loud in his sleep.

At Wolowitzes, Bernadette mentions that she is going out for non-alcoholic drinks with a new female co-worker. She wants to dispel the office rumors that she is mean. And Bernadette refuses to set up the single woman with either Raj or Stuart. At least she wants to get to know her before she ruins her life with one of their friends.

Amy is having tea with Leonard and Penny telling them about Sheldon talking in his sleep and how relaxed he is unlike his usual uptight personality. She feels that the wedding plans are putting too much pressure on Sheldon. Penny thinks that all people dreams about things they'd like to do in real life. Of course Penny only dreams about being Leonard's wife she claims nervously.

Bernadette is visiting with Ruchi, her new Indian co-worker. She is new the area and finds everyone so nice. Then Raj and Stuart so up and introduce themselves.

In 4B, Sheldon has found the perfect day, only it's 21 years in the past and one of the Dr. Who's died on that day. Amy appreciated that Sheldon is trying to make the wedding perfect; however, it is also making him miserable. Amy suggests that he tries to relax, kick-back and say "Whatever." Sheldon gets upset that she won't finish the word and Amy stomps off going "er..er..er!"

At the bar, Raj is trying to connect with Ruchi since they are both from India. They start to discuss their work and end up describing each others faults to Ruchi.

That night Amy is recording Sheldon's sleep talk about him uncharacteristically enjoying being in public pools, the beach and seagulls. She plays the recordings to Leonard and Penny who think that he sounds crazy. Sheldon wanders in the apartment and thinks that the guy on the recording is an idiot. Sheldon is not happy when he learns what Amy did. She tells Sheldon that she was worried and that he may be exhibiting part of his repressed personality. Sheldon runs out saying that she makes noise when she spells and he didn't accuse his or repressing her inner chainsaw.

At the comic book store Raj and Stuart are arguing about which of them should pursue Ruchi. They wondered what Bernadette thoughts and she was just peeved that Howard told "those idiots" where she was. Leonard thinks that Ruchi should have a word on the subject and that it is probably, "No." Both Raj and Stuart agree to meet with her as friends and then they'll see what happens.

Down in the laundry room, Sheldon is upset about his sleep talking and is not doing his laundry on laundry night. Penny thinks that he is stressed about getting married and how big a change that is. Maybe his brain is trying to tell him that he should relax some. Penny suggests that he start out small like take a yoga class. Sheldon decides to try wearing flip-flops, the official footwear of laid-back people. And he needs to get a tetanus shot since his feet are so exposed.

Raj at the bar getting Ruchi some wine. She thinks that it is too bad that Stuart couldn't make it. Raj makes a comment about Stuart can now live near school again as he shows up. Ruchi takes a call while Stuart can't believe that Raj went behind his back. She returns and Stuart tells her what Raj did. She thinks that that is weird. Also she tells them that she is not interested in a relationship right now and only ant to make some friends.

Sheldon shows up at home dirty, wearing trash bags on his feet and walking with a cane. Amy is shocked and learns that Sheldon got flip-flops, coated the exposed tops of his feet with sunblock and tripped on a sewer grating since his feet were slippery. Then ne petted something furry that licked him so he ran down the street on one flip-flop. He lost his other flip-flop as the story got worst. Finally he asks Amy to take charge of the wedding. He just wants to know where and when and he'll show up in a tuxedo over a Star Trek uniform. The last point is non-negotiable. They embrace and Amy mentions that she always wanted a June wedding on a cliff at sunset. Sheldon agrees and then mentions that he might be jumping off the cliff because its an outdoor wedding.

Finally Sheldon is presiding over the Council of Sheldon's. Science Sheldon, Texas Sheldon, Fanboy Sheldon, Germaphobe Sheldon, Humorous Sheldon. The chairman wants to know if they will let Laid-Back Sheldon on the council. The answer is no.

The Explosion Implosion

Season 11
Episode Number: 235
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Monday October 16, 2017
Writer: Bill Prady, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Dana L. Wilson (Dr. Sanders), Michael Patrick McGill (Police Officer)
Production Code: T12.15604
Summary: Leonard is devastated by the new friendly relation developing between his mother and Penny. Meanwhile Sheldon takes a detour with Raj and Howard to explore the old belongings of Howard's Science Models.



While waiting to have Bernadette's sonogram, Howard says that it doesn't seem that long since they were doing that. Bernie replies that it hasn't been that long and that he should get a vasectomy. The technician comes in asking if they are ready to find out the sex of their baby. Yes. Howard and Bernadette say that they don't care which sex it is, though they aren't too excited when they hear that it's a boy.

In 4A talking to the gang express doubt that they can raise a son. Amy wonders if Bernadette wants a little version of Howard. She quips that she already

has a little version of Howard. Howard doubts that he can teach a son manly things. Leonard reminds him that he was an astronaut. Howard did build model rockets when he was younger which excites Sheldon.

Leonard comes down the hall with his Captain Kirk shirt explaining that he has to have it dry cleaned to get the green stain out. Penny was wearing green body paint. The computer rings that Beverly Hofstadter was calling so Leonard runs out the door. Penny talks to Beverly and learns of her Cuban dinner and unsatisfying coitus of the previous night. "oaky," replies a disinterested Penny. Beverly anticipates her next questions with the answers roast pork and sides missionary.

Raj, Howard and Sheldon are going through Howard's old rockets. Sheldon used to launch them too; once burning down their garage. Sheldon finds the Saturn V model Howard's Dad got him just before he left Howard's mother. Howard never wanted to use it. Then Howard suggests that he and Sheldon build it now as a bonding experience. Sheldon didn't think that that was appositive.

Raj is talking to Bernadette since Howard and Sheldon were bonding over their miserable childhoods. Bernie is putting away Halley's clothes that she has out grown since their new baby is a boy. Raj tells her how modify some of the clothes for a son.

Sheldon and Howard are driving out to launch their rocket. Howard brought peanuts because a JPL, they always have peanuts around as a superstition to have a successful launch. Sheldon doesn't like the peanuts story if it's a superstition, but does like it if it's a tradition. So he wants to get the peanuts.

Penny answers the phone and is surprised to find out that Beverly called to talk to her. She enjoyed talking to Penny and wants to continue their conversation since she doesn't have a lot of girlfriends. All of her female colleagues are Freudians so all she can complain about is her father joked Beverly. Beverly then wants to talk about Penny's life. Penny wants them to find a tired girlfriend so they can trash talk her behind her back. Beverly wants to be catty. She starts that she finds Amy a bit dour. Meow.

Out in the desert, Howard is preparing the rocket while Sheldon photographs it. First they argue if the countdown should start T-minus or L-minus. When the countdown reaches zero, Howard ignites the launch sequence as the rocket blows up on the pad. Sheldon remarks that he thought they went higher. Howard is now upset because he thought this was the one thing he could do for his son. Sheldon finds the video he took when played in slow motion is neat. Howard exclaims that he doesn't know anything about raising a boy. Sheldon retorts asking him what he knows about raising a girl.

Penny gets a text from Beverly and tells him how she keeps contacting her. Leonard warns that she could be the subject of his mother's next book. It seems that they have really been supporting each other which bothers Leonard since she never did that with him. He was never proud of him.

Back in the desert, the guys are picking up what was left of the rocket. Sheldon is trying to cheer up Howard with reasons like, the launch was terrible, but the explosion was glorious. Sheldon hopes that he won't be mopey all the way home, so he thinks up an amazing trigonometry riddle.

Raj is working on some of Halley's old clothes and his attempt at putting a bat and two baseballs on it looks like the boys' tiny male organ. Bernadette is fine with having a son since she grew up with brothers.

Leonard goes over to talk to Amy who is working on her computer. He is worried that Penny and her mother are talking to each other like they are best friends. Amy assures him that they are since Amy is Penny's best friend. Leonard disagrees causing Amy to wonder if she has been neglecting their friendship. Each of them starts talking about their problem ignoring the other one. Amy concludes that she deserves her own life. Leonard walks out with no real solution.

Heading back home, Sheldon is worried that Howard's emotional problems will distract his driving. Howard adds that irritating passengers can cause the same thing. Sheldon asks if he can drive since he has a license. He barely passed his test, but the road was straight and no one was around. And Howard didn't seem to have a reason to live.

Leonard calls his mother who was expecting Penny. Leonard wants to know why she isn't proud of him. Of Penny and the rest of her children's spouses, she is the one she is most impressed with. She's confident, caring and doesn't complain about Leonard. She tells Leonard that he married well and she is proud of him for that reason. That drives Leonard to tears.

Sheldon is now driving Howard's car with Howard coaching him. Sheldon thinks that Howard is a good teacher and that his son is lucky to have him as a father. Sheldon then speeds up scaring Howard and ends up getting stopped by a police officer. He knows he was going 112 mph. After the officer asks Sheldon for his license, Sheldon just tells him to keep it.

The Collaboration Contamination

Season 11
Episode Number: 236
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Monday October 23, 2017
Writer: Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Nikki Lorre
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Efrain Gomez (Employee)
Production Code: T12.15605
Summary: Amy and Howard work in the lab together causing Sheldon, Bernadette and Raj to feel jealous and lonely. Penny and Leonard use a parenting book to control Sheldon's behavior.



During a group dinner with the gang, Bernadette thanks them for letting her put Halley in their room, even though she did throw up on Leonard's Ewok. Amy doesn't want any Ewoks in her bedroom and draws the line at Sheldon's Chewbacca. Amy is working on a way for controlling robotic limbs with brain waves. Howard makes a helpful suggestion and then agrees to work with Amy. He is the world's best engineer or so his coffee mug says.

Leonard comes down the hall and finds Penny reading a parenting book. No, she is not pregnant. Sheldon comes in

and wants a ride since Amy is working odd hours with Howard. Leonard said that it's fine since he has been driving him for years. Unfortunately Sheldon has a new car game where he imitates sirens.

Howard is drooling over all of Amy's fancy lab equipment and her coffee maker. He inspects her cap device that is used to map the brainwave output so she can control anything. Howard quips that from that ring on her finger, she has gotten good controlling robots. Amy warns him that that is her fiancé and she can control him to hurt Howard.

Leonard is getting a headache as Sheldon keeps imitating various sirens. Leonard finds it interesting that Amy is working together with Howard. Sheldon is neutral on the subject. Normally he tunes Amy out when she complains about her co-workers, but he joins right in complaining about Howard. He denies that he is jealous of Howard. The only engineer he is jealous about runs a train. Then Sheldon starts to imitate train whistles to Leonard's disdain.

Amy and Howard are working together when Sheldon shows up to check up on them. Amy was happy to see him. Sheldon starts blinking so that they can talk about Howard in front of him. Amy doesn't know Morse code and doesn't want to participate. Howard stand up and says that if you want to say something, say it in front of him, but Howard's Morse code is too rusty to understand Sheldon.

That night in 4A, Sheldon is complaining that Amy says that she will return at eightish which is too inaccurate for Sheldon. Penny invites Sheldon for dinner, but he declines. With Amy not home, Sheldon is frustrated. Penny says that it is okay to be frustrated using her new parenting skills. Sheldon agrees as Penny says that his feelings are valid. Penny continues. "Now go wash up and we'll call you when dinner is ready." Sheldon leaves happy. Leonard is amazed and asks if she was a witch. Penny explains that Bernadette's book works, but only up to age five. When Sheldon turns six, he plans on leaving him at the zoo.

Raj visits Bernadette and comes that Howard had been at work every night this week with his work wife. Bernie thought that Raj was his work wife. Raj wanted to know if there was anything he could do for her. Howard not been missing some of his chores since he was away. Raj reiterated that he meant emotionally. Howard is excited about his work and Bernie is proud of him, though is still pregnant and has a lot of work to do.

Amy gets home and Sheldon asks about her day until she mentions Howard. He plans to pamper her and gets her her notebook they had on the project THEY had been working on together. Sheldon wants them to work on it, while Amy is tired. Finally he bugs her enough that she agrees to work on it the morning. Sheldon gets mad and starts sounding like he is arguing about sex instead of science that obviously turns him on more.

Sheldon texts Leonard that he needs a ride to Bernadette's house. Penny goes to check the parenting book. The advice to give him options that are acceptable to oneself. Leonard gives Sheldon the options of driving him in two hours or taking an Uber. Sheldon chooses the Uber to both of their surprises.

Visiting Bernadette, Sheldon complains about them working together on a weekend. His presence is bothering Bernadette. Sheldon wants Howard to feel as angry as he is, so Bernie suggests that he make Howard jealous by doing something he loves to do. She tells him how much Howard loves to do chores. before that she asks if he ever read "Tom Sawyer". First she gets him to change the batteries in the smoke detectors.

While working on the software, Howard tells Amy to check the brain model. Inside was the playing card she had chosen earlier. Amy is ecstatic. While waiting for the software to compile, Howard suggests that they put on some Neil Sedaka. They start to sing and dance to "Calendar Girl". Raj catches them when they said that they were working. He wants Howard to go to the movies with him.

Back at Bernadette's, Sheldon has changed the batteries in the smoke detector and done the laundry. Sheldon thinks that Howard will be steamed like his shirts were. Next she has him clean the oven while she sits with her feet up eating ice cream out of the tub. Raj then shows up with his news about Howard and Amy having fun. Sheldon breaks in that Howard won't have any fun after he finds out Sheldon did all his favorite chores. Raj bursts that myth. Sheldon realizes that Bernie played on his own gullibility and would storm out, but he hasn't finished cleaning the oven yet.

Now complaining to Leonard and Penny about Bernadette; while Leonard explains that Amy and Howard working together is not a big deal. Sheldon is worried because Howard has Amy laughing and listening to music. Penny says that she is proud that he is expressing his feelings which calms Sheldon. Penny adds that everyone gets mad, even mommies and daddies. Leonard doesn't like the way Penny was handling Sheldon and then she starts learning her new parenting knowledge on Leonard. Leonard sounded frustrated, but Penny was proud of the way he was stating his opinion. He tells Penny not to use the book on him as Sheldon picks up on what's going on. He shouts that he won't be treated as a child and then storms out of the apartment.

Later Penny asks Leonard if that is the way he was going to handle their children by throwing her under the bus. He thought that she was just spoiling Sheldon. She claims that some things she is just smarter at. And no sex tonight.

Amy gets a text from Sheldon that he is upset with Leonard, Penny, Bernadette and Mark Twain. Bernadette told Howard that Raj was getting on her nerves. Amy thinks it is late and then tries to look at her watch which is now on her mounted skeleton. She is shocked and shouts "How is that even possible!" as Howard looks smug.

Raj is now hanging out with Sheldon planning to watch TV. Sheldon agrees and then tells Raj who the killer is.

The Proton Regeneration

Season 11
Episode Number: 237
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday November 2, 2017
Writer: Steven Molaro, Dave Goetsch, Alex Yonks, Dave Steve Holland, Andy Gordon, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Bob Newhart (Arthur Jeffries), Wil Wheaton (Himself), Pamela Adlon (Halley Wolowitz (voice)), Cat Hammons (Nurse), Joey Rich (Man)
Production Code: T12.15606
Summary: Sheldon goes head-to-head with Wil Wheaton for the role of the new Professor Proton. Meanwhile, Penny steps in and takes care of Halley when Bernadette and Wolowitz both wind up on bed rest.



At a typical take-out dinner fest in apartment 4A, Howard is scarfing down his meal since he has surgery in the morning. After siring two children, he is getting a vasectomy. Sheldon finds out that Professor Proton's children's science show is going to be remade and it needs a new host. Amy thinks that it would be nice to have woman. Sheldon snaps that they already have Ghostbusters and Dr. Who. Sheldon describes the best candidate as a scientist that he respects, a pleasant voice, symmetrical facial fea-

tures. Bernadette asks if he is talking about himself. Penny adds that if he is talking, he is talking about himself. Sheldon adds that as a child Professor Proton touched him, so it is his mission to touch as many children as possible.

Howard is nervously sitting in the waiting room. One gentleman coming out in pain doesn't help him. Bernadotte reminds hi, that it was his idea, He declines to have Bernadette come in with him and tells Raj to "sit down" as he volunteers.

In apartment 4B, Amy sets up the video camera for Sheldon's audition tape as the next Professor Proton. He demonstrates his interested, very interested and enraged facial expressions. He introduces himself in a monotone voice and then announces that he'll get into the character of Professor Proton who sound exactly the same. He then discussed his experiment to determine the mass of an electron that includes common items and some radioactive cobalt wire. Amy stops him and asks why he was doing an experiment that was life threatening which enrages Sheldon since he considered it a perfect take.

In the Wolowitzes' bedroom, Bernadette is helping a very sore Howard into bed for a couple of days of bed rest. Halley cries over their monitor. Bernadette leaves to check on her as Raj is reading that they need to check Howard's surgery for redness and swelling. In pain, Howard just tells Raj to do it.

At Leonard and Penny's place, they are all viewing Sheldon's audition video as Sheldon describes a complex mathematic process on his white board. Amy had told Sheldon that she loved

it though she thought it was dangerous and three to four times too long. Penny doesn't know what to say. Leonard told him that at least it looked like he was having fun. Sheldon objects because that was what Leonard would say after one of Penny's terrible plays. Hey! Amy then asked whether they found it borderline psychotic. Leonard adds that the original Professor Proton did not leave you feeling that you hated science and that he needs to stop showing his contempt for children. Sheldon calls it lying while Penny calls it acting. Sheldon realizes that he needs some help from an experience actor. Penny is flattered that he would consider her till Sheldon says that he meant Wil Wheaton. He goes over to his house and says that he needs an acting coach. Wil is happy to help until Sheldon asks for Patrick Stewart's phone number.

Bernadette hears a bell and finds that Howard downloaded a bell app. She takes his phone from him and tells him to come catch her. She is heading out for a doctor's appointment and is taking the baby. HE's hopes she is not over doing it and then asks for her to throw a couple of steaks on the grill. Bernadette stares at him and he then asks for Kum Pao Chicken.

Leonard, Penn and Amy are coming up the stairs with Amy mentioning that they cast the new Professor Proton. Was Sheldon cast? Amy says "Not exactly." as from her apartment you hear Sheldon shout, "WWHHEEAATTOONN!!!" Everyone heads back down the stairs.

Howard comes out of the bathroom and finds Bernadette in the bed. The doctor thought she was pushing herself too far and recommended bed rest for her too.

Sheldon is dreaming and again meets Professor Proton in his Jedi robes on another planet. Arthur asks whether Sheldon understands what "rest in peace" means. Sheldon explains that they are recasting Professor Proton which doesn't bother Arthur since he tells Sheldon that he is a figment of his imagination. Sheldon wants to protect the Professor's legacy which Arthur reminds him that he finished his series at 5:30 AM on a Sunday morning being beaten in the rating by Davy and Goliath. Arthur may not care; however, Sheldon will make Wil Wheaton rue the day they ever met. Arthur figures that that is true of everyone.

Penny checks in on the Wolowitzes. Halley cries so she offers to check on her since Raj had to go to work and was tired on Howard's Indian servant jokes. Penny offers to help out with her though they are reluctant since they don't think she is a baby person. Penny gets cross with them that she can watch their stupid baby. If she cries, she'll pick it up. If she is hungry, she'll give her a bottle. If she poops, she'll light incense. Besides she took care of the baby pigs back in Nebraska right up to the time they were slaughtered.

In the Caltech cafeteria, Raj and Leonard are discussing Howard's surgery. Sheldon is upset with all the great comments that Wil Wheaton is getting about being the new Professor Proton. Sheldon asks them to make some disparaging comments on the subject. Leonard feels that the important thing is to get kids interested in science. Sheldon doesn't want to be unfaithful to his friend and mentor Arthur Jefferies. Leonard just can't argue with him because he is crazy.

Back in the bedroom, Howard and Bernadotte are appreciating the quiet time in bed before they have two screaming babies in the house. Too quiet. They inquire to Penny who said that all is fine. She gave Halley a couple of drops of Bourbon on her pacifier and she is sleeping.

Sheldon approaches Wil Wheaton's house and asks him to give up the Professor Proton role especially since he is not a scientist. Wil replies that he wasn't on a starship and he kept pretending and got himself a swimming pool. Also, Wil retorts that Arthur Jeffries would probably be happy to know that his show outlived him. He also promised to make the show great and to inspire future kids to go into science. Sheldon is not persuaded and tells him that he is back on his enemies list and that they are no longer friends. Wil denies that it feels any different.

Penny is mixing up a bottle as Amy arrives. Penny wants to know if she is spying on her for Bernadette. Nope. Everyone else was worried. They don't think that Penny is irresponsible, just "fun-loving".

Up in the bedroom, the parents are getting hungry themselves. Bernadette reigns the bell app and Penny comes in. What? She complains about Amy stopping by. Howard says that even though she was a terrible waitress, they asked her to get a snack. The baby cries so penny leaves. Over the monitor Penny can be heard complaining to Halley about her parents. Then Halley says her first word and calls Penny, "Mama."

Back in Sheldon's dreams Sheldon tells Arthur that he failed him since Wil Wheaton, a non-scientist, was going to portray Professor Proton. Arthur wonders why they couldn't visit in a deli. Sheldon adds that Wil is permanently on his enemies list. Arthur wants to know if anyone can sign up for that list.

The Geology Methodology

Season 11
Episode Number: 238
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday November 9, 2017
Writer: Steven Holland, Anthony Del Broccolo, Adam Faberman, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski-Wolowitz), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), Swati Kapila (Ruchi), Elka Rodriguez (Rose Lady)
Production Code: T12.15607
Summary: Sheldon and Bert collaborate on a research project, despite Sheldon's embarrassment. Also, Penny and Bernadette coach Koothrappali on how to navigate his relationship with Ruchi.



The guys are in the cafeteria, where Raj suggests that they hang out at a bar and watch cricket with doesn't excite the others. Bert comes over and after some geology jests asks Sheldon to work with him. He has some meteorites that whose neutrino signatures might help detect dark matter. Sheldon declines even though the other guys find his project interesting and tell Sheldon that Bert is tops in his field. Unfortunately Sheldon just considers it geology.

Howard and Raj are watching cricket with a multi-ethnic crowd. Howard keeps making wise cracks and them notices Ruchi in bar. She couldn't find anyone to join her to watch the cricket match so she

joined Raj and Howard. Raj finds out that Ruchi is as big a fan as he is.

Bert and Sheldon are working in Bert's office on the math for Bert's project. Sheldon has a dark matter model that uses a theoretical particle called the Cooper Boson. Sheldon finds the work they are doing surprisingly engaging. Amy calls him and wants to know where he is. Sheldon claims that he is in his office; however, Amy is outside it having brought him dinner since he was working late. Sheldon runs over to her exhausted and then says that he is ready to have dinner with her surprising Amy.

Sheldon comes into apartment 4A and announces that he need to talk to Penny alone. Leonard is happy to retreat to his bedroom. Sheldon explains that he is doesn't want others to find out that he is working in geology; however, he finds the work fascinating. Penny alternating tells him to work with Bert and to quit no giving Sheldon a resolution. Even though his problem is about science, Sheldon came to Penny because she still holds her head high despite her checkered past. She was quite sexually promiscuous. Penny then tells him to go be sexually promiscuous with himself in round about terms.

Sitting at the kitchen table, Howard wants to divide the work up with Stuart and asks if he wants the baby monitor or Bernadette's monitor who is on bed rest. He suggests the baby's device since she is less emasculating. Raj enters happily announcing that he had breakfast at Ruchi's apartment. They has spent the night though Raj didn't sleep because he didn't want to snore. Bernadette then calls for Howard to help her in the bathroom. He quips that at least the romance is still alive and leaves. Stuart is happy for Raj, but he knows that Raj is going to screw it up, so Raj ends up talking to Penny. She also doesn't believe that Raj can handle a causal relationship. Raj and Ruchi are having dinner tonight. Penny tells him that every time he starts to plan their wedding, he should stab himself with a fork.

Back at the cafeteria, Leonard asks about Bernadette and her bed rest. Howard sighs and says that she yells at him all day and lies their eating Mallomars; thus completely the transformation into his mother. Bert stops by to return Sheldon's jacket that he left in his office. Sheldon first denies that he was there and then admits that he is working in geology, but doesn't want that fact spread around. Bert is shock that Sheldon is ashamed of his field so he stops working with Sheldon.

Ruchi is having dinner with a nervous Raj. He yells at the woman selling flowers to couples because he is trying to keep things causal. She wonders if Raj wants to continue, though she does find him very funny. raj asks about her day as he starts dreaming about her looking very sexy while talking about medicinal side effects.

Amy enters apartment 4B and finds Sheldon contemplating a rock. Sheldon asks Amy what he should do if he wants to do something that will people think less of him. Amy reminds him that he has never cared what other people thought even though maybe he should have. been doing that all his life. She cites the example of dinner with her parents where he kept telling "your Momma" jokes. Amy tells him that if he finds the work interesting he should continue and not care what other people think. Sheldon says that that is sage advice with pleases Amy until he tells another "your Momma" joke" and she gets mad and heads to the bedroom.

Ruchi is explaining how she was suppose to return to India to get married and instead moved out to California. She doesn't expect to find true love or a soul mate which Raj truly believes in. Love is just the correct biochemical reactions to Ruchi who believes in science. She still believes in enjoying the experience; however, Raj objects that considering it so clinically takes away for the spiritual experience.

Sheldon returns to Bert's office to apologize. Bert finds the situation awkward because he was now working with some else. Leonard. Leonard explains that they stopped working together because Sheldon was being a jerk and that Leonard feels that he can learn a lot from Bert. Sheldon begs Bert to take him back and that he will behave better. Bert closes the door in his face.

Raj is talking to Howard an Bernadotte telling that Ruchi is so nice yet they are so different. Howard says that he's dated girls that don't even like juggling. Bernadette adds that they still don't. Raj sighs that he doesn't know if they can keep having a physical relationship since they can't have a spiritual one. Howard replies that she is someone who is just interested in sex. Yes! Bernadette wants him to thinks about it; Howard says to wait a minute. Raj realizes that she is a beautiful woman who wants to keep having sex with him, so he runs off.

Finally, Bert and Leonard enter the cafeteria and Sheldon daydreams about Bert in the same way Raj did about Ruchi. He wants to keep working with him.

The Tesla Recoil

Season 11
Episode Number: 239
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 16, 2017
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Maria Ferreri, Jeremy Howe
Director: Anthony Rich
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Swati Kapila (Ruchi), Dean Norris (Colonel Richard Williams)
Production Code: T12.15608
Summary: Leonard and Wolowitz are furious after they learn Sheldon went to work with the military behind their backs. Also, while Bernadette is on bed rest, she asks Raj to do some digging when she suspects Ruchi is trying to steal her job.



The gang is waiting in apartment 4A for Sheldon to show up so they can watch a movie. Sheldon finally shows up after Amy finished tying his shoe. The movie of the night is a documentary after the rivalry between Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison. Penny that Tesla invented the electric car which causes snickering. Penny then reminds Sheldon that he went to see the movie It because he thought it was about I.T (Information Technology) guys. Tesla was the genius who invented the alternating current system that all our current electrical distribution is based on. They felt that Edison was too self-promoting. He also electro-

cuted an elephant named Topsy and was the first pornographer accounting to Sheldon because he filmed the first kiss. What? Also when Sheldon starts to talk science, he really gets Amy's current alternating.

Then day Penny admits that that documentary wasn't too bad. Sheldon shows up and asks for a ride to work. Leonard asks Sheldon if they want out go see the Tesla coil at the observatory, but Sheldon is busy. He can't tell him because it's classified, but Leonard figures out that it's for the military. Leonard also warns him that he better not be working on their gyroscope project that the Air Force took from them last season.

While Bernadette is resting in bed, Raj and Ruchi shoe up to visit and brought a plant from work. Bernie says none of the girls like her enough to send her a gift. Ruchi tells her to not worry and she doesn't have to return soon. She gets peeved and is certain that Ruchi is after her job while she is stuck at home taking care if her useless plant and her dumb family. Howard thinks that she sounds a little crazy.

Howard is concern about Sheldon working with the military so they call Colonel Williams. He tells them that Sheldon had contacted him that using their guidance system, he could develop a

new type of communications system. Sheldon also told the Colonel that he was the leader of the team. As Howard and Leonard start to object, he cuts off their call.

Bernie asks Raj to come and see her. She wants to ask him something and it's not to be her birth coach. She needs to know if Ruchi is trying to steal her projects while she is at home on bed rest. Raj says that she isn't like that, but they she is also sleeping with him. If she is, then she needs to explain to her that boundaries need to be respected and that it is really the best thing for the company. Raj gets really creeped out the way she was saying it.

At Sheldon and Amy's they are deciding what to watch, Sheldon doesn't want to see any comedy or drama because he already saw Amy stump her toe and he found it funny. Leonard and Howard come in complain to Sheldon that he went behind their backs. He had an idea about a neutrino based communications system based on their earlier work. Leonard refutes Sheldon's idea that he is a rebel like Tesla, and that he is like Edison taking credit for their work. Howard and Leonard claim to be the Teslas of the group and they leave. Amy agrees with them, so Sheldon asks what that make her. Amy has not idea, so Sheldon goes off to Google some bad stuff about Mrs. Edison.

Later Sheldon is blaming the problem on his mother who insisted that he go make friends. Amy doesn't think Sheldon understand the problem. Then Sheldon asks her how she would feel if he called her a neuroscientist that she didn't like, if he could think of one. Amy thinks that Sheldon is upset that his friends' feelings are hurt.

Raj and Ruchi are in bed together. Raj wants to bump fists with her because the sex was good and she wants to just be friends. Ruchi doesn't want to get weird. At work, Ruchi is glad to handle all of Bernadette's project and hopes that she is not back to soon.

Talking to Penny, Raj feels that Ruchi is trying to take over Bernadette's projects. Penny insists that he should tell Bernadette; however, Raj is worried about Ruchi ending their causal relationship.

Howard is now complaining to Leonard about Sheldon and claimed that they didn't even need him. He did admit that it was a great idea to use their quantum technology for a new communications system. Leonard then gets the idea to swap out the helium gas with xenon to improve it more. Leonard wants to tell Sheldon, but he doesn't deserve it though they still need someone to help them with the math.

Bringing Bernie a food tray, Raj explains that it sounds like Ruchi is already trying to take over Bernadette's work. Also she is parking in Bernie's palace can calling her Pregadnette at work. Bow she want to kill Ruchi, but Raj tells her that she would have done the same thing. Bernadette claims that the cat incident was a harmless prank that got her a corner office. Raj tells he rot look in the mirror at her hypocrisy as he storms out. Bernie only sees her luxurious hair.

Howard and Leonard are working with Kripke on the math portion of their new idea. Sheldon comes in and finds them working with his rival. They tell him that they are improving on his idea, which thrills Kripke. Sheldon them as he says that there is a big gap in their system. He wipes away some of their calculations and runs out.

Again in bed with Ruchi, she mentions that Bernadette isn't returning any if her texts. Raj suggests that she is bid jealous of her and also hormonal. Dis Raj say something to her? Raj claims to have defended her. Ruchi gets mad that she doesn't need defending and that Raj isn't her boyfriend. Raj says that they are in to deal with it. Ruchi then dumps him. Bernadette feels for him because he is alone and because she no longer has a spy.

Looking over their project, Leonard and Howard really feel that it will work. Sheldon comes in and congratulates them that the Air Force has dropped his project in favor of theirs. The guys are perplexed since they haven't yet talk to Colonel Williams. Going to see Kripke, they ask him if he had screwed them over. Kripke can't say anything because it's classified.

In 4A, they are all complaining, especially about Sheldon who should have come to Howard and Leonard first. Amy thinks that they all behaves badly. Sheldon objects that Amy's social skills are very poor. Penny tells that maybe they are more like the guy that didn't invent the electric car and less like the guy that didn't invent the light bulb. Maybe they're all Teslas! Amy adds that he died broke and insane. Howard agrees with Sheldon about Amy's social skills.

The Bitcoin Entanglement

Season 11
Episode Number: 240
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 30, 2017
Writer: Steve Holland, Andy Gordon, Jeremy Howe, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Brian Thomas Smith (Zack Johnson), Eric Normington (Man)
Production Code: T12.15609
Summary: Sheldon tries to teach the guys a lesson after they cut him out of a potentially valuable Bitcoin investment. Also, a seven-year-old video reveals a secret about Leonard and Penny's relationship.



The guys enter the comic book store as Raj is wondering why they are making four new "Avatar" movies. Stuart announces a special where if someone buys something, they will still have a comic book store to visit. Sheldon starts a conversation on Bitcoins that are now worth \$5,000 a piece. Seven years ago the guys minus Sheldon mined some Bitcoins using Howard's old laptop. Stuart insists that he remember mining them with him so that he can be in the windfall.

Flashback: Entering the old comic book store seven years ago, the guys are talking about the new "Avatar" movie and that Leonard and Penny had just started

dating again. Howard is talking to his mother while Sheldon wonders why Leonard was there and not having coitus with Penny. Leonard is worried if Penny is going to stay with him or breakup again. Stuart approaches and Sheldon asks him if he accepts the new virtual coinage Bitcoins. He describes how one has to solve complex mathematical problems to earn the coinage. The guys are totally into spending a whole night trying to accumulate the Bitcoins. Stuart doesn't join it because it is too rich for his blood and Sheldon doesn't because he is worried about the tax implications.

Present, Sheldon had been telling the story. Raj finishes that Sheldon warned them that someday they would regret it though the guys didn't because they thought they were rich.

In Halley's room, Howard gets out his old laptop from 2010. Raj wants to buy a tiger, while Howard might not tell his wife. Bernadette can hear him over the baby monitor. Howard doesn't find the Bitcoins, but there is a lot of Asian porn on it.

Flashback: Leonard, Howard and Raj are doing manly thins by "mining" on the internet in Howard's old bedroom. His mom wants to make sure that they aren't roughhousing. Scientists don't roughhouse. "Excuse me, Mr. Grown-up." Exclaims Debbie Wolowitz. Then the laptop crashes due to all the Asian p... music. Leonard offers to finish using his laptop, but they don't get started until after they have the cookies Mrs. Wolowitz baked.

Back in Halley's room, they realize that they have to check Leonard's old laptop. Bernie yells at them asking where they are going sounding like her late mother-in-law. Answer, off to find Leonard's computer.

Penny, Sheldon and Amy are in apartment 4A discussing wedding plans. The wedding on a cliff overlooking the sea is off due to Sheldon's objections to the beach, cliff and the outdoors. The important thing about a wedding is to do it in front of your friends and family and to never move back into her apartment according to Penny. The guys storm in looking for Leonard's old computer. Sheldon then relates what happened to it.

Flashback: Penny and Bernadette are working at the Cheesecake Factory and Bernadette will not wait on Penny's table, where there sits an annoying person. There sits pre-Sheldon Amy on a date. She has Penny take their picture and then tells her date to leave. She can now prove to her mother that she was on a date. She also asks for Penny's name in case she needs a witness. "Bernadette". Checking on the guys, Raj is still not able to talk to women. Penny lost an audition because she didn't get the email since her computer is broken. Leonard gives her his computer since she is getting a new one.

Back in 4A, Penny remembers that what Leonard did and still thinks that that is so sweet. Unfortunately she gave it to Zack. Leonard thinks that it was thoughtful to give away his gift; however, she and Penny were broken up at the time. Penny calls Zack to get it as the group goes through a history of all their couple break ups. They even named Leonard and Penny's.

Flashback: Penny and Bernadette are at the Cheesecake Factory discussing her break up with Howard, he had been doing all this weird stuff online. Penny was broken up with Leonard and runs off with Zack.

As the Hofstadters leave 4A, Penny can't believe that Leonard is mad about her giving away his laptop. He claims not to be mad, but Penny can see it in his eyebrows.

At Zack's apartment, Zack is glad to see them and that they should do this more often. Pick up laptops? Totally! Leonard is still upset that she went back to Zack so quickly. Zack insists that she kept talking after Leonard and was hooked on him because they were so much alike. They were both... people. Zack then adds that he knows how much she was hooked on him because of the video she left on his laptop.

Flashback: Drunk Penny is on Leonard's laptop in her old place. Penny wants to leave Leonard a message to give him an explanation on their breakup. Sheldon knocks on the door and Penny says to go away since she is making a video. Sheldon wants to know why she went out with him in the first place. Because he is great and if she kept going out they would have eventually got married, that was scary and she wasn't ready for that. Also she would have to learn to spell Hofstadter. She asks Sheldon what to do. He replies that she should pass out face down so that she won't choke on her vomit. Penny then does just that. She lies there for two more hours and then falls off the chair.

At Zack's apartment, Leonard is touched that she loved him so much. Penny adds that she did marry him.

The couple return to their apartment with the computer. Raj is not planning on paying his father back for all the money he gave him. On the computer, Howard can't find their coinage. Penny is sure that Zack didn't steal it. Sheldon asks them where it might be. Amy tells him to confess. Sheldon downloaded it and shifted to Leonard's Batman flash drive. He wanted to see him sweat and waited seven years to see it. Leonard lost that key chain years ago. Sheldon considers that unfortunate, but he feels everybody learned a lesson today. Amy asks him what the lesson is and Sheldon shakes his head.

Flashback: In the old comic book store four years ago, Stuart is cleaning up and finds a Batman flash driver. He plans to erase it and sell it.

The Confidence Erosion

Season 11

Episode Number: 241

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday December 7, 2017
Writer: Bill Prady, Maria Ferrari, Adam Faberman, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Nicole J. Butler (Clerk), Marissa Cuevas (Danielle), Brian George (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali)
Production Code: T12.15610
Summary: Sheldon and Amy try to eliminate stress from wedding planning by applying math to the process ending up at city hall. Also, Raj "breaks up" with Howard after realizing his best friend is actually hurting his confidence.



At girls' night at Amy's apartment, Amy and Penny agree that it is nice to be at home doing nothing. While Skyping, Bernadette claims that it's not any different than her other thirty days of bed rest. Raj shows up at the door to ask some fashion advice... um... from Penny. He has a job interview at the Griffith planetarium since they are looking for an astrophysicist. Amy asks Bernadette if she thought Raj would be good at that, but she then denies that she is watching "The Crown". Amy says that he needs to pick something that he feels confident in. Raj retorts that he left his magic clothes at home. They don't like either of his outfits

and Raj doubts that he is even going to get the job. He was very confident when he got here from India. Howard comes onto the computer screen and makes some cracks about Raj being at girls' night.

At the cafeteria, the guys are discussing the Shamy wedding plans. They are using mathematical decision theory to assign random tasks to each other. Raj shows up in a dark suit ready for his afternoon interview. Howard tells him that if it doesn't work out he can always be a Mormon missionary. Leonard is sure that he will get the job. Raj wished that Howard would be a little more supportive. Howard then cracks that if he was, Raj could bury him at the funeral home he directs.

Later in his office Raj calls his father. His interview wasn't great. When they asked his greatest weakness, he talked on that point for 45 minutes. His father blames Raj's problems on his friends and Howard who is always making fun of him. Raj says that he is just like that and comes from a very sarcastic village called Brooklyn. His father was in a bad relationship where he always felt bad about himself. Raj's mother. He suggest to feel good to find a pretty 22 year old grad student and that his confidence will soar.

Amy and Sheldon are choosing wedding tasks on an on-line slot machine. Amy gets invitations. Yes! Sheldon suggests holographic invitations projected out of R2D2. Amy wants English calligraphy on Egyptian papyrus. Sheldon gets ring bearer and wants R2D2. They both agree that planning their wedding is fun when others say that it is a chore. Raj is talking about his interview with Leonard and Penny. He got so nervous that he just kept apologizing. Penny suggests a therapist, but Leonard shoots down Raj's suggestion of his mother Beverly. Raj mentions his father comments about Howard and Leonard then agrees. Penny disagrees and says that just what friends do. Leonard tells Penny that she is mean to him sometimes. Raj adds that they are both being disrespected, but Leonard is still willing to take it.

The Shamy wedding planners have Amy arriving in a Little House on the Prairie wagon met by an honor guard of Star Wars storm troopers. Amy wonders about the space Nazis so Sheldon suggests she arrive in Luke Skywalker's land speeder. Sheldon then wants to exchange ushers for the first dance which he eliminates. Amy then changes the confetti to releasing butterflies. Airborne worms? No! Then they start to make suggestion that they know the other won't like. Toasts in Latin. Vows in Klingon. The flower girl becomes a dog.

Howard enters Raj office so they can go to lunch. Raj declines and Howard makes a chubby joke. Raj exclaims that that is the problem, that Howard is always making jokes at his expense. Howard insists that it is just I his way and means that they are friends. Raj is tired of 15 years of ridicule. He thinks that they need to take a break from each other. Howard asks if he can see other needy Indian men and Raj yells at him to get out. At the cafeteria, Sheldon keeps coming up with wedding plans that Amy will hate. He wants everyone to get rings and for them to get the ring that rules them all ala Lord of the rings. Raj comes by and then sits by himself. Howard says that he is sorry, but Raj won't accept that after years of emotional abuse. Leonard goes over to talk to him so he doesn't have to hear anymore of Sheldon's insane wedding chatter.

Sheldon comes home to tell Amy that he has decided on an asbestos centerpiece. Amy claims that they were going to end up with a wedding that neither of them will enjoy. So she proposes that they just go down to City Hall and get married. Sheldon surprises her by suggesting the next day. Then the next time they get intimate it will be an official requirement of being married. Or Sheldon suggests the Beverly Hills city hall if she wants to make it a destination wedding.

Leonard comes out and was surprised when Penny compliments him. After being mean to him Penny is trying to be nice to him. Raj joins them and has let his hair go natural instead of straightening it to blend in in America. He was in the mood to celebrate since he went back to the planetarium, was confident and charming and got the job since the first applicant didn't work out. Leonard and Penny congratulated him. Raj doesn't want to see Howard because he didn't want to be around his negative energy around him.

Howard stops by the comic book store. The gang isn't with him and the store is empty. He mentioned his falling out with Raj and how he thinks his making fun of him was ruining his confidence. Stuart says that he never blames others for his problems. Howard wants to hang out there and Stuart wants him to make fun of him.

Sheldon and Amy get their marriage license and go to sit down to wait for the officiate. Sheldon wonders why the clerk doesn't want a blood test to see if they had syphilis. Sheldon can't believe how the year is ending strong since they were getting married AND the new Star Wars movie is coming out. Amy doesn't want to ask which his favorite was. They are called in. Amy says that she can't believe they they will go in there Dr. Cooper and Dr. Fowler and will come out a married couple, Dr. Cooper and Dr. Fowler. Sheldon changes his mind that he wants to have a first dance with his new wife. Amy reminds him that that planning the wedding makes them fight. Sheldon is so astonished that he found Amy (much like dark matter) . It was such a discovery that he wants to tell the whole world whether it is in Latin, Klingon or smoke-signals. Sheldon wants to do it right. Amy agrees so they decide to plan a real wedding. Though while they are all dressed up at City Hall, Sheldon does want to get a hazardous waste disposal permit.

Raj is finishing his show at the planetarium with the gang in the audience. Penny admits that she has never seen science so interesting even though Leonard talks about science all the time. Amy talks Sheldon out of giving Raj constructive criticism. Raj is sweating too much for Penny to give him a hug, so he gets a high five. Leonard sees Howard hiding in the back. He was hiding out since he didn't know if he was welcomed. Leonard talks him into saying hello until he sees that Raj gets a woman comes up and asks him to have coffee with her. Raj says that it is too late for coffee. Penny walks in between them telling him to change it to decaf and off they go together.

The Celebration Reverberation

Season 11
Episode Number: 242
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday December 14, 2017
Writer: Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Alex Ayers, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Pamela Adlon (Halley)
Production Code: T12.15611
Summary: Sheldon and Wolowitz plan birthday celebrations for Amy and Halley, respectively. Also, Leonard receives a Christmas letter from his brother that causes him to spiral out about his own lack of accomplishments.



While Howard, Leonard and Sheldon are looking through the comic book rack, Sheldon inquires whether Stuart has the new Aquaman comic and whether he can smoke some meat in his back room. He is planning a historically accurate western meal for Amy's birthday since she love "Little House on the Prairie". Leonard thinks that it's weird that he is suddenly getting into Aquaman. Sheldon want to start reading the aquatic superhero before he suddenly becomes cool. Leonard asks about Halley's birthday and Howard isn't planning anything since Bernadette is on bed rest and he is lazy. Raj enters

the shop, greets the guys and barely acknowledges Howard. Howard calls Raj a baby and Raj reacts telling him to grow up. Stuart pleads with them to stop fighting until he learns that Raj is letting him use his extra ticket to the new Star Wars movie. Stuart changes his opinion to that Howard and Raj had a good run together.

in the Caltech cafeteria, Raj asks Sheldon and Leonard whether they want to see "The Last Jedi" again that night. Sheldon does so he can catch the parts he missed while he was blinking. A exhausted Howard shows up announcing that Halley will have a birthday party because anyone who is not a heartless monster and Bernadette would want one. He gives Leonard and Sheldon invitations and doesn't invite Raj. Sheldon is planning to come, but doesn't like those sugary flowers on birthday cakes. Howard doesn't invite Raj and doesn't think that it means a thing that he is Halley's godfather. Raj quickly leaves.

Penny enters the Hofstadter apartment reading a letter, the Christmas letter from Leonard's brother telling about their great life making Leonard feel bad. Sheldon enters carrying a butter churn for his dinner for Amy and wants to store it in 4A. Penny quips that she already got Amy one of those things. He is making hardtack, boiled salt pork and a gob of chew-able tree sap. And afterwards they will have their annual birthday coitus. Penny wonders if their sex will be historically accurate. Leonard assumes that like frontier life, it will be exhausting and short. Sheldon calls Leonard exhausting and short and then leaves.

At [[the comic book store] Howard runs in and invites Stuart to the party which is obvious since he lives there. Howard asks him to bring a few things: s, strea, rs, ice, w—snack, , a bou, a house, w—face, inter and some kid and some kids from the "Daddy and Me" class that he never attended. They had gone to the movies. Stuart tells him to not stress about the party since Halley will never remember it. Stuart still says that he'll help him out.

Amy returns home and finds all the lights out. Sheldon is using candles and tells Amy that he doesn't know what electricity is since he is a farm boy from a little house on the prairie. Amy screams in excitement. She thinks that everything is perfect. Though tomorrow is her birthday, tonight she get's her authentic frontier dinner from scratch. Amy hugs Sheldon calling it amazing. Amy sits down because she is starving. Sheldon even churned his own butter, though there is very little of it and it took him nine hours to make. Amy is so excited; she doesn't think she can wait until midnight to have sex with him. Sheldon replies that she will be glad to have waited because everyone knows that the best foreplay is an adherence to a strict schedule.

Penny returns from work and finds Leonard wanting to make their Christmas letter. He wants to make a list of the cool things they did that year. Penny starts that their jobs are going great though Leonard lost their project to the Air Force and Penny hates her job. "Still employed" starts the list. Then they had their second anniversary, which they forgot to celebrate. "Still married," was then added. They also almost went to the beach and almost went to the mountains.

Howard shows up at Raj's new place to invite Raj and then asks him to plan the party. Stuart was having a colonoscopy at the free clinic since an appointment opened up. Raj is insulted that Howard would only apologize because he needed something. Raj will do it, but only for Halley because she is his goddaughter.

Amy finishes her meal and declines any more. There is plenty of pork fat left over though they could turn it into soap. Amy thinks that that might taste better. Amy moves over to the couch as Sheldon wants to go to stage 2, the pitching of woo. He has some bawdy nineteenth century limericks which Amy interrupts asking if it was getting hot in the room. She wonders if there was something wrong with the food since her stomach felt weird. Sheldon is starting to feel bad too and wonders if it is sexual arousal. He runs off to the bathroom to get sick as Amy heads for the kitchen sink.

Howard comes out onto the porch and finds Raj working on an almost completed party. He can believe what Raj did overnight. Raj reminds him that he did it for Halley. Howard adds that he is sure that she appreciates it if she knew what was going on and who he was.

In their bedroom, a still sick Sheldon wishes an also sick Amy a happy birthday. Neither had slept the previous night. Sheldon asks if she wanted to make love. Amy only wants to do it if he doesn't touch her. Sheldon says, "Fine", pauses a moment and then asks if she wants to do it again.

Penny comes out in the morning and finds Leonard working on their Christmas letter list. He had added "Kept fern alive" and "Assembled "IKEA furniture." Penny doubted that brown plant was still alive. And she thinks that their lives are great, so why is it bothering Leonard? He thinks that they are stuck in their lives. They are married two years and should move ahead to buying a house or having a kid. Penny is happy with staying thin and putting money in the bank. So what do they want to do next? How about a big trip? Instead they decide to go to Catalina Island. Sheldon then runs in to use the bathroom since Amy is already in theirs.

At the party, Howard learns that Bernadette's sister's kids are sick and aren't coming. Bernadette calls down and asks how the party is coming. Great? Raj wonders where all the "Daddy and Me" kids were.

Back in the sick room, Sheldon just remembers that he left all the food out. Amy says sarcastically wondering if it was going to go good. Amy lists all her symptoms and Sheldon comments that he is feeling better too.

Sitting alone at a table, Howard calls the party a disaster. Raj complains that he called in a lot of favors to get a Wonder Woman bouncy house. Then he admits that it is a Chinese knock-off called Happy Strong Swimsuit Lady. Raj then climbs into the bouncy house just to have it used to celebrate Halley's birthday. Howard joins him and starts to argue with him. Howard is stressed and Raj worked hard. Raj pushes Howard down who jumps up and pushes Raj. Howard is angry about Raj walking out on their friendship, Raj complains about Howard making fun of him all these years. As they get in a shoving match, they find it fun and make up in the process.

Later the gang is at the party while Sheldon and Amy arrived fully recovered. Bernadette calls

them all upstairs because Halley is now awake. Sheldon and Amy stay. Sheldon mentions that it is still Amy's birthday and that the bouncy house is empty. He suggests using it and then finding an unused bedroom upstairs to have their annual love making celebration. Amy agrees as they head for the bouncy house.

The Matrimonial Metric

Season 11
Episode Number: 243
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 4, 2018
Writer: Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Andy Gordon
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Production Code: T12.15612
Summary: To discover who would be most qualified to be best man and maid of honor at their wedding, Sheldon and Amy subject their friends to a series of secret experiments. Also, Penny reveals her true feelings about Amy.



Driving over to Wolowitz's Amy asks Sheldon not to discuss their wedding plans since Amy hasn't decided on a maid of honor. They decide on code words to use in case they want to direct the topic of discussion away from their wedding. Sheldon has catamaran while Amy chooses pretzels.

At Howard and Bernadette's Howard and Raj are installing a baby gate while they are baby proofing his house. Penny wonders why they didn't baby proofed the liquor cabinet. Howard tells Amy that Bernadette would be glad to be her maid of honor to return the favor. Amy then asks Sheldon to tell his pretzel story.

Sheldon keeps messing it up and then tries to leave, but can't because the front door was baby proofed.

Amy walks into their apartment with an arm load of bridal magazines that Bernadette gave her making her aid of honor decision even harder. Sheldon's mother wants Sheldon to use his brother George as his best man. He doesn't want to disappoint her again since he rejected her savior and her LinkedIn invitation. Amy wants to know how to make these decisions without hurting her friends. Sheldon suggest that they take the emotional component out of the process and let their data make the decisions. Amy describes it as make hurting each other's friends without taking responsibility. "Me Likey," she exclaims. They plan on breaking down the wedding party jobs into specific functions and test their friends as to who does them best.

Later in apartment 4A, Leonard announces that he is writing a book. It about a brilliant physicist who solves crimes using science. No, it's not about Sheldon. Their dinner contained the wrong type of rice that Howard called about thus getting his points for handling a catering crisis. Next Sheldon asks for a toast and them asks for someone to make one waiting patiently.

Later Penny walks in on Shamy to bring a sewing kit they asked for, very promptly getting high marks. They claim to need the kit since Sheldon split his pants bending over. Penny tells him he'll be sore tomorrow as she leaves. Penny got fifteen points, while Bernadette is shipping

them a sewing kit through Amazon. Then Sheldon suggests that they do not specify the roles by gender and test everyone for every job. So they might have a best woman and a gentleman of honor.

Loyalty test: Amy tries to confide in a secret to Raj about Howard who will have nothing to do with it. Sheldon is bringing a meal to bedridden Bernadette and tells her a secret that she can't tell anyone including Howard. She agrees. Sheldon can control Leonard's thermostat with his phone.

Getting to the church on time: Sheldon rushes into Leonard and wants to immediately go to the train store in Arcadia. Leonard tells him to see a doctor.

How well do our friends know us?: Amy talks to Penny about her favorite Aunt who Penny does seem to know about.

How do they deal with cold feet? Howard gets tested by Sheldon on whether he should buy a Swamp Thing statue.

Penny walks in on Leonard who is working on a brain teaser on a seating chart arrangement which he finds fun. Penny received the same puzzle from Amy and threw it away. Raj and Howard come in arguing about the same puzzle. Howard thinks that they are acting strange, but Leonard thinks that they were always that way. Raj also had to drive Sheldon all the way to the Arcadia train store and he didn't even go in. All four of them were given plastic rings that they were told to hold onto.

Sheldon and Amy are tallying up results when the gang breaks in on them demanding to know if they are testing them to be in their wedding. "Yes/No!" Leonard tells him that he didn't even want to be his best man. Howard admits that he figured out that they were being tested and he gets extra points for it.

Sheldon enters the comic book store as Stuart offers to sell him a cappuccino which someone had left. Sheldon mentions that no one wants to be his best man and that it might have to use his stupid brother. Stuart offers to do it and Sheldon accepts. Stuart has never been called the best anything and he also gets a present from the groom.

In the cafeteria, Leonard is still working on the seating puzzle. Sheldon comes over to apologize saying that he violated their trust. He tells them that Stuart is his best man and they are still all invited to the bachelor party at Costco. Leonard tells him that it's his wedding and he should pick whoever he wants and not to worry about anyone else. Sheldon has been training for this all his life.

Leonard comes in finding Penny fixing Mac and nothing since she spelled the cheese packet. He tells Penny about Sheldon's apology and that he is now Sheldon's best man. He adds that Amy is her best friend and that she'll also get chosen. Penny objects that they aren't twelve anymore even though they talk all the time, see each other all the time and Amy is always there for her—OMG, she realizes that Amy IS her best friend. Then she gets pissed that her best friend didn't ask her to be her maid of honor.

Howard is telling Amy that despite what she did was wrong and cruel, Bernadette finds it oddly appealing. If Amy calls her, she'll do anything in the wedding party. Penny comes storming in saying that rushes to hug Penny ecstatically shouting, "BESTIE!!"

At Wolowitz's Sheldon apologizes to Stuart, but he was best man for two whole days. Sheldon offers him the job of flower girl until they remind him that they have Halley. Howard hasn't yet told Bernadette that she isn't going to be maid of honor. Amy volunteers which is fine with Penny. Amy reminds Penny that as maid of honor, she should try and make the bride's life easier. Penny begrudgingly says "Fine", but first wants Howard to unlock the liquor cabinet.

The Solo Oscillation

Season 11
Episode Number: 244
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 11, 2018
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Anthony Del Broccolo, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), Pamela Adlon (Halley Wolowitz (voice)), Jeffrey C. Brown (Toby)
Production Code: T12.15613
Summary: When Sheldon kicks Amy out to work solo, she and Leonard bond during a series of science experiments. Also, Bert the geologist replaces Wolowitz in the band Footprints on the Moon, and Sheldon finds Penny a surprising source of scientific inspiration.



While the gang is having dinner in Leonard and Penny's place, Raj walks in triumphant with copies of that day's newspapers. Leonard accuses him of slipping back into the 1990's. Raj tells them that the paper reviewed his planetarium show, though it was just in the column under things to do that weekend. Penny just makes a boat that she turns it into a hat. Amy adds that her and Howard's project has been written up in a journal. Leonard and Bert are also making progress on their meteorite project. Sheldon gets defensive they ask what he was working on.

Returning to their apartment, Amy wants to know what is going on. Sheldon was upset that he was currently not working on anything. Amy suggests that he take time and try to refocus and find something that excites him. He replies that he doesn't know what he would do without him, and then he kicks her out of the apartment.

Amy enters apartment 4A asking off she could hang out since Sheldon wants some alone time to work. She is offer to watch TV with them, but first she has to medicate her sinuses which disgusts them.

Howard and Raj are getting ready to have band practice. They start playing "Sherlock Around the Clock", when Bernadette calls down and tells them to keep the noise down. Starting to play quieter, they still wake up Halley and Howard is told to go get some diapers by his wife. He still motions to Raj that he thought they were rocking.

Sheldon is getting organized to work when the phone rings greatly disturbing him. It's his mother who wants him to guess who she met at the barbecue festival. Sheldon complains that he is busy, she retorts as to why he answered the phone. Sheldon tries to start working at his whiteboard with no results so he calls his mother back. She tells him who she met and he thinks about his work for a minute and then calls her back starts to discuss the gentleman she met.

The next day Raj is having lunch with Leonard who had fun with Amy when he found out that she was also a spelling bee champ. They tried to stump each other until Penny when to bed at only nine o'clock. Howard shows up and Raj asks him about band practice. He is awfully busy taking Halley over to Bernadette's folks. Raj is thinking about canceling the bar mitzvah gig. Howard doesn't want to break up the band, but he thinks Raj should find someone else. Raj jumps up quickly to go ask Bert who plays the guitar.

Penny returns home and find Amy and Leonard reenacting a science fair experiment they both did in the ninth grade. Penny remembers getting included in a science project by showing Jenny Runyon how to flirt with guys. Penny got an A and Jenny got pregnant. Next they decide to build a cobra wave like they did in the seventh grade. Penny quips that she didn't think they could top last night's spelling bee, but they did with math. Amy wonders if they should watch that show she likes where people who want to buy a house, then do that. Instead, Penny goes to get dinner.

Sheldon is excited about completing some equations so he calls his mother and tells her that the odds of him running into Mr. Watkins was one in eighteen million. Mary has bad news that he passed away this morning and wonders out loud what the odds of that are. Sheldon goes to figure it out.

Penny returns with a pizza and then hears how excited Leonard and Amy are constructing their wave she knocks on Sheldon's door. "Sheldon"; knock... knock... knock. "Sheldon"; knock... knock... knock. "Sheldon"; knock... knock... knock. He finds her using his knock annoying. She claims to have brought him dinner, to find Sheldon is not really working since he is drawing parallelograms and listing disasters. He wants to find a new approach to dark matter, but keeps getting interrupted. He asks Penny to sit down and not say anything. She starts mocking him in sign language.

Raj and Bert and getting ready to practice at Raj's apartment. Bert tells Raj about his boulder song about the boulder that chases Indiana Jones runs. Raj likes the idea and Bert plays his geology song. "Six tons of granite and some micaceous schist."

Amy and Leonard have built a wave front out of Popsicle sticks and want to predict its wave height. Amy feels is' like being back in preschool. She also asks Leonard whether being married feels any different. No. It was the answer Amy was hoping for since she and Sheldon are in a real great place now. She doesn't want to mess it up. Leonard reminds her that he did kick her out. Amy explains that his work is real important to him and she finds that really sexy. That and... Leonard doesn't want to know as he sets off the pop cycle sticks. It's Sheldon's butt.

Sheldon is describing to Penny is next dark matter approach which he finds too pedestrian. Amy agrees and the wonders about the cheese in the pizza crust. Penny then tries to get him to think about what excited him about dark matter. Penny describe it as a rebound science that which he goes after to make himself still feel pretty. Sheldon still has not forgotten the wonder and simplicity of string theory. He begins to describe it to Penny who tries to understand it.

Back in Bernadette's bed, she can't sleep because Howard who without his band is trying to write an astronaut musical. Bernadette thought his time was going to be spent heling her with the new baby. Howard starts to play the opening song as Bernie looks at him like he is crazy. Next Howard finds out he get go back with the band. Howard is amazed, but it was his wife's idea.

Back in string theory, Penny describes string theory like a guitar string that vibrates which he vibration is a different particle. Penny wonders if they just figured out string theory, but it was not just one night's project scoffs Sheldon. Science has been working on it for decades which baffles Penny since it is only a string. String can be straight, in loops, get tied up in knots. Sheldon explains that there are no knots in more than four dimensions; unless one considers them as sheets. Sheldon starts with a new idea which has a lot of possibilities. Penny quips that that only took her a minute.

Penny returns home and tells them that he stopped at Sheldon and helped him solve string theory. "What" asks Amy? She tells them that the answer is knots. Leonard mentions that there are no knots in more than four dimensions. Penny tells him that he should consider the knots as sheets and then tells them good night. Both Amy and Leonard what was happening.

Finally "Footprints on the Moon" are playing at Toby's bar mitzvah. Raj says that he will experience many obstacles in life. "Some that feel like boulders", adds Bert. Cue his Indiana Jones boulder song.

The Separation Triangulation

Season 11
Episode Number: 245
Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday January 18, 2018
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Beth Behrs (Nell), Walton Goggins (Oliver)
Production Code: T12.15614
Summary: Koothrappali finds himself in the middle of domestic drama when he learns the woman he's dating, Nell, has a very upset husband, Oliver. Also, when Sheldon rents his old room back for a quiet place to work, he drives Leonard crazy by being a model tenant.



Raj is finishing up his planetarium show to an audience that includes a bored Leonard and Howard. A beautiful blonde woman comes up to take a selfie with Raj. He kids around with her telling her that he always does that with beautiful women. He then asks the guys if the handsome gentlemen enjoyed the show. Leonard tells him to turn off the charm, but Raj says that he can't.

At the cafeteria, Howard shows a cute picture of Halley in the bathtub. Leonard doesn't want it since on his phone since it would be a crime. Sheldon has pictures of the new equations he has been working

on. Raj has a picture of him and Nell, the girl he met at his show, at 2:30 in the morning. He has another date with her tonight. Sheldon announces that he has a date ... with string theory.

Amy arrives home and finds Sheldon taking more pictures with his string theory baby. She is happy to see him so excited. Also see can't find a place to sit since Sheldon has his papers scattered all about. She is about to head to the bedroom until Sheldon tells her that he'll quit for the evening to be respectful of her feelings. She asks him if he is trying empathy, which makes him disappointed because he didn't first think of it.

Morning at Nell's apartment, Raj is making omelets. Raj wanted to finish their time together strong, and Nell told him that he didn't have to worry about last night. She finds breakfast delicious and says that husband never cooked for her. She has been separated from her husband about two weeks. Raj is worried especially since her husband is a fireman who knows does use an axe. Nell says not to worry about it because he moved out and she moved on.

Leonard is testing Penny on the side effects of the drugs she is selling. Sheldon comes in, says "Hello" and disappears down the hall. The couple hopes that Sheldon remembers that he doesn't live there anymore. Sheldon returns and wants to use his old room in the evenings to do his work without disturbing Amy. Penny and Leonard tell him no to every comment Sheldon makes until they can't deny that they're not going to put a gym in there.

Raj is talking to Howard and a bedridden Bernadette as to whether he should date someone who has only been separated for 13 days. He wants to know if he's the good guy in his movie or the bad guy in their movie. Bernadette thinks that he's the weird guy in their movie. Raj wonders how long they would wait to date if they broke up. Howard doesn't know, but Bernie is sure that it's eight days, two crying and six at the gym. Howard added that she still looked great so she added one day of crying.

Leonard is on the phone with Sheldon still saying no about him renting the room. Sheldon insists that they wouldn't even know he was there. Then he proves it because he was in his old room all night. Penny then asks him about his office at work, but Sheldon doesn't want to use because it is not safe at night because of all the raccoons and grad students walking around like they own the place. Sheldon presents a small agreement for him to use the room and not eat, sleep or even use the toilet there. And they will get paid.

At the planetarium, Raj is trying out various pauses to finish his talk with Howard. (a walk with me... pause... through the stars.) A man enters looking for Rajesh and it turns out to be Nell's husband Oliver. Raj says that he is sorry which doesn't make Oliver feel any better. He wants Raj to stop seeing her. Raj says "Fine" and gets ready to leave tell Oliver breaks down. Raj tries to explain that things will get better. He sits down and they start to talk.

Back in apartment 4A, the Hofstadters haven't heard a peep from Sheldon. The fact that he isn't annoying worries Leonard because he lived with Sheldon for ten years. Penny wonders why not driving Leonard crazy is driving him crazy. He compares it to Godzilla having Arby's instead of Tokyo. Penny doesn't think they have Arby's in Japan. That wasn't his point. He goes to talk to Sheldon who hopes he wasn't being too loud. Then Sheldon wants to know if he Leonard wants him to be a less considerate tenant. Yes. No. What? Leonard goes back to Penny who did find an Arby's in Okinawa.

Back in Bernadette's bedroom, Raj is telling them Oliver's life story and how he met Nell at the DMV. It was love at first sight. Raj had taken him to the House of Pies for dessert. Bernadette suggests that he stop seeing her.

Leonard goes over to talk to Amy who was expecting Sheldon. Leonard can't deal with Sheldon as a calm rational person. Amy says that he can send him back because she misses him. Unfortunately she can't ask him to return because he is being so respectful of her.

Raj and Nell are making out when he starts to see an image of Oliver talking to him. He can't keep kissing her with Oliver in his head. Raj mentions that he met her husband. First she thinks that he tried to track him down, but Oliver did the tracking down. She found Oliver possessive and jealous, but Raj found him very comfortable. Raj tells Nell that she wasn't being fair to him and that he said he would go to counseling with her. What? Nell calls him crazier than Oliver. Raj then adds, if it doesn't work out, he would still be up to sleeping with her. Either way she gets herself a fellow. Nell looks disgusted and walks away.

Leonard presents Sheldon with his rental agreement and using the three day trial period, he wants Sheldon out. Unfortunately the time period has elapsed and Sheldon now has the option to continue and presents Leonard with an even longer new rental agreement. Even though the agreement is blank, he challenges Leonard to get a lawyer. And Leonard has to supply him with lemon flavored sparkling water. "Go get some. Chop, chop." Leonard tells Penny that Sheldon is not leaving and that he has to go get him a drink. Penny wants to know why Leonard is smiling. He feels much better at being annoyed by Sheldon than not.

Finally Oliver shows up at Raj's show and calls him, "Buddy." He visited Nell and she is giving him another chance. Raj thinks that that is great and wants to go to House of Pies to celebrate. Oliver wonders if he should call Nell and Raj doesn't want to.

The Novelization Correlation

Season 11
Episode Number: 246
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Thursday February 1, 2018
Writer: Steve Holland, Andy Gordon, Adam Faberman, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Wil Wheaton (Himself)
Production Code: T12.15615
Summary: When Sheldon petitions Wil Wheaton to appear on the new Professor Proton show, Wil offers a role to Amy instead. Also, Penny gets angry when she thinks the female protagonist in Leonard's novel is based on her.



Amy exits the bedroom and wonders why Sheldon is fixing a sandwich when they were supposed to go over to Leonard and Penny's. Their friends are going to watch the new Professor Proton show and Sheldon doesn't want to watch Wil Wheaton doing it. Sheldon is planning on complaining about it without ever watching it. Amy suggests that they watch it together so he can find specific points to criticize. Watching the show, Wil describes how they are going to build a hovercraft out of some common items that actually gets Sheldon excited.

Penny enters her apartment to find Leonard clattering away at a typewriter.

Actually he had a new keyboard that makes typewriter noises so he could feel like a real novelist. He is working hard on his novel as his hero Logan Dean arrives at the CERN collider in Switzerland. Leonard quickly realizes what murder weapon he could use. Penny asks if it's a Swiss Army knife, which Leonard admits is even a better idea.

Back in apartment 4B, Sheldon and Amy are having fun with their toy hovercraft. Then on the show Professor Proton tells his science joke of the day and he introduces a real astronaut — Howard Wolowitz. Sheldon is mad that Wil didn't ask him though Amy points out that he did launch an Internet petition against him.

During lunch at work, Leonard is describing his novel where his hero discovers a new atomic particle, the gluino, AND a murder. Howard suggests that he talk to Bernadette since she has been watching lots of detective shows while confided to bed. Sheldon joins them and immediately forgives Howard without explaining what Howard did. Howard just accepts it. It was for not telling Sheldon that he was going to be on Wil Wheaton's show because he would get difficult and annoying. This admission surprises everyone. Also, Howard adds that if he wants to be on the show, he should apologize to Wil.

Leonard is pacing while Bernadette reads his mystery novel. She is enjoying it and has no idea who the murderer is. Neither does Leonard. Bernadette then asks if Penny knows that one

of his characters is based on her — Ilsa, the head of the institute who is a confident, ball-busting beauty that keeps rolling her eyes at the hero.

Novel: A group of professionals are in a lab at the CERN Swiss facility. Logan looked at the stunning woman who was his boss and said, "Its murder."

Ilsa replied, "Figure that out yourself, genius?"

Logan replied, "Okay, no need to be snarky."

Ilsa looks at him suspiciously, "Who would want to kill him?"

Logan looks around the room. "Could be anyone. Dr. Silvers. [Howard look-alike] Dr. Prekash. [[[Raj]]] with a goatee] Hans the janitor. [Stuart with a big mustache] But the door is locked, so it has to be someone in this room."

"Wow, you are on fire," snaps Ilsa walking away.

Back: Leonard wonders if Penny would be flattered. Bernadette thinks that Ilsa is pretty mean, not unlike Penny sometimes.

Wil Wheaton answers his front door to find Howard who apologizes for having brought over Sheldon. Wil wonders sarcastically if Sheldon has moved him to his super-secret enemies list. No, Sheldon doesn't have one because he is not a Bond villain. Sheldon tells Wil that he is no longer on his enemies list, which doesn't seem to mean anything to Wil. Howard gets Sheldon to say he was sorry and he tells Wil that he enjoyed his show. Sheldon also says that he'd loved to be on the Professor Proton show since it is a childhood dream of his. Wil remarked that he'll keep Sheldon in mind, but wonders whether Amy would like to be on since he wants to promote women scientists. Sheldon hems and haws for a moment and then proposes that he and Amy both be on the show so that women scientists know that they can land a man.

Back at home, Penny tells a nervous Leonard that she likes his novel and can't wait to learn who the killer is. She also finds the Ilsa character kind of mean much like Bernadette whom she is sure that Ilsa was based on.

Novel: Logan tells everyone, "But the door is locked, so it has to be someone in this room."

"Wow, you are on fire," snaps Ilsa walking away. [Bernadette]

Back: Leonard agrees with Penny.

Novel: Logan continues with his analysis. "Each one of you had a motive."

Dr. Silvers asks, "Who died and made you detective?"

Logan points to the dead body, "He did."

"I think you're neglecting your own motive, a massive inferiority complex," snaps back Ilsa.

"It's not massive. Just average size," replies Logan less confidently.

Hans the janitor breaks in, "I don't mean to interrupt, but somebody's tracking blood everywhere so — never mind, it's me."

Dr. Prekash says, "You say we're all suspects."

"How do we know you're not the killer?" asks Dr. Silver to Logan.

"I have an alibi."

Ilsa snaps at him, "Yeah, he's not smart enough to pull off a murder like this."

Back: Leonard claims that Ilsa wears glasses like Bernadette even though it doesn't say that in his novel. Leonard walks off trying to convince her that the mean boss is Bernadette.

Amy is working on her computer when Sheldon returns and asks if she would like to be on television on the Professor Proton show. She isn't really interested. Sheldon felt that she would want to promote science for little girls, but she doesn't want to be in the middle of Sheldon and his love for the show. And she doesn't want to upset Sheldon, who finds that situation very upsetting. Amy admits that there are other things she doesn't do so Sheldon won't get upset.

Penny is sitting on Bernadette's bed hanging out because Leonard is working late. Bernadette mentions that Leonard should stop by and that she enjoyed his book. Penny wonders if the Ilsa character bothered her. Bernie then mentions that Leonard said that it was based on Penny. She realizes that he left when they were talking about it and she now knows what he meant. Son of a bitch!

In the Caltech cafeteria, Sheldon starts talking about the distressing news how Amy doesn't do things so that he won't get upset. Howard tells him that everybody does that all the time. Sheldon asks if everyone walks around on eggshells to spare his feelings. He doesn't want to have that kind of relationship with Amy. Sheldon insists that he is going to change.

Penny is reading the book trying to determine if the Ilsa character was her.

Novel: Logan is lying against a desk wounded.

Ilsa observes, "It looks like the bullet went straight through you. Damn it, Logan. When are you gonna stop?"

Logan replies, "I didn't get my PhD in quitting."

"You're a physicist. What makes you think you can solve a crime?" asks Ilsa.

"He's losing a lot of blood," remarks Dr. Silver.

"Great. I'm gonna have to clean that up!" complains Hans.

Dr. Prekash suggests, "You know, a little soda water might get that right out."

Dr. Silver pleads, "We've got to find some bandages."

Ilsa shouts, "No. There's no time," as she tears off her sleeve placing the cloth on Logan's shoulder. "Does it hurt?"

"Everything you do hurts," Logan replies.

"Then why do you keep coming back for more?" she asks.

Back: Leonard returns. Penny is pissed because she thinks that Leonard feels that she is mean and that everything she does hurts him. Leonard stammers as Penny storms off telling him to write whatever he want.

In 4B, Sheldon and Amy are playing chess and Sheldon lets her win. Amy wants to know what is going on. Sheldon says that he is responding with humility and admiration. He wants her to be able to do things she wants to do without having to consider upsetting him. There might be a little girl out there that might get inspired to become a brilliant successful scientist like Amy. "Thank-you, Sheldon." Amy really appreciates his compliment until he finishes that she is really bad at playing chess.

Now Leonard is talking to his mother that he might be subconsciously writing about Penny. Beverly corrects him and wishes that she didn't have to do it all the time. She adds that he is a physicist and what does he know about writing a book.

Novel: Ilsa leans over the wounded Logan. [Beverly]

"You're a physicist. What makes you think you can solve a crime," asks Ilsa.

Back: Leonard leaves his mother as she again corrects his grammar. He runs over to Penny to tell her that she was writing about his mother, not his wife. Penny then imagines the story.

Novel:

"I think you're neglecting your own motive, a massive inferiority complex," snaps back Ilsa. [Beverly]

"It's not massive. Just average size," replies Logan less confidently...

[Later] Dr. Silver pleads, "We've got to find some bandages."

Ilsa [Beverly] shouts, "No. There's no time," as she tears off her sleeve placing the cloth on Logan's shoulder. "Does it hurt?"

"Everything you do hurts," Logan replies.

"Then why do you keep coming back for more?" she asks.

Logan admits, "M..maybe, I do."

Back: Penny is looking weird with that dialog between Leonard and his mother. Leonard then storms out wondering why he was even writing a book since he was a physicist.

Sheldon and Amy are watching the conclusion of Professor Proton with Amy appearing on it. Wil says that it was a pleasure to have her on. Amy points out that one can feel that pleasure if you don't have a lesion in one's nucleus accumbens in their brain. Sheldon tells her that she was glowing even if it was only her oily scalp. Sheldon tells her how proud he was; while she can tell how hard he was trying to hold it in. Amy heads off to bed so Sheldon can go up on the roof and scream at the top of his lungs.

The Neonatal Nomenclature

Season 11
Episode Number: 247
Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday March 1, 2018
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Adam Faberman
Director: Gay Linvill
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Production Code: T12.15616
Summary: When Bernadette won't go into labor, all her friends try different tactics to get things started. Also, Wolowitz confronts Bernadette after Amy accidentally reveals she's already chosen their son's name.



When Bernadette's due date finally arrives after four months of mandatory bedrest, she's ready to do anything to induce labor and get the baby out. Although Howard benefits from testing the theory that sex can induce labor, things don't seem to be progressing.

The baby is due at about the same time Howard and Amy's grant proposal for the work they've been collaborating on is due. He leaves Bernie in the hands of the rest of their friends so he can join Amy at the lab to try to get the work done before he's needed at home. During their work sesh, Amy lets it slip that

Bernadette has already named the baby Michael, after her dad, and Howard is dead-set against that.

Howard and Amy rush to the Wolowitz house so he can confront Bernie, and find Sheldon there, attempting to entertain her with an endless strategy game called "The Campaign for North Africa" (or as kotaku.com calls this actual game, "The Notorious Board Game That Takes 1,500 Hours To Complete").

Howard and Bernadette excuse themselves to the kitchen to discuss baby names, and Leonard, Penny and Raj arrive in response to Sheldon having lured them there to join the game.

The group keeps Bernadette company and half-heartedly play Sheldon's game for the rest of the evening, discussing baby names for her and Howard. This seems to do the trick, as she goes into labor and asks Howard to take her to the hospital.

After they leave, Leonard reveals that he picked names for his kids with Penny shortly after she moved into their building, and Sheldon reveals that he expects to have (15) exceptional children with Amy.

That night, baby Neil Michael Wolowitz is born, and this time Howard and Bernadette are only excited to have him join the family— not terrified like they were with Halley.

The Athenaeum Allocation

Season 11
Episode Number: 248
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday March 8, 2018
Writer: Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Tara Hernandez, Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Rachna Khatau (Kathleen), Caleb Pierce (Jess)
Production Code: T12.15617
Summary: Leonard jumps through hoops to help secure the perfect wedding venue for Sheldon and Amy. Also, Bernadette and Wolowitz have a hard time deciding who should stay at home with the kids and who should go back to work.



Cold open takes place in 4A where Leonard, Penny, and Raj are skyping with Howard and Bernadette, who are in their nursery. There is banter back and forth about how things are with two babies in the house now. Raj makes a comment about how seeing Howard and Bernadette's growing family, has his biological clock ticking. Sheldon and Amy walk in together and Amy announces they made "Save the date" cards. Their wedding date is May 12th. Someone asked if they picked a venue and Amy responds it took 9 months to set the date and they haven't picked the venue. Amy

is pretty excited though about her cards that have MRI's of Sheldon and Amy's brains kissing one another at the top of it. Two brains with fake lips facing each other and kissing is plainly visible on the cards as she shows them around.

The next scene was pretaped. Howard and Bernadette are in the nursery and each are saying sweet things to each baby individually. They would swap cribs in a tag-team style while they talk to the babies and are being pretty cute parents. Howard makes a comment that one of the babies laughs in his sleep and that Bernie doesn't even laugh at his jokes when she's awake. Bernie smiles and says "I love you, but I love them more."

Next scene is in 4B. Sheldon and Amy are washing dishes after dinner. Sheldon makes some comments about liking the wedding date a lot because it reminds him of a math equation. Amy responds with her own Shakespeare quote about love and then says something like? or it can be about a math equation. Amy suggests they need to settle on a venue for the wedding and brings up the Cal Tech venue Athenaeum and says it would be perfect. Sheldon likes the idea but says the venue is part of exclusive club membership that's been impossible to be a member of because Leonard has been trying to get them into it for a couple of years without success. Amy looks confused and said she had already spoken to the club and they were excited to give

her a tour of the venue He points out that Einstein was a member there. He also says there is a Chinese restaurant nearby that might work as a venue and Einstein ate there. Amy isn't a fan of that suggestion and says they should choose a venue they like, not because someone ate there. Sheldon looks disappointed and says "Reality shows are right, brides are crazy." In any case, Sheldon is excited and agrees to tour the place. Amy comments "it's beautiful". Sheldon responds by pointing out again that "Einstein was a member." Amy says "It's close". Sheldon yet again responds "Einstein was a member" as his excitement grows. Amy then gives him a dry "and Einstein was a member". Sheldon is pleased and says "Now you're sounding like a woman who wants to get married!"

Next scene is Howard and Bernadette's kitchen. Howard and Raj are at the table and Howard is fretting about the new baby and how he should stay home to care for the children while Bernie goes back to work. Howard tells Raj that raising two children is tiring, but rewarding and Raj replies "like Pilates!". Howard wants to stay home but concedes Bernie is a better parent but makes more money, therefore he should be the one to stay home. Raj is proud of Howard and said he couldn't push the gender role stereotype like that. Howard looks at Raj and asks "Aren't you the one who saw Taylor Swift twice this year?" Raj responds "Because she's hot, not because she sings my truth."

Next scene is pretaped. Sheldon and Amy are touring the CalTech club site and are excited initially. Its a large room and several tables are set up with people having lunch. The decor is pretty lavish with pretentious paintings of what appears to be famous past members of the club. Amy remarks how beautiful it is and Sheldon agrees. He makes a comment that the somberness of the paintings strikes the perfect note for the wedding ceremony. He gushes about Einstein eating there and having his own reserved chair. He also mentions Stephen Hawking ate there too but he brought his own chair. Amy suddenly spots Leonard and Penny dining and points them out to Sheldon, asking why they are here. Sheldon and Amy looked confused and Amy makes a comment about her fun day was about to be spoiled as they both confront Lenny at their table. Lenny are casual and say "hey" and ask what they are there for. They explain they are considering the club as their wedding venue and Sheldon wants to know how they are eating there. Penny says that Leonard is a member and Sheldon reacts by saying how is it possible since Leonard always said it was too exclusive?! Leonard, in between bites and not concerned, simply stated "I lied". Penny turns to Leonard and said he told her it was exclusive too! There's a brief conversation, I think Leonard basically wanted a place to eat without Sheldon pestering him. Sheldon can't believe Leonard is a member at which point Amy tells Sheldon not to turn around. Sheldon of course turns around in time to see Barry Kripke walk up with a loud "Cooper!" Scene ends.

Next scene is Howard and Bernadette's kitchen. It's 8am and Bernie is pouring a cup of coffee in her nightgown. Howard walks in pushing two strollers and Bernie asks where he has been with the babies. Howard brags that he took them to the park and the farmers market ending with a trip to Chinatown so that they could be exposed to other cultures. He in turn asks what Bernie did while he was away — she says its 8:00am and what did you think, I was sleeping. Howard suggests that one of them should stay home to raise the babies and Bernie reacts by saying why should she have to give up her career and all the hard work she put into being successful? Howard suggests that HE, not Bernie, should be the one to stay home. Bernie counters, asking why SHE should have to give up her quality time with the babies just to go to work? Bernie tells Howard she knows what he's doing, trying to look like the better parent than her, but suggests he cant keep that pace up and would pass put on the couch and then she would have three babies to care for. They discuss the need for one to stay home and Bernie isn't sure which way she falls on it. Howard points out that Bernie makes more money and it was sexist of her to suggest he couldn't stay home and be a good parent just because he was a man.

Next scene begins with Sheldon and Amy climbing the stairwell together as they head to 4B. They are clearly upset at what transpired at the club. Sheldon cant believe Leonard lied to him about the club and membership. He wonders if Leonard lied about being lactose intolerant and was instead a friend with an invisible trumpet player. As they enter 4B, Amy tells Sheldon they need to settle on the venue after which they would have all their lives to complain about Leonard. She wants to choose the club, it's perfect. Sheldon though is turned off on it now that Leonard lied to him. He does say, though, that holding their wedding in the same place where Leonard betrayed him has a certain symmetry to it that is pleasing and he could rub Leonard's nose in it.

There were two takes on Amy's response — in the first she replies "okay, but only after the first dance" and the other take had her saying "that'll be your first petty act as a married man". Amy dials up the club but learns that the club venue is booked for May 12. Amy is disappointed and Sheldon wonders aloud who could have booked it — flash to a pretaped scene in Kripke's office where Sheldon is confronting Barry who evidently booked the room for his birthday party. Barry LOVES that Sheldon's wedding is ruined and basically tells Sheldon it's not his problem. Scene ends with Sheldon saying he has a problem.

Next scene is in 4B where Sheldon and Amy are discussing Kripke's involvement in the club dilemma. Sheldon suggests they choose another wedding date but Amy counters, saying it took 9 months to pick that date and she would pick a new husband before picking another day. Leonard walks in to offer an apology to Sheldon and Sheldon demands to know why he lied. Leonard said it started as a joke that was funny, and the more time passed the funnier it got. Amy says that's not much of an apology and Sheldon tells Leonard he should leave before he said something he would later regret. Sheldon tells Leonard his science work was some insulting things and lastly was "sub-par". Leonard smiles and says those words were the nicest things Sheldon has said about his work. Sheldon replies "and now I'm regretting them" and slams the door.

Next scenes are pretaped. There's a short one where Penny meets Bernie at her office for lunch and Bernie interacts with some coworkers. It doesn't take long for Bernie to realize she missed work. The next pretaped scene has Kripke in a biohazard suit scrubbing the inside of a large barrel in a lab. Kripke explains to Leonard, who comes in and asks what he's doing, that he's scrubbing irradiated grease from the barrels. Leonard asks why Barry couldn't get an intern to do it but Kripke explains he was told under no uncertain terms that he couldn't abuse interns. Leonard begs Kripke to reconsider changing his club reservations for Sheldon because he's a "good guy". Leonard asks what he could do to change Kripke's mind, at which time the scene shifts to he and Sheldon both in biohazard suits scrubbing the barrels. Leonard remarks Kripke is a jerk.

Next scene is Howard and Bernadette's kitchen. A sleepy Howard walks in with Raj sitting at the table. Howard remarks that he passed out on the couch and that he can't do the stay at home thing. Raj had helped with the babies while Howard was sacked out, and he tries to comfort Howard saying that parenting is hard and he saw and smelled things he never wants to see again after today. He tells Howard "all they drink is milk, just where do all those colors come from??" Howard says it's almost 6pm and Bernie would be home soon so they had to act fast and that he should get the babies ready while Howard makes dinner. Raj points out that the babies are asleep, so Howard tells Raj that HE could make the dinner then.

Next scene is in 4B. Amy is on the laptop when Sheldon and Leonard walk in with grins. They tell Amy they got the club venue back and Amy is excited and gives Sheldon a hug. Sheldon explains that he and Leonard were like Batman and Robin! Leonard asks why he has to be Robin, and Sheldon says if you have to ask then this makes you Robin. Amy wants to know why Kripke caved. Sheldon explains that they had to invite Kripke to the wedding. Amy says that's fair. Sheldon continues, saying Barry gets to bring a date. Amy says that's fine. Sheldon then tells her if Barry's date charges by the hour then they have to cover the cost. Amy is upset. Amy asks if there is anything else and Leonard starts by saying "You know how Barry has the voice of an angel?" but Amy cuts him off, saying there's no way he is singing at her wedding! Sheldon says he only wants to sing "Volare" at which time it dawns on Leonard that this was what Barry was saying but he couldn't understand through the lisp. Anyway, Sheldon tells Amy if she didn't like that song she would definitely not like Kripke's cake suggestion. Amy is done with the Kripke talk and said they aren't gonna let Kripke win and that should just find a different venue. She suggests the Japanese Tea Garden or the Planetarium. Sheldon loves the Planetarium suggestion and said its even better than the club. Leonard looks annoyed and said hold on, I just scrubbed sludge for you and I might be radioactive! There were a couple takes on Sheldon's response — one was "it's only a problem if you want children" and another response was "you're just exaggerating" (turns to Amy and whispers don't let him touch the silverware).

The tag takes place in Howard and Bernadette's kitchen with Howard and Bernadette seated at the table. They both admit to each other how difficult the two babies are and both admit to napping. Bernie says they'll figure it out and they exchange I Love Yous. Howard says that everyone else is asleep and suggestively says they should go upstairs. Bernie smirks and says nah let's just do it right here and pushes some dishes on the table aside. Howard smiles, and

they both lay their heads down to nap.

The Gates Excitation

Season 11
Episode Number: 249
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired: Thursday March 29, 2018
Writer: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Andy Gordon, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
Guest Stars: Bill Gates (Himself), Laura Cerón (Marta), Eileen Galindo (Letty)
Production Code: T12.15618
Summary: Penny gets the opportunity to host Bill Gates at work when his company wants to partner with her pharmaceutical company. Also, Leonard, Koothrappali and Wolowitz do everything in their power to meet him, while Sheldon thinks he is the victim of an April Fools prank.



The episode starts in Apartment 4A with Penny telling everyone that Bill Gates will visit her work place and she gets to spend a whole day with him on April 1st. Everyone is excited about it but Sheldon, who is almost convinced that it is an April Fools' Day joke.

In the next scene, Leonard and Penny talk about how cool Bill Gates visit really is.

Next we are in Howard and Bernadette's living room and see Stuart leaving with the kids to go to the park and Amy and Bernadette getting to spend some time together. Bernie is torn between her roles as a mother and a working person. Amy

tries to help and suggests that they could go eat something, but they end up finishing an episode of *Bob the Builder* first.

In the next scene, Penny finds Sheldon in the laundry room where he is still not convinced that the Bill Gates story is true.

In a pretaped restaurant scene, Amy tries to talk with Bernie about something other than children.

Back in 4A, Penny tells Leonard, Howard and Raj that she needs to go to work to prepare her day with Gates. Leonard comments that it is a Sunday, but then Penny shows him the schedule on her phone and says it is very tight. The guys try to convince her to get them an autograph, which she declines. After Penny leaves, Leonard reveals that he saw the hotel where Gates is staying so they all follow her.

In a pretaped scene, we see the guys nursing drinks in the hotel lobby when Leonard spots Gates and rushes to greet him.

Back in Howard and Bernadette's living room, Bernie still contemplates her life while Amy gently tries to make her realize her behavioral changes.

On the stairwell (pretaped), Leonard shows Sheldon a picture of himself and Gates and says Gates is staying in a hotel in Thousand Oaks so Sheldon is immediately off.

When Leonard arrives in 4A, Penny surprises him with the fact that she has arranged a reception where Leonard gets to meet Gates.

Back in Howard and Bernadette's living room, we hear Bernie reading a story to the kids.

Next Howard, Raj and Leonard are in the Comic Book Store without Stuart when Sheldon enters to confront Leonard that Gates wasn't staying in Thousand Oaks. When Leonard mentions the Double Tree in Long Beach, Sheldon is immediately off again.

When Penny is about to leave for the reception, Leonard is sick on the couch so she leaves without him.

In another pretaped restaurant scene, Bernie tries to show to Amy that she can actually talk about something other than motherhood.

In a pretaped scene, Penny video calls Leonard with Bill Gates in tow.

In the last scene, the entrance door of 4A has a sign "I am sorry" which Sheldon finds (first) and thinks it is Leonard's way of apologizing to him. Leonard has arranged for a romantic dinner with candles, roses and food. Sheldon appreciates it and asks "What's for dinner"? or something like that.

The Tenant Disassociation

Season 11
Episode Number: 250
Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday April 5, 2018
Writer: Steve Holland, Jeremy Howe, Trevor Alper, Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Michelle Arthur (Mrs. Petrescu), Parvesh Cheena (Marcus), Bob Stephenson (Wendell), Megan McGown (Cynthia)
Production Code: T12.15619
Summary: When Leonard learns Sheldon is the president of the tenants association, he decides to run against him. Also, Bernadette encourages Wolowitz and Koothrappali to find the owner of a drone after they find it in the backyard.



During dinner in Leonard and Penny's apartment, Leonard is teasing Raj about being scratched by his tiny dog Cinnamon. Penny returns from work with a sandwich she grabbed from the lunch truck downstairs. Sheldon objects that it was Friday is they should be eating Chinese food. Amy says that the Chinese invented the sandwich. Howard leaves to go get a sandwich. Sheldon and Amy start to argue about the invention of the sandwich and that he talks in his sleep. Sheldon insists that they will talk about it

when he asleep. Leonard signals everyone and they leave not wanting to hear about Shamy's sleeping habits. Sheldon folds his Moo Sho into a sandwich telling Amy that she might be right. Amy looks around and sees that no one heard Sheldon's last admission that Amy was right.

Back in their apartment, the smell of the lunch truck was driving Sheldon crazy. He doesn't think that he can work with the desire to have a sandwich. And he can't have one because it goes against his need for a rigid schedule. Amy then leaves clutching some money denying that she had any alternative motives.

Raj and Howard are enjoying the hot tub, though Howard is uncomfortable with his friend wearing his swim trunks. Raj notices a crashed drone in the bushes next to the porch. Howard thinks he can fix it, but is reluctant to look for its owner.

Penny comes in complaining that the lunch truck had moved because someone complained to the Tenants' Association. It is not allowed to part on their street anymore. Leonard first wonders who might do it and then they are at Sheldon's front door. Sheldon concurs that he made the complaint. Penny then emails the Tenants' Association as Sheldon's phone rings. Sheldon is the president and the entire association. And he tells Penny to spellcheck her emails.

Howard finishes his repairs to the drone as Raj complements his job. Re-syncing the drone to his controls, they get it to hover. Raj wants to play William Tell with a bowl up on his head. Bernie appears and doesn't want them to break her bowl. Then she worries about who the owner

might be and tells them to check the video card. Howard tells her that that is a great idea very unenthusiastically.

Sheldon verifies that he is the association, its president and it's harshest critic. The Hofstadter's realize that all the fines they have been getting from the Tenants' Association were Sheldon's doing. Amy returns and acknowledges that even she didn't know about Sheldon's building shenanigans. Penny calls an emergency meeting to vote Sheldon out. Amy reads the minutes of the last meeting. Leonard calls for a vote of no confidence. Penny agrees passing two to one. Sheldon wants to hear from Amy, his fiancée. Penny then calls Amy her best friend. Amy doesn't want to get involved until Sheldon invites her to the next meeting in his shower. Amy votes for Sheldon. It's a tie. No confidence vote defeated.

Back in their apartment, Penny and Sheldon can't believe that Amy voted against them. She comes in to explain herself. Leonard wonders why she sided with him when he was being that crazy. Amy thinks that he is like that all the time. She doesn't want to go against Sheldon over a pastrami sandwich. She adds that all they need to do is get one other tenant to vote with them. Penny admits that that is a good plan which Amy denies ever coming up with. She announces that she was never here and proceeds to take some of their food because Sheldon thinks she went shopping. After leaving Leonard admits how weird she is, but then next to Sheldon who could tell.

Howard is checking out the video card on the drone which briefly shows a cute girl holding it. Raj insists that have to find her because she is cute and appears to have money. Bernadette looks over the image and notes that she is wearing a pin from Stuart's comic book store.

Leonard and Penny start to visit the other residents. One is not interested because they didn't come to his house warming party and that he had bought a lot of party food. The next tenant isn't going to vote against Sheldon because Sheldon has a restraining order against him. He locked Sheldon out while he was up on the roof more than once. Mrs. Petrescu, who attended Sheldon's brunch, doesn't understand that she should vote for Leonard.

At the comic book store, Howard wants Stuart to identify the woman on the video. Her name is Cynthia and Stuart hasn't seen her in a while. He had tried a creepy new smile on her as a way to flirt which drove her away. Stuart looks up her address on his mailing list.

Amy returns home and finds Sheldon wanting to make Leonard and Penny's lives a living hell using his power as president of the Tenants' Association. He is setting a minimum height requirement for use of the laundry room. He doesn't think that leaders should step aside just because of the consent of the governed. Amy calls that democracy.

Raj walks up to Cynthia's door. She recognizes her drone and finds Raj sweet and charming. She gives him her phone number for a reward and wants him to contact her later.

While Shamy is eating dinner, the Hofstadters walk in with a copy of their lease. Amy is the sole signee on that apartment and Sheldon is no longer on their lease for apartment 4A. Amy denies knowing anything about it. Since he can't be president, Leonard nominates himself and Penny seconds it. Amy abstains, but notes that it is bureaucratically impossible for Sheldon to run. Sheldon agrees though states that under California law, he is still a resident after thirty days. Amy then votes for Leonard because she doesn't think that Sheldon can handle the power, i.e laundry room height requirements. Sheldon decides to pass on the office, but also plans to be the vocal opposition of new president. Leonard wonders if he has made a mistake.

Finally Cynthia reviews the video on her drone and sees Raj demanding her to have his babies. She is shocked and then closes up her laptop.

The Reclusive Potential

Season 11
Episode Number: 251
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 12, 2018
Writer: Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Peter MacNicol (Dr. Robert Wolcott), James Maslow (Bartender), Edward James Gage (Nicholas), Ed Lieberman (Lecturer (voice))
Production Code: T12.15620
Summary: A brilliant but reclusive scientist, Doctor Wolcott, invites Sheldon to his cabin in the middle of nowhere, and Leonard, Raj and Howard go along for the trip. Also, Penny and Bernadette improvise after Amy doesn't like the tame bachelorette party they planned for her.



While entering the apartment building lobby, Raj is wondering of Bruce Banner needs to include the Hulk as an extra driver if he changes while driving a rental car. Howard quips that Raj really needs a girlfriend. Sheldon gets excited when he sees the mailman and gets a letter from Dr. Wolcott with whom he had been corresponding about his string theory research. The mathematical physicist is a reclusive who lives in a cabin and exists off the grid. Leonard doesn't understand he wants to go to the mountains to

spend a weekend with a crazy man he has never meant. Sheldon is fine with that so Leonard tells him to have fun.

During dinner with their gang, Sheldon is deciphering the coded directions to Dr. Wolcott's cabin. When finished Sheldon burns the letter surprising his friends. Amy is not happy with Sheldon going alone so she insists that Leonard go with him. She is busy because her bachelorette party was that weekend "because I'm getting married!" she keeps exclaiming. Then Howard is sent off to keep Leonard safe, while Raj is being sent so he doesn't attend the bachelorette party.

Getting ready for bed, Amy is still worried that Sheldon is going to okay. Sheldon tells her that he'll be fine, though he is worried about what the girls are going to do while the men are away. Penny did plan the party. Amy is expecting drinking, dancing and maybe a mailman with very little clothing on. Sheldon is worried that they might end up in prison when hosting someone impersonating a federal employee. Amy curls up happy that he worries about her.

Driving into the mountains the guys are listening to a lecture on nonlinear time which Sheldon recorded. The guys wanted a good musical mix. Raj comments that this is the first trip they took together since Leonard's bachelor party trip to Mexico. Raj equates that as Sheldon's party, but Leonard informs them that they are not having one per Sheldon's request.

Bernadette and Penny lead a blindfolded Amy into apartment 4A for her bachelorette party. The blindfold is removed and she finds them having a quilting bee with plenty of cloth patches

and an old fashioned sewing machine. Amy fakes excitement. The girls explain that Amy would like this over oiled up strippers and sex toys.

Approaching the mountain cabin they find the place creepy. After Sheldon's standard knock, the guys hear a multitude of locks being opened. Creepy Dr. Wolcott answers the door and worried about all the extra people. Sheldon tells them to go back to the car.

After all are inside, he shows them about his cabin. He has a chair that he does his thinking in and a chair where he worries about other people who have wronged him. Raj is enjoying a tomato from the garden until the Dr. Tells him that he fertilizes it with his own manure. Next their host collects all their cell phones that that no one can listen in. Sheldon gets to review one of Dr. Wolcott's notebook which he writes backwards while interposing his letter and numbers. Sheldon is impressed.

Back at Penny's apartment, Penny and Bernie are stitching squares while Amy is using the sewing machine fake smiling at them. She "agrees" that she is having fun as Penny serves Bernie some more tea. Finally Amy jumps up exclaiming "What the hell!" Just because she said that she didn't want to do anything crazy doesn't mean that that was what she wanted. She then wonders if they think that she is that boring. Penny denies it. Amy wanted a chance to have fun, be wild and make bad decisions at her bachelorette party. Bernadette then suggests that they go someplace to get body shots off of shirtless bartenders.

Leonard and Sheldon are really impressed with Dr. Wolcott's work on nonlinear time. He appreciate their comments, but in his nonlinear time theory they have already done that. Raj and Howard are lost. The Dr. thinks that they could help each other with Sheldon's string theory work. Leonard figures that it would take him months to go through the good doctor's work. Howard wants to know who would tell Amy that she lost Sheldon to a madman in the mountains.

Entering a bar, Amy is excited and wants to know what a body shot is. Drinking out of a guy's navel. Amy thinks that that is disgusting. Amy tells the bar that she is getting married, so the bartender gives them the first set of shots on the house. Amy shouts cheers as twelve minutes later she has passed out. Bernie wonders if they should get her home while Penny orders another round of shots.

Back at the cabin, the work on Dr. Wolcott's theory continues until they mention that Sheldon was getting married. The good doctor is also married and his wife lives in Munich so that they can each concentrate of their work. They do exchange birthday cards most years. Sheldon says that he has never considered a long distance marriage. Dr. Wolcott says that if you want to be a great scientist, you can't be distracted. He then picks up his rifle to go and shoot them some dinner, either rabbit or squirrel. Sheldon is impressed about how much work Dr. Wolcott has done, but doesn't want to live like him. Leonard adds that he has Amy and a lot of good friends that he should not want to give up. Sheldon then suggests that they all leave because he misses Amy and his cell phone.

Back in 4A, the girls are watching a movie while Amy sleeps on the couch. She wakes up startled and wonders what happened. Amy feels that she behave so lame, that the girls embellish her behavior. According to Penny she Riverdanced on the bar and she also taught some shirtless firemen how to dance. She also slid down a pole and flashed everyone. They also assure her that they took no pictures, though they really did.

Dr. Wolcott returns to find the cabin empty. He can figure out if they were there, not ever come or were on they're way. He started to clean up to get ready. He is affected by his own concepts of no-linear time.

The next morning Amy is nursing a bad hangover. Sheldon comes in exclaiming how Dr. Wolcott's theory help him with his string theory research. Amy explains her party as going to a bar, getting drunk and having shirtless firemen fight over her. Sheldon asked Amy if she would still love him if he wasn't the science oriented recluse she had first met. Amy wants to know the same if she turns out to be a Riverdancing wild woman. No they would still love each other. Sheldon wonders if she can Rive dance. She shows him and Sheldon tells her that he is the only man she'll ever show that to.

The Comet Polarization

Season 11
Episode Number: 252
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday April 19, 2018
Writer: Steve Holland, Bill Prady, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Andy Gordon, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Neil Gaiman (Himself), Lauren Lapkus (Denise), Patrick Daniel (Grant), Gene Hatcher (Guy in Comic Book Store)
Production Code: T12.15621
Summary: Sheldon's comic book store experience changes when writer Neil Gaiman puts Stuart's store on the map; friendships are threatened when Koothrappali takes credit for Penny's astronomical discovery.



Raj sets up his telescope and computer up on the apartment building roof with most of the gang in attention. The project is to watch the planet Mercury at the greatest height of its elongation. Amy looks over the side of the building and calls to Sheldon that roof is pigeon-free. Sheldon comes running in ready to see planets. Penny wonders why Raj didn't use Leonard's telescope since it was downstairs. Raj scoffs that is a much better since it was a professional instrument. Stuarts gets excited that author

Neil Gaiman reviewed Stuart's store favorably in a tweet. Stuart thought that he could remember the author being in the store, but the whole gang was arguing about the best comic genre metal and missed him. Stuart announces he starts get quite a few tweeter followers. After Raj adjusts the telescope, he turns it over to Penny. She sees something fuzzy was Raj has her take a picture of it. Viewing it on his computer screen Raj thinks that Penny saw a comet.

At the comic book store, the place is full of customers as Sheldon and Howard arrive. Sheldon can't believe that they are in the right store. Sheldon complains that he preferred the store before. Howard called that era empty and sad. Now where was Sheldon going to hang out and read a comic book? Stuart offers him the couch, but Sheldon won't sit next to strangers. If Sheldon is going to sit, read a comic and ignore a woman, he can do that at home with his fiancée. He is also annoyed because Stuart is out of the comic he wanted to buy.

In Leonard and Penny's apartment, Raj joins them and announces that they indeed did see a comet and that no one else had reported it so they get credit for discovering it. Penny Is excited that she discovered it, though Raj adds that it was with his telescope that he position so that she could see it. Leonard says that both of them can put their names on it; however, Raj put on the paperwork in his name only. Penny insists that she saw it first and she took the picture. Raj asks that if a monkey took the picture, would he have discovered it. Penny then throws him out.

The Wolowitzes are all dressed up for their date night out; however, Stuart can't make it since the store is so busy. He apologizes and Bernadette is not really angry. Howard is sorry that they

are getting the dinner and romance. She divides it up by her going out to dinner and Howard stay home with the Internet to have the romance.

Penny is on the Internet and finds out that the person that takes the picture discovered the comet and that was her. Raj stole her comet. It happens all the time because people look at Penny and don't think she knows what she is talking about. It happens all the time to her at work. Leonard wants everyone to be happy, so Penny stalks off because he is not on her side.

At the comic book store, Sheldon tries to make a point to Howard when he realizes is trying to talk to a stranger which scares him. He does feel that he can accept change more now because he was fine with May changing her shampoo. Next Sheldon tries to check out and meet Denise, the new assistant store manager. Sheldon yells, "Nope" and runs out of the store.

Back at home, Sheldon is complaining about the changes since he has spent thousands of dollars there. Stuart did Sheldon a mug. Sheldon compares the store to the country in the Black Panther movie and complains about the new woman at her store. Amy is sure that someone is going to get offended. Amy offers the suggestion that she think of her as a friend that he hasn't berated, lectured or condescended yet. Sheldon thanks her, calls her wise and that she smells like books. "You're really the whole package." Amy takes that as a compliment.

Leonard visits Raj and asks him to include Penny in the discovery. Raj explains that his boss was so excited that he called him "Captain Comet" instead of his usual than "Dr. Doughnuts". Then Raj starts calling himself a bad person and a bad scientist so Leonard says that he'll talk to Penny... and may end up on Raj's couch.

Sheldon is watching Denise while Howard comments that she seems to know her stuff. Sheldon takes that as a challenge so he approaches her and asks he not recommend something without saying what he likes. She offers DC alternate history comic which gets Sheldon excited. Neil Gaiman is back and mentions his alternate history story "1602" when Sheldon brushes him off. Denise even offers to take it back if he doesn't like it; but don't tell Stuart. Sheldon has even forgotten who Stuart is.

Leonard returns to tell Penny that he talked to Raj, but Penny quickly figures out he cave in. Leonard tells her that she is a strong and independent woman with her own voice, like Katy Perry. Go out and roar. She admits that he has a point and leaves to talk to Raj. Bernadette enters the dining room and finds that Howard has cooked dinner for an in-house date night. Bernadette loves it until Stuart shows up. Denise is running the store. His funny story is that he ran out do to the new business and he didn't know how to change it. Bernie decides to leave dinner for Stuart and hey can go out.

At dinner, Sheldon keeps talking about Denise and the great time they had together. Amy storms down there and introduces herself as the fiancée. At first Denise didn't believe that Amy was real. She does admit that they had a great time discussing the subject. Amy tells her directly what was going to happen next. She was going to teach her to talk about comics like she really liked them. Denise does. Amy plans to be there all night if it takes that amount of time.

Raj hears Penny coming up the stairs and knows that her feet sound angry. He apologizes first and Penny says that she is angry at him. He calls himself a jerk and says that he'll add Penny's name even if it's professionally embarrassing and that he'll be on thin ice at work. Penny says that this is good, says bye and leaves. Closing the door he remarks that that worked better with Leonard.

Amy is reading the DC universe book that she got at the comic book store when Sheldon comes home. She starts to talk about what she has learned and Sheldon says that he doesn't want to talk about comics right now. Amy throws the book on the coffee table in disgust.

The Monetary Insufficiency

Season 11
Episode Number: 253
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday April 26, 2018
Writer: Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe
Director: Nikki Lorre
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Mark Berry (Pit Boss), Evan Charest (Croupier), D'Kia Anderson (Hostess), Seth Coltan (Earl)
Production Code: T12.15622
Summary: Sheldon goes to Vegas to win money for science. Also, Penny and Bernadette take Amy wedding dress shopping, but her terrible choice entangles them in a web of lies.



Leonard and Sheldon are playing a driving video game where Sheldon keeps stopping at traffic lights even though he is driving a stolen police vehicle with a dead hooker in the trunk. Raj and Howard return from the faculty mixer. Sheldon considers it a waste of money since he would rather have them fund a proof of concept of his new formulas on entropy decrease due to quantum decoherence. Raj tells him that to prove it; one must create a black hole that could destroy the earth. Sheldon is fine with that as long as he is proven right. Leonard suggests creating a contained microscopic-black hole.

Amy and Penny are lolling through wedding dress magazines where Penny asks if she wants a dress that is simple or elegant or whether to have a train. Sheldon comes in thinking they are discussing his kind of train. Then Sheldon asks them what he should do when he asks for funding for his project. He needs \$500 million to construct an experiment to help prove his latest string theory assertion. He needs 2148 high powered lasers focused on 20 micrograms of gold to generate a microscopic-black hole. Amy understands the problem because she wanted funding for a project to make brains grow younger, which she can't really do. Sheldon then considers getting it in installments. Penny tells him to start asking for \$20 million. Amy explains it to Sheldon that he should take something big and advance with it slowly even if it takes eight long years trying to not refer to her relationship with Sheldon.

Sheldon is now explaining his scientific approach to the Caltech President Siebert. He is impressed and then asks how much funding he needs. Sheldon asks for \$20 million and then adds \$50 million and then must double down, and again, and again. The president looks exasperated and Sheldon asks if they have a deal.

Back in apartment 4A, his friends commiserate with him. Higgs of the Higgs Boson particle took fifty years to prove his theory. Sheldon wants to play with his theory now. Sheldon decides to try and raise the money now.

Penny and Bernadette are enjoying the dress shop service while helping Amy with her wedding dress choice. Amy feels beautiful in the first dress she tries on. Penny tells her not to buy the first one she tries on. It's like marrying the first man she ever... .scratch that. She brings out another one that Bernadette thinks she looks beautiful in. Penny adds that when Sheldon sees her in it, he take if off of her, carefully put it way and then ravish her. Finally she has one with long lacy sleeves and way too many ruffles that she loves. All the girls can say is "WOW!"

Sheldon comes into to bother Leonard to help him shoot a kick-starter video. Sheldon wants to raise some seed money to help attract some major investors. He is willing to offer to create a customized bathroom schedule, design a flag for your —house or apartment or come over and tell one what is wrong with them. All within Sheldon's talents. .

At the Bernie's, the girls talk about that Amy found a dress that she likes until they finally admit that it is awful. Penny thought that she wanted their honest opinion. Bernie says that no one wants that she mentions Penny's dumb Cookie Monster tattoo. Was that fun? They both agree to tell her gently. And together. Later Penny tells Amy that she doesn't like her dress. Bernadette calls it beautiful.

At the comic book store Sheldon bring in some of his comics to sell to raise his money. He doesn't sound like he wants to sell the, but advancing science is more important to him. He then quickly leaves when Stuart starts to open them.

Penny is mad a Bernadette for throwing her under the bus. Bernadette admits that it makes her look bad, but she wonders if it's the first day that Penny has been a girl.

Now Sheldon is eating his own tuna fish sandwich because per his mother wouldn't wouldn't ship them from Up until. Up until know Sheldon has raised \$65,000. Raj suggests that he goes to Las Vegas. Sheldon doesn't think it's a bad idea. Leonard does. Sheldon mentions that scientist and mathematicians have beaten them all the time.

Penny goes to see Amy who asks if she should change first. She apologizes and says that all that matters is that she feels beautiful. "Thank you," Amy replies. Amy is still not okay because all she'll think about is that Penny hates it. She's the coolest, best dressed person she knows. Penny adds that it's just not a dress that she would buy. They are different people. Penny is going to may sure that the wedding is just about her. Amy calls her a good maid of honor. Then Bernadette calls and says that she doesn't like the dress either. Penny calls Bernadette the worst.

Sheldon is now in Las Vegas studying the wheel. An skw—employee asks if he can help Sheldon and he explains exactly what he was doing. The casino guard reports the code word "pelican" and Sheldon is escorted from the casino.

Back in apartment 4B, Amy is wearing her wedding dress. Sheldon comes in describing his adventure in Vegas, is surprised and tells her that she looks beautiful. She looks like a pile of swans. He can't wait to marry her.

The Sibling Realignment

Season 11
Episode Number: 254
Season Episode: 23

Originally aired: Thursday May 3, 2018
Writer: Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Anthony Del Broccolo, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Lynn Andrews (Margaret), Jerry O'Connell (George Cooper Jr.), Ellie Reed (Jenna)
Production Code: T12.15623
Summary: When Sheldon learns that his mother won't attend his wedding unless he invites his brother, Georgie, he and Leonard travel to Texas to end a family feud. Also, the Wolowitz kids inadvertently infest Amy, Bernadette, Wolowitz and Koothrappali with pinkeye.



Amy comes home and finds Sheldon in a heated conversation with his mother. She won't come unless Sheldon invites his older brother Georgie. His brother tormented him though out his childhood and he still holds a grudge against him.

At the Wolowitz house, the Posse is assembling gift bags for the wedding guests. The fact that Sheldon didn't invite his brother gives the drama that the other girls were expecting at a wedding. Howard comes downstairs and asks what the symptoms of Pink Eye is because both kids have it. Amy is upset because she doesn't want to be sick since her wedding is next week. Penny body blocks Howard

from coming down stairs to keep him away from the bride.

While Raj and Leonard play a video game, he complains that he might be the only single guy at the wedding without a date. Sheldon enters and asks him about his brother who wasn't that mean to Leonard. Georgie isn't returning Sheldon's calls. On his brother's phone message, he told Sheldon to call back on 1-800-SUCK-IT. Leonard says that short of flying there, what else does his mother expect him to do. On a plane to Texas, Leonard keeps wondering why he was there.

Bernadette and Raj are discussing his wedding date problem. He wonders why he can't call a firm and just hire a woman. Bernie explains that it's called an escort service. Howard comes down stairs with a case of Pink Eye and mentions to Raj that he should not have used his VR goggles.

In Dallas, Sheldon and Leonard arrives outside Georgie's place of business, the Dr. Tire tire store. He apparently has a chain of tire stores. Sheldon muses that to get that degree, one only needs a semester of community college. Inside a clerk explains that she'll go contact the doctor. Georgie comes out and asks what the hell Sheldon was doing there. Also he goes by George now.

Sheldon tells him that he wasn't returning his phone calls. George reacts that Sheldon was the smart one and he should be able to figure it out. Leonard adds that Sheldon isn't smart like that. His brother complains that they haven't spoken in ten years and now Sheldon expects him to drop everything because that's what he wants.

Penny answers a Skype call and finds that Bernadette has Pink Eye. Amy jumps in the call yelling that she got it though Penny is still healthy. Bernadette suggests that she wear a veil, which Penny initially finds funny. Amy is afraid that Sheldon may never return from Texas if he knows she is sick. Bernadette then suggests that Amy tell Sheldon that the wedding theme is *The Walking Dead* which she accepts as plan B.

In George's office he is not happy that Sheldon is now invited because their mother wants him there. George just wants Sheldon to ask him nicely which Sheldon does. He thanks Sheldon and then adds he would rather have a pregnant wildcat than come. Sheldon leaves explaining that it is good that he sells tires because he is very tiresome.

At the motel, Sheldon is still arguing with his mother who wants her boys to work it out between themselves. Sheldon still blames his brother for being mean to him all through his childhood. He once threw away his Halloween costume and Sheldon had to dress up in a sheet. Leonard decides to go talk to him again.

Raj had a date but it didn't go well since he was now infected. Amy isn't sympathetic since she is getting married and his maid of honor looks fine with his clear eyes.

Leonard returns to George's office as he finishes a big tire deal. Leonard tries to tell George that they were a lot alike and that he had picked on him so much. George feels like he was protecting his younger brother from life and his old foibles. The Halloween costume was of Madame Curie and George didn't want him to get beat up. He looked after him, drove him around and explained and apologized to others when he was rude, not unlike Leonard. Sheldon got all the extra family money to go to college and to Germany, while George had to work hard to open his first tire store. And then who was their mother most proud of? Sheldon. Leonard added that his mother is also prouder of Sheldon, too.

At the pedestrian, Penny is plating with the kid's toy. Everyone came since they needed to find out their Pink Eye cases were viral or contagious. Howard suggests that Amy wear a welder's mask to the wedding. Bernie pops in with the good news that it is a bacterial and not a contagious case they all have.

Back at the motel, Sheldon is on the phone complaining about the spelling on their room service menu. Leonard comes in with George and tells Sheldon that he needs to apologize to him. Sheldon explains that George doesn't know what he is putting their mother through. George retorts that Sheldon doesn't know how bad it was for their mother after their father died and that he had to take care of their mother and Missy. Mary wouldn't let Sheldon know how bad things were. He was protecting his little brother. Just because life is hard for Sheldon, that didn't mean that it wasn't hard for everyone else. Sheldon didn't realize that and apologized. And then he honestly asked George to come to his wedding which George said that he wouldn't miss. Sheldon and Amy were talking about the success of his trip though Amy won't show him her swollen eye. She also suggests that he doesn't have to hurry home and that he could stay (Amy looks at her eye drops.) another two to three more fun-filled days. Sheldon agrees so now they could visit a local train museum which thrills Leonard.

In a pharmacy checkout line, Raj meets a woman who also has Pink eye and then invites her to the wedding.

The Bow Tie Asymmetry

Season 11
Episode Number: 255
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired: Thursday May 10, 2018
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari, Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Laurie Metcalf (Mary Cooper), Kathy Bates (Mrs. Fowler), Mark Hamill (Himself), Wil Wheaton (Himself), Jerry O'Connell (George Cooper Jr.), Teller (Larry Fowler), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), Courtney Henggeler (Missy Cooper), Lauren Lapkus (Denise)
Production Code: T12.15624
Summary: When Amy's parents and Sheldon's family arrive, everybody is focused to make sure all wedding arrangements go according to plan — everyone except the bride and groom.



Maid of Honor Penny is organizing the hotel and transportation arrangement for the wedding guests. She remarks that the wedding day was a day that she never thought would happen. Both Sheldon and Amy have similar feelings. She rallies the troops comparing their job to one of their comic boo movies. Raj suggests the new Avengers movie, the film that Bernadette napped through. Amy brings up a Lord of the Rings analogy. Someone has to go to places like Gondor, Mordor or hold off the demon of shadow and flame. The last is Amy's mother. Sheldon thinks that that is appropriate since the Lord of

the Rings involved a ring that binds you in servitude for ever. Amy turns to Penny and she is touched that he said "forever".

In apartment 4B, Amy gets off the phone with Wil Wheaton who is excited about officiating at their wedding. Sheldon keeps working on his bow tie trying to get it perfect. He also explains that when he was younger he would have asked for William Shatner to do his wedding, but if he was too expensive, Wil Wheaton would do. Also Sheldon wants to get his bow tie even; however, Amy thinks that a little asymmetry looks good. In the Renaissance, the concept was known as "sprezzatura". Sheldon is more of an Enlightenment person. Amy wonders if Sheldon has any pre-wedding jitters. Sheldon does not, even if he came back from the future to stop the wedding because their child was will destroy humanity. Amy mentions that even then they had gotten married because Sheldon believes that time travel is a closed loop. Sheldon then tells her how much he loves her so damn much.

Penny is bringing in Amy's parents and asks if Mr. Fowler was comfortable in the back. His wife says that he is fine. She also complains that Amy didn't pick them up and even though it is

the day before the wedding, she just didn't have enough time for her mother. She feels that Amy used to be much more devoted and now she is just waiting for her to die and get her china.

Raj picked up Mary Cooper and her daughter Missy. Mary is very appreciative to Raj. Their driver to the airport was also an "Indian fellow". Missy comments though Mary doesn't think that's racist to notice that someone is Indian. Raj doesn't mind and he did notice that they were both white. Mary adds that Missy is a bit hormonal since she is pregnant. Raj congratulates her and Missy replies, "Whoopee." She is also separated from her husband. Raj finds that interesting that she is available.

The engaged couple and Leonard is visiting with Georgie Cooper Jr.. Amy remarks that he is Sheldon's brother. He replied that Sheldon got the brains and he got the bod and the face and the hair. Amy loves his accent and wished that Sheldon had it. Sheldon can sound like that, but won't. Raj brings in Missy while his mother stooped at the hotel to freshen up and to pray for Missy's soul. Sheldon introduces Amy and adds that if he ever needs a kidney ask his twin sister. Amy is happy and remarks that she always wanted a sister. Sheldon wonders why. Missy adds that she loves him too. Penny enters uttering, "Oh my, God." Next come in the Fowler's. Mrs. F calls Amy "Mama's little girl" and can't believe she is getting married. Also she says that her husband can't believe it either. Amy tells her father hi and asks how he is doing. Without a word Me. Fowler indicates that he wants to hang himself.

Howard is petting a dog while Bernadette comes downstairs wondering where he came from. She already has two kids and Howard and Stuart. Howard found the dog in the backyard and called the owner. The doorbell rings and its Mark Hamill. Howard excuses himself, closes the door and squeals, "That's Mark Hamill!" Mark is so glad that Howard found his little friend, Bark Hamill. Mark had had an online contest with the fans and the runner up was Honey Baked Hamill. Howard won't accept a reward so Mark asks him if there is something he could do for him. Howard adds that he'll probably regret saying that.

Stuart approaches Denise with "Hey, dude," and adds that he doesn't think of her as a woman. She doesn't think that he is much of a man. He asks her to Sheldon and Amy's wedding, which she thinks is weird since he is her boss. Howard then runs in that Mark Hamill is going to officiate at the wedding. She turns around and tells Stuart that he needs to buy her a dress.

Back in apartment 4A, Mrs. Fowler mentions that Amy played Amelia Earhart in the eighth grade. At home, not in a play with all those kids do is take drugs and have intercourse. Sheldon raises her wine glass and Leonard fills it. Leonard mentions the Fun with Flags show which embarrasses Amy. Her mother thinks reminds Amy what men do with those online videos. Raj tries to defuse the comments saying that the show puts him to sleep. Sheldon was being quiet thinking about string theory. Mr. Fowler tells her husband that these are the people you're leaving me with after he dies.

Howard meets Bert Kibler and tells him that he looks good. He compares himself to Geode that looks wonderful, but you have to break it open to see the beauty. Raj sees Mark Hamill enter and Howard explains how he got him there. Howard has to go tell Wilt that he has been replaced.

Leonard is getting emotional helping his buddy get ready. Leonard is happy for Sheldon and that Sheldon will be officially and legally Amy's problem. Ahh. Sheldon adds that he will always be Leonard's problem. Leonard hugs him as Mary Cooper comes in and asks for a moment with her son. They both agree that they wish that his dad could be there. She is proud of him. Sheldon thanks her for everything including his whole life. They hug and then his mother wants to straighten his tie. Sheldon wants it to be a little asymmetrical. Mary adds that sometimes it the imperfect stuff that makes things perfect. Sheldon has a thought and leaves. Mary then says to herself, "Case in point", referring to her Shelly.

Wil Wheaton approaches Mark Hamill and says. "So we finally meet." Mark doesn't know who he is, but does appreciate all the notes that Wil had made while staying up all night.

As Amy is adjusting her veil, Sheldon knocks and she tells him to come in. He thinks that Amy looks amazing. He then describes how her comments about imperfection in his bow tie; he wants to add the imperfections of the real world into his string theory calculations. Amy then calls his work super asymmetry and he likes that. He gets her lipstick and starts to work out the calculations on her stand-up mirror.

Howard approaches Mark Hamill and asks him to stall since the bride and groom are running late. Mark doesn't know what to do, so Howard asks if there are any Star Wars questions from the congregation. A lot of hands go up including Mr. Fowler's. Raj is jumping up and down.

Sheldon is hard at work talking about slightly asymmetrical knots when Leonard comes in to check on them. They tell Leonard that they are inventing super asymmetry. Leonard hasn't heard of that and wants them to leave until he gets into the discussion.

Raj asks Mark Hamill about Luke Skywalker trying to understand the natives when he was on the Wookiee home planet. Mark doesn't remember that, though Stuart remembers about the dreaded Star Wars Christmas special. Georgie wonders why none of the Star Wars vehicles had tires also stumping Mark. Stuart answers again with Denise telling him that he was hot.

Mrs. Fowler goes to take Amy home because she is convinced that Sheldon stood her up. Penny tells her to sit back down because they love each other and Sheldon wouldn't hurt her. Mary applauds Penny who tells her to also sit down. Amy's mother tells her husbands to say something because of the way Penny spoke to her. He replies, "Thank you."

Back in the bride's room, Leonard checks Google and no one has thought of their idea of super asymmetry. They had a brand new idea. Penny comes in and asks what these lunatics are doing? They are working on science. Penny finds that shocking, but what about the wedding. Sheldon agrees that they have their entire lives to work on science. Amy says, "Let's get married." Penny is pumped up and leaves to get the wedding started.

Penny enters with Sheldon and Leonard. Sheldon is shocked at finding Mark Hamill. Mark congratulates him as the music starts and Amy comes in in her father's arm. Amy notices the difference, but it is just another sci-fi guy with a beard. Mark moves straight to their vows since he has been answering questions for 45 minutes. Stuart knows who was really answering the questions. Amy tells Sheldon that she knew there was something special between them ever since they met in the coffee shop and her loves has been growing ever since. She doesn't know what the future holds, but she knows she has never been happier than she is at that moment. Mark gets all choked up and then tells Sheldon to continue. Sheldon doesn't know what to say because he is overwhelmed by Amy. Even if he can't express himself at that moment, he plans on spending the rest of his life showing how much he loves her. Mark barely gets out asking them if they will wed each other, he finishes with "By the power invested in me by EvenYouCan PerformWeddings.com he declares them man and wife. They kiss, applause break out and Sheldon escorts his wife Amy down the aisle to Barry Kripke singing "At last, my love has come along, my lonely days are over, and life is like a song... ."

Season Twelve

The Conjugal Configuration

Season 12
Episode Number: 256
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Monday September 24, 2018
Story:	Chuck Lorre, Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez
Teleplay:	Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Kathy Bates (Mrs. Fowler), Neil DeGrasse Tyson (Himself), Bill Nye (Himself), Teller (Larry Fowler), Ciara Renée (Sunny Morrow), Giovanni Bejarano (Bellman), Andy Taylor Kim (Tour Guide), Jeanelle Marie Cruz (Bike Messenger)
Production Code:	T12.16001
Summary:	After their wedding, Amy and Sheldon go on their honeymoon.



Lying in bed together, Sheldon leans over and tells Amy, "Good morning, wife." Amy wakes, smiles and replies, "Good morning, husband." Sheldon then suggests that they follow the tradition of hanging their sheets outside the window so that the "villagers" can see that they have consummated their marriage. Sheldon opens up the curtains revealing that the Coopers are visiting Legoland on their honeymoon. Then Sheldon offers Amy the breakfast he ordered from room service composed entirely of Lego bricks which

causes Amy to laugh.

Walking up the stairs Penny is happy that with the Coopers away, she has some alone time with her husband, Leonard. Raj quips that they aren't alone since both he and the Wolowitz's are with them having take-out dinner. Raj announces that channel 3 news invited him to talk about an upcoming meteor shower. Leonard adds that that was how Neil deGrasse Tyson got started with guest shots on the local news. At the top of the stairs, Raj hears noises coming from Penny's old apartment. Leonard is sure that Sheldon and Amy aren't back because they posted a picture of them in front of the Statue of Liberty — made of Lego. Penny runs over and bangs on the door. Mr. Fowler opens the door saying that Amy had asked him to water her plants. Penny tells him that Amy doesn't have any plants. Mr. Fowler admits that he was caught in a lie and leaves. Raj asks if that was weird and Leonard says that he can't even tell anymore. After the gang is inside Leonard and Penny's apartment, Mr. Fowler runs back into Apartment 4B.

The Coopers are escorted into their hotel room in New York City where they are going to be very busy. The Harry Potter play parts one AND two, the Nikolas Tesla tour and, of course, coitus. Amy was happy to do it again until she sees that Sheldon has it on his schedule. At the moment they could steam their Harry Potter robes or "make vigorous socially sanctioned love".

Leonard and Penny sit down to see Raj's appearance on the news, though Penny is peeved that they are missing "Vampire Diaries". Amy's mother is pounding on the door across the hallway demanding that her husband let her in. The Hofstadters come out and ask her if everything is

okay. She feels that they should worry more about her husband. Leonard doesn't think that Mr. Fowler is in the Cooper apartment, though Mrs. Fowler looks at him with contempt. She calls Leonard naive and tells him that "Blondie" is going to chew him up and spit him out. She makes Leonard open up the door with his extra key and she begins to search for her husband. He's not in the living area or the bedroom. She pulls aside the bathtub curtains and doesn't find him in one end of the tub. He is hiding in the opposite end.

Howard and Bernadette are waiting to watch Raj on TV while Howard mentions that the weather girl is hot. Bernadette says that he can call her hot if he wants, but Howard resists it thinking that he'd just give her an excuse for not having sex that night. Raj is introduced to discuss the upcoming meteor shower and first jokes that Neil DeGrasse Tyson must have been unavailable. The weather girl (woman) asks about what is going to occur and Raj says that there will be a lot of flaming gas, like Neil DeGrasse Tyson. She asks if there is no love lost between Raj and Neil. Raj quips that he loves Neil like Neil loves Neil. Raj can't add anything else because he used up all their air time insulting a fellow astronomer.

Sheldon and Amy return from the theater wearing their robes. Sheldon likes live theater because it is so interactive. He yelled to Harry to look out and the actor looked right at him much to Amy's embarrassment. Sheldon is ready to jump into bed again with Amy, but she wants to wait till the morning. Sheldon then goes over their schedule which disturbs Amy that their coitus can't be more spontaneous. She wonders why the two of them can't mix it up a bit. Sheldon then calls her Betty Crocker. And it bothers Sheldon that they might have sex at any time. Amy adds that they are not having it that night.

In apartment 4B, Mrs. Fowler is lecturing her husband that he shouldn't leave without a message or a note. Leonard thinks that she should let him talk once in a while. She asks her husband to say something and all he can do is shrug his shoulders. She then tells him to go home, however; Mr. Fowler wants to stay. Mrs. Fowler also plans to stay. Leonard tells Penny that they are leaving even though Penny isn't ready.

Entering their apartment, Leonard is feeling sorry for "the little guy". Penny quips that after they had Amy, she should have devoured them like the animal on that nature show. She doesn't know what Mr. Fowler saw in his wife. Leonard smiles and says that some guys think strong women are sexy and that opposites attract. Penny gets offended that Leonard thinks that they are like the Fowlers and that she is like Amy's mother and storms off.

At the Wolowitz's Raj reads a Tweet by Tyson saying that some random nobody on the evening news took a cheap shot at him. Bernadette thinks that he should apologize, while Raj thinks that a good tweeter feud would help his career. "Dear Dr. Tyson, much like epithelial tissue, I have gotten under your skin." Tyson shoots back that epithelial tissue is skin — GENIUS! Raj is set to keep up the Tweeter war.

In New York City on the Tesla walking tour, Sheldon wants to correct the guide. Amy tells him to let it go. Sheldon thinks that something is bothering his wife. He asks if she is sexually frustrated. No just testy. Sheldon adds that she wouldn't be if they adhered to their schedule. Amy replies that everyone is listening to them. Sheldon feels that that is because he is interesting unlike their guide. Amy walks away from him.

The next morning at the Hofstadters, Leonard walks in and tells Penny, "Good morning, Sunshine." Penny is still pissed. She is making expresso so she have the extra strength for ball busting all day. Penny explains that Leonard compared the two of them to the strangest couple they know and that includes the Coopers, the Wolowitzes and Raj and his dog. Leonard describes Mrs. Fowler as angry and vindictive while Penny is warm and loving and — quick to forgive, while Leonard can't get away from sounding like her mousy husband. Penny is worried that they'll be like that in thirty years.

Playing a game with Howard and Bernadette, Raj is still engaged with his Tyson feud. Bernadette thinks that it's silly. Raj feels that it is two respected scientists debating in an open field even though Raj called him Mike Tyson's little sister. Now the fighter is angry with Raj.

Mrs. Fowler is now visiting Penny. Her husband is taking a break from their marriage and says that she is overbearing. Penny meekly says that she is just the right amount of bearing and that she is sure that Mr. Fowler will come back to her. Mrs. Fowler thinks that Penny is a good person and that she hopes that they can spend a lot of time together. Penny marches over to 4B and demands that Mr. Fowler go home.

Finding Amy on a park bench, Sheldon delivers two hot dogs to her from a nearby street vendor that normally disgusts Sheldon. She is not hungry. Sheldon does want to be a good husband to Amy. He knows that intimacy is part of that, but he wants it on his schedule so that he'll remember to be intimate. Amy doesn't want anyone other than Sheldon, but the idea of scheduling their coitus needs a compromise. Sheldon can schedule all the things he wants, just don't tell Amy about it. That is fine with Sheldon. He plans on generating a random producing algorithm to make it look like their intimacy is spontaneous. The randomness is not really genuine because ... "the true randomness of numbers is an unsolved problem in computer science" adds Amy. Sheldon then takes her back to the hotel so she can repeat that to him... naked.

Raj is driving and gets a personal phone call from Dr. Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Raj asks how he like their Twitter feud. Tyson doesn't find him funny. Then he invites Raj to a Pasadena book signing and tells him to say those things to his face. Raj declines which Tyson considers a smart move since he was the guy that kicked Pluto out of the solar system. Raj thanks him and hangs up. Neil wonders who next needs a good deGrass kicking. Calling Bill Nye the Science Guy, Neil tells him that they need to talk. Bill immediately hangs up on him.

The Wedding Gift Wormhole

Season 12
Episode Number: 257
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday September 27, 2018
Story: Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari
Teleplay: Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Andy Gordon
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Lauren Lapkus (Denise), Brian George (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali), Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), Luis Aldana (Greg), Kikéy Castillo (Leslie)
Production Code: T12.16002
Summary: Leonard and Penny give Sheldon and Amy a baffling wedding gift.



At take-out dinner in Apartment 4A, the Coopers are now feeling like a real married couple seen on television and not like Amy's arguing parents. They returned from their honeymoon and bought everyone an "I heart NY" t-shirt which they ordered from Amazon after boarding their airplane. Sheldon suggests that his the t-shirt also could be used if the owner likes singer Neil Young or Egyptian Olympic tennis silver medalist Noha Yossry or even Japanese animi voice actress Nana Yamaguchi (Raj's suggestion). Penny is

not happy that they got her a size double XL. Amy reacts that she told Sheldon that that would happen to which Sheldon replies, "Yes, dear."

In apartment 4B, Sheldon and Amy are writing thank-you notes for their wedding presents. In his note, Sheldon is complaining to Amy's Aunt Helen how much his hand hurts after writing sixteen notes. The next present is from Leonard and Penny whose note says that it's the "perfect present for the perfect couple". The present a glass carrot with a round knob on the top. Sheldon thinks that its candy, while Amy shakes it to see if it does anything else. Then she wonders if the glass rod was a martial aid. Sheldon say that it's ridiculous that a glass rod could aid their marriage.

At comic book store, Stuart and Denise are working and discussing Superman's shorts while laughing together. Raj and Howard find it remarkable that Stuart is smiling and flirting. Raj actually saw them making out at Sheldon and Amy's wedding. Before Denise leaves they don't succeed in hugging, but they do pat each other on the head. Afterwards Raj and Howard ask how Denise feels about him and Stuart really hasn't asked. He wonders if he should ask her out. Raj wants him to because love is the most important thing in the world and otherwise you are left with your dog staring at you as you eat a bag of Doritos sitting on the loo.

Lying in bed, Sheldon and Amy can't stop thinking about Leonard and Penny's present. The item was supposed to be the perfect present which Sheldon thinks would have been a dinosaur fossil or a pocket watch. Then Sheldon tries to think simply like their friends. Amy doesn't want to ask them because it would hurt their feelings so they turn over to go to sleep to start fresh in the morning; however, Amy changes her mind and suggests that they tear apart the gift box and look for clues. Staying up late and mysteries? Sheldon loves being married.

As Stuart works in the kitchen, Bernadette wonders what is wrong with Stuart's face. He's smiling. She comments how happy he looks and Stuart admits that Denise agreed to go on a date with him. Howard tells him to wear clean undies and be well groomed down there, while Bernadette leaves not wanting to be part of their manly discussion.

Sheldon enters Leonard and Penny's apartment to hand deliver their thank-you note for their "very thoughtful gift." When asked if they liked it, Sheldon said that they liked it lot more than things that aren't it. Then Sheldon asks what they were doing when they chose it. Leonard asks him if he knows what it's for. Penny dismisses her husband saying that Sheldon is the smartest man in the world so he knows. Sheldon appreciates the complement, but he knows that some Chinese people are also very clever. He is going home to use their gift in the manner it was intended to be used. Afterwards, Leonard mentions that he'll never figure it out and that that makes him happy. From the hallway they hear Sheldon shouting "What are you?"

In the cafeteria, Sheldon asks Howard if he knows what the wedding gift is without telling him. Sheldon and Amy think that it is a clue to a scavenger hunt. Howard then says that if Sheldon thinks that he and Amy have to run all over town for a couple of days looking for the next clue, then he HAS to say yes. Sheldon is overjoyed and leaves as Leonard and Raj join Howard. Leonard is very happy about Sheldon's incorrect assumption. It is really a dumb crystal wand that Howard and Bernadette gave him and Penny for their wedding. Raj is incensed that Howard gave away the crystal chakra wand that he gave Howard as a wedding present.

The Coopers take their gift to Bert the geologist who thinks that being on a scavenger hunt is exciting. He was kind of on one the previous night looking for his TV remote. Bert tells them that the object is made of quartz. Sheldon then Googles quartz to find out more about it. Bert comments that they could ask the geologist who won the MacArthur genius grant that was in the room. The word comes from a German variation that has no T in it. No T. Amy asks, "What is not "T"?" Coffee! Then they head to the coffee shop where they first met eight years ago.

At the comic book store, Stuart wants Raj to check out his scent prior to his date with Denise. Raj thinks that Stuart is rubbing it in his face since he has a date. Stuart just wants to get some advice since Raj has gone out with more women than any man he knows. Raj then adds that Sheldon is the smart one, Howard is the funny one and he is the ladies' man. And Leonard? He's the forgettable one. Raj recognizes the cologne as Paco Rabanne. Stuart is also worried since he doesn't want to screw things up with Denise. Raj tells him to go with his instincts, though that has not worked with him his entire life.

Sheldon and Amy enter the coffee shop and check out the table where they first used. They tell the couple sitting there to just ignore them, but all Sheldon finds is a wad of gum that disgusts him. Amy goes to check behind the counter. Sheldon tells the couple that he met his wife at that table and that maybe eight years later they could be married too. The man explains that the woman was his sister. Sheldon redoubles that he better not tell others that fact. Amy is now checking out the lost and found box. "Why?" asks Sheldon. Because they were both once lost and they found each other! Sheldon thinks that that makes perfect sense. Inside they found a crystal locket which thrills Amy. The locket is empty which Sheldon feels they have to fill with memories. Amy thinks that it's the best wedding present ever! Sheldon takes a pair of sunglasses because he thinks that their future is so bright. They leave the coffee shop very happy together.

In their kitchen, Howard comes across a picture that Halley made at daycare that he calls "pretty good." Bernadette asks, "is it?" Tough Mom. Stuart comes in colored orange because he had a problem with his spray tan. Now it doesn't want to come off. And Bernadette needs to get new towels, a bath mat and a new toilet seat. Stuart is supposed to pick Denise up in an hour. Howard asks him what he was going to "oompa loompa dopedity doo"? Bernadette suggests either put off the date or just go on it telling her what happened. Howard then adds that he could swing by the chocolate factory and see if they were hiring.

Raj is skyping with his father. He appreciates the call on his birthday which Raj had forgotten. Raj adds that his perfect gift is for his son to marry Indian woman like he always wanted. His father thinks that that is great news and wants to know who it is. Raj corrects him saying that he is tired of being single and he wants his father to arrange a marriage for him. His father will do it, but wants Raj to stop sending him pictures with [[Cinnamon—his dog in matching sweaters. He also shows Raj a picture of a beautiful young Indian woman that gets Raj excited, but that is the woman that his father is dating. Dr. K wonders if she has an older sister.

Amy is showing Leonard and Penny the locket that she has put small pictures of her and

Sheldon in. Sheldon thanks them for the three gifts they gave them, the locket, the scavenger hunt and the realization that Sheldon and Amy can do anything as long as they work together. So the Coopers wrote them a special thank-you note in ancient Sanskrit that Leonard and Penny have to decipher together. Also they can't use the Internet to cheat because they have been locked out of their Wi-Fi and the answer in Sanskrit is their new password. Leonard no longer feels happy about their gift to the Coopers. Raj then runs in explaining that he is getting married because his father found him a bride. Her name is Anu, she is in her 30s, works in hotel hospitality and he thinks it will work if he can get through six to ten dates without his true self coming through. Sheldon then tells Amy that he knows the perfect wedding gift the new couple. Raj is going to get back his wand.

Denise opens up her door and exclaims "Wow" after seeing Stuart. He admits to a series of bad decisions in preparing for their date. Denise declines breaking the date, though they could go out and find Nemo. She also wonders if the other 63 crayons know he is missing. Stuart asks if she is going to do that all night. Probably. Then Stuart asks if she'd like Chinese food. Sure, especially Chicken Ala Orange.

The Procreation Calculation

Season 12
Episode Number: 258
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday October 4, 2018
Story: Chuck Lorre, Tara Hernandez, Adam Faberman
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Keith Carradine (Wyatt), Lauren Lapkus (Denise), Rati Gupta (Anu), Matt Knudsen (Waiter)
Production Code: T12.16003
Summary: The Wolowitzes' life gets complicated when Stuart starts bringing his new girlfriend home. Also, Penny and Leonard talk about starting a family while Koothrappali explores an arranged marriage.



While partaking in a take-out dinner in Apartment 4A, the Wolowitzes mention that a house was for sale in their neighborhood. The Hofstadters could become their neighbors and become part of the home-owner and crying baby set. Amy objects and wants Penny and her hubby to be their neighbors. Sheldon doesn't want to move because he'd have to change all the tags on his underwear. Leonard thinks that they are happy

where they are for now. Penny figures that eventually they'll get a loft downtown, while Leonard wants something with a yard. Howard wonders how the two of them got married. He has been there watching Leonard wear Penny down. Raj plans to get to know Anu better before they get married. Amy questions why he's letting his family pick a wife for him. Raj insists that arranged marriages have existed for thousands of years and that they each filled out questionnaires to see if they are compatible. Raj asks Leonard what Penny's dream vacation is. Malibu beach house. Penny snaps that that is Barbie's dream vacation and that Raj should send them the questionnaire.

Howard and Bernadette are quietly reading in their living room though Bernie is really shopping on her cell phone which is hidden in her book. Stuart shows up with his girlfriend Denise. They had just returned from watching an improv show. Stuart offers to show her his room which Denise quickly accepts. Bernadette asks Howard how he feels about the couple "doing stuff" in his room. Howard doesn't feel that anything will happen until they both start hearing the song, "Smooth Operator".

In Apartment 4A, Leonard is doing a great job painting Penny's nails. He had put together a lot of models while he was growing up. They next received the marriage questionnaire from Raj. Going through it, neither of them have a stated religious preference. Penny still thinks that she is pretty spiritual since she does yoga. Penny is close to her family, while Leonard wishes that they were farther. On the subject of kids, Leonard wants them and Penny says maybe "someday". On pets, Leonard quips that he did have Sheldon for fifteen years and he only bit him once.

At dinner, Raj and Anu they both agree that they know each other really well after having read their questionnaires. Anu then proceeds to order the waiter around. Raj then stumbles and Anu

says that he's not good at dating. That is why he is having his father set up their marriage. Anu also wants to get married since she is 34 and wants to have kids. She is a hotel concierge and is very ambitious and wants to take over the w—hotel manager's job. Raj had been looking for a wife that was just like Sandra Bullack. They both just want a partner that is nice. When girls break up with Raj they say that he is a nice guy. Anu thinks that she is nice, but wants a guy committed to their relationship. When she learns that his last name is Koothrappali, she asks if how she feels if she doesn't change her name.

Penny enters Bernadette's office all ready for lunch, though she is quite busy because Halley and Michael are making her fall behind in her work. Unfortunately they are cute playing together ruining her reason for being late with her work. Penny mentions that maybe she doesn't want kids. Bernie objects saying that they are amazing. Penny notes that she is contradicting herself. Bernadette explains that beforehand you don't think you want them and afterwards you know that you wanted them. Penny knows that she would be a great mother, but doesn't feel like she needs kids to feel fulfilled. Bernadette then quips that why would she need kids since she has Leonard.

In the cafeteria, Howard asks Raj how his date went and then Raj asks him if he'd like to be his best man. Howard wants to know why he would marry someone he only met once. Raj feels that they are both nice so why not. Sheldon feels that Raj is doing the right thing bowing to a 3000-year-old authoritarian tradition. Leonard remarks that Sheldon married for love. Why does he have to throw that back at him? Howard still thinks that Raj knows nothing about Anu. Raj quotes four facts about her and then storms off.

Howard returns home unhappy that Raj is mad at him. Bernadette feels that Penny is also mad at her. The Wolowitzes wonder why their friends won't listen to them since they have a great marriage, great kids, great jobs and a great house. Next "Smooth Operator" starts playing again. Howard takes Bernie's hand as she starts to cry.

Back in the Hofstadter home, Penny asks Leonard about when she mentioned that they might have kids "someday." Leonard jumps to the conclusion that she is pregnant. "No," replies Penny several times. She then asks how he feels about not having kids. Ever? Penny doesn't want to change the great life they have now. Leonard says "Sure," with no conviction. Then he adds that they couldn't raise kids in the loft that she never told him about. He tries to leave and says that he isn't angry, but can't get the door opened. After Leonard leaves he can be heard telling Amy that he's NOT mad!

While driving Sheldon to work, Sheldon is happy that they are having a quiet ride to work. Leonard mentions that Penny doesn't want to have kids, while Sheldon would rather not talk at all. Leonard didn't think that he would be in the end of the Hofstadter line. Sheldon then brings up Leonard's siblings who both have kids, as he names all five of Leonard's nephews through his older sister who continues to hold the family name. Realizing this, Leonard resolves to go back to being quiet.

Howard approaches Raj who is eating alone in the cafeteria. Raj then asks if he is making a huge mistake having chosen a blueberry muffin. He insists that he is happy with his choice even though Howard's cinnamon roll smells delicious. So Howard splits it with him. Howard apologizes, but wonders why someone who is so romantic would agree to an arranged marriage; however, if Raj is happy, then Howard will fully support him. He then asks Raj if the wedding would be in India. Maybe. "Oh God," sighs Howard.

Amy storms into Apartment 4A, shouting "What the hell, Penny!" She wanted their kids to grow up together because she felt that no one else would be their friends. Penny says that they can make other friends and they'll be the fun Aunt Penny and Uncle Leonard who will give them candy, teach them swear words and tell them stories about how weird their mother is. Maybe Amy could live with that. Unfortunately she had the dream that the two of them would breastfeed each other's children. Penny thinks that she'll never forget that Amy even said that as Amy tries to reach for her to comfort her.

Howard comes into their bedroom and hops into bed to get romantic with Bernadette. "Smooth Operator" starts playing again. Howard tries to drown it out with their music, but only wakes up Michael. Howard goes off the take care of the kid.

Leonard comes home to Penny working in the kitchen. She fixed his favorite meal, an "In & Out" burger on a plate. They whole "no-kids" issue just took Leonard by surprise. He always thought that he would have kids. There are a lot of things that he imagine that he has never

gotten like, a Nobel Prize or a working Batmobile. Though another thing he thought he would never have was a wife like Penny. Penny asks if he is sure that that is enough. Sure. Her phone rings and it's Penny's father calls asking her why he wasn't getting any grandchildren.

Getting drinks from the bar, both Raj's and Anu's parents were happy for them. Raj's parents even spoke to each other. Anu wants to go onto the next step toward a wedding. Themes and flowers? No. Finances and taxes. That was the theme of Raj's parents' divorce. Raj then wonders if they should get married since he is really a hopeless romantic. Anu seems great, but this was not the story he wants to tell his grandkids. Raj apologizes for wasting her time and walks away. Anu look sad and calls him back. Anu tells him that he would make a great father and that he is tall enough that she can wear heels. She thinks that that is something worth fighting for. Anu then gets down on her knee and asks Raj to marry her. He joyfully accepts as the bar breaks into applause. They kiss though she warns him that she has a piercing. Well, she's not that nice.

Walking down the street, Penny brings up the subject of things Leonard thought he would never have. Penny points to a Batmobile parked in front of them. Leonard is excited that she had bought him a copy of the 1960's series Batmobile. "No," replies Penny several times. The car had been rented for one day without insurance. Leonard jumps in driving off leaving Penny alone. Then he backs up, asks for Robin to join him and off they go together. Na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na.....Batman!

The Tam Turbulence

Season 12
Episode Number: 259
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday October 11, 2018
Story: Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Maria Ferrari
Teleplay: Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Jerry O'Connell (George Cooper Jr.), Rati Gupta (Anu), Robert Wu (Tam Nguyen)
Production Code: T12.16004
Summary: Sheldon won't tell anyone why he's never mentioned Tam, his childhood best friend, so Leonard takes matters into his own hands. Also, Bernadette and Penny take out Raj's fiancée, Anu, for dinner to get the skinny on her.



Amy enters her living room to find Sheldon improving their wedding photographs by adding guests who did not attend like the Wright Brothers. Amy then receives an email from "Tam" telling Sheldon that he was visiting Caltech with his son and wanted to get together with his old friend Sheldon. Amy wonders why Sheldon never mentioned his childhood best friend so Sheldon yells at her, "Tam! Tam! Tam! Tam! Tam!" and runs into the bedroom.

In Apartment 4A having dinner, the gang wonders how Raj could be engaged to a woman that he just met. Raj asks for advice on an engagement ring. Bernadette wants to know if she has fingers. Amy enters asking the guys about Tam. No one knows about him. He seems to have betrayed Sheldon and Amy doesn't want to pry into why.

In Bernadette's office, she is playing a video game when Penny enters and is worried about Raj and his new fiancée. Penny can't find anything on the internet so Bernie wants her Dad to check with his police buddies. She calls him, but he won't do it because it is illegal.

At lunch, Leonard can't believe that Sheldon has another friend that Leonard has never heard about. Since Leonard knows Sheldon's bathroom schedule, he thought he knew who his friends are. They all wonder what Tam could have done so Howard suggests that they call Sheldon's brother George.

Later Skyping with George, he remembers Sheldon's "little Vietnam buddy". Leonard mentions that he was not even at the wedding, though George thinks that he did talk to him there. George wonders if he still has his enemies list and his bathroom schedule. Yep. Howard downloads the enemies list and finds Tam Nguyen. Sheldon only lists that Tam knows what he did. The guys decide to meet Tam and ask him. Howard next finds that Jim Henson made the enemies list for inventing that big yellow bird that scared Sheldon and gave him nightmares.

Penny and Bernadette walk into Anu's hotel lobby. They walk up to the concierge's desk and introduce themselves. She replies that they were there to check her out. Bernadette immediately likes her because she is smart. She is invited out to dinner and then suggests the restaurant Bavel. Penny thinks it's impossible to get reservations as Anu picks up the phone and gets them. Doing impossible things is her superpower. When leaving, Bernadette wonders that if she can get into any restaurant, was Raj the best husband she could find?

The guys wander around a university gathering and find Sheldon's former best friend. He is happy to meet Sheldon's friends since Sheldon hasn't gotten back to him. Leonard says that Sheldon didn't come because he was still upset about ... you know, hoping that Tam knew. He didn't. Tam thinks that Sheldon just moved to California and they drifted apart. Sheldon comes out and Tam is very happy to see him. Sheldon still thinks that Tam betrayed him. Why? When Sheldon moved to California, Tam didn't come with him. Sheldon then storms off leaving Tam in a state of shock.

Leonard finds Sheldon in his office and wants to explain to him that Tam has done nothing. Sheldon yells at him that he never does anything that is stupid and that Leonard could end up on his enemies list. Leonard leaves disgusted and warns him that Sheldon can't afford to lose another best friend.

At dinner, Penny thinks that the restaurant is amazing. Anu adds that she usually gets tipped for doing the impossible. Penny sees LeBron James over at another table. Bernadette then asks why a smart successful woman would want to marry someone she just met. She had tried finding someone herself in her 20's and it didn't work out. Her parents had an arranged marriage and are happy together. Bernadette replies that she married for love and it turned out ... (pause)... fine. Penny adds a "me, too".

Amy comes home and finds Sheldon on the phone with Howard whom he congregates as his new best friend. Neither of them are happy about it. Amy can guess what happened. Sheldon tells her that she knows him so well. Amy offers to be his best friend, but he wants a wife that he can complain to. Sheldon is very angry that Leonard took Tam's side. It seems when Sheldon was accepted at Caltech, he was afraid to move away from home and Tam offered to move out with him and then he didn't do it. Tam found a girlfriend and stayed in Texas. Amy explained that if Tam had moved out there with him, he wouldn't have the great friends he has now. Sheldon thinks about what would have happened and figures that things would be the same.

The girls ask Anu about her craziest request ever. Brittany Spears wanted to blow bubbles and she had to go to Kmart at 3 AM. She then asks about Raj. First they insist that he is great and then that he is fun to hang out with just like another girlfriend. The good part and the bad part. He also bathes with his dog and cries when Hugh Jackman sings. Anu looks a little worried.

Tam enters Sheldon's office at his request. Sheldon forgives him even though Tam insists that he did nothing. Tam had met Beth and loved her and stayed. Sheldon was meant to move to California and to do amazing things that he (Tam) was very proud of. Sheldon is sorry that things didn't work out for him, but Tam insists that he is very happy.

In the cafeteria, the guys first mention about the girls meeting. Bernadette was pretty drunk and tried to go to sleep in the dryer. Sheldon walks in with Tam. He had been showing Tam and his son around Caltech. Sheldon decided that it was silly to hold his grudge. Sheldon wants them to go do something, but Tam has to get a cab and head to the airport. Sheldon then insists that Leonard can drive them. Sheldon then tells his old friend a quick goodbye and leaves.

At work Bernadette is showing an Instagram picture of her and LeBron James. All Penny sees is a smudge three tables back. Raj then calls her and wonders what they told Anu. She now knows he wears ladies' deodorant. Raj asks them to stay away from her. Penny prefers to have them meet again to do some damage control. Bernadette wonders if she could get them into the SoHo House. They "owe" that to Raj.

The Planetarium Collision

Season 12
Episode Number: 260
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday October 18, 2018
Story: Eric Kaplan, Andy Gordon, Alex Ayers
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Bob Newhart (Arthur Jeffries), Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Eddie Shin (Dr. Park), Alison Martin (Andrea), Hermie Castillo (Colin)
Production Code: T12.16005
Summary: Amy doesn't have time to work with Sheldon on super asymmetry, so he goes to great lengths to ensure she's available. Koothrappalidoesn't want Wolowitz to join him in hosting a show at the planetarium.



Raj is finishing up his lecture on the moons of Jupiter at the Griffith Planetarium as Sheldon and Amy pass notes back and forth. Penny finds out that the Coopers were working on Sheldon's Asymetry String Theory project. Howard goes up to Raj to congratulate him on the show even though he slept through it. He gets to meet the director of the planetarium who learns that Howard is an astronaut and then invites him to join Raj doing one of the shows. Raj goes not like that idea.

Amy has student volunteer whom she is checking his sensory reactions while his head is isolated in a box. Sheldon comes in and asks if she is busy to talk string theory. Amy says that she is really excited about their paper, but she is in the middle of her experiment. He just gives her one clue, "Lambda calculus" and then touches her nose saying, "poop."

In the Wolwotiz bedroom, Bernadette is trying to start something with Howard who is distracted that Raj is mad at him. Howard thinks that it would be fun, but Bernadette feels that he wouldn't want some sexy-assed astronaut sharing the stage with him. How sexy? Thor sexy and then Bernadette gets what she wants.

Sheldon is explaining his string theory to Penny!?! Leonard comes in and immediately decides to leave. Penny calls him back and is proud that Sheldon came to discuss science with her. Leonard reminds Sheldon that he's not supposed to bore other people's wives. Sheldon then complains about how little time Amy has been able to work with him on super-asymmetry. He finds her work with the brain so boring. Penny then leaves so that Sheldon can talk science with Leonard and she can get away.

Howard goes to talk to Raj in his office, to discuss about them working together. Howard feels that that would be like doing karaoke with a rock star. Raj doesn't have to feel intimidated. Raj replies that he is also very accomplished in his field. And even though he has fears, one is not sharing the spotlight with an astronaut.

Sheldon goes to see President Siebert, who may be a physicist, but Sheldon doesn't think he knows anything. He has a Doctorate from Indiana University which causes Sheldon to go

very slowly. He explains that Amy was helping him and is distracted by her own work. And she was helping him conceptualize the differences between symmetry and a-symmetry. After throwing in a comment about their sex life, President Seibert says that he does not enjoy their little conversations.

Amy enters her lab and finds her colleague Dr. Park going through her research. He explains to the unaware Amy that he was taking over her project while she was on a sabbatical doing other work. Sheldon runs in with the exciting news that they will be working together full time. Amy is not happy. He learned that Amy was very difficult to replace. Amy is incensed since she has been years on her projects and that Sheldon has no right to request her removal.

In Apartment 4A, Raj comes in with Chinese food to talk about Howard. Raj folded to let Howard join him and he is afraid that Howard will make it all about himself. Penny tells him to cancel, but Raj doesn't want to look insecure. Leonard tells him that he is insecure and that he walked up three flights of stairs for nothing. Penny insists that it is four flights since they are on the fourth floor and leaves to check it out.

Sheldon and Amy both go into to see President Seibert. Amy says that he had no right to reassign her project which Sheldon agrees with. Didn't Sheldon ask him to do it? Amy tells her husband that it is his fault. The President tells Amy that it's not that easy to move her back to her project due to manpower considerations. Sheldon tries to interrupt that and ends with giving Amy a "poop" on the nose.

Back at the planetarium, Penny and Bernadette are waiting for show. She asks Bernie when he last saw Howard in his astronaut uniform. A week ago during Date Night sex where she is a sexy Russian cosmonaut who is an expert on physics and sex. Penny doesn't want to hear any more about Howard's sex life. Raj starts the show and introduces astronaut Howard Wolowitz. Instead of topping each other, they spend the time overly complimenting each other and finally embracing declaring the love for each other. Now Bernadette looks worried.

Sheldon and Amy are asleep in Apartment 4B, as Sheldon dreams about another encounter with his Jedi mentor, the spirit of Professor Proton. They are in a deli on the Star Wars planet of Dagobah. Professor Proton does not recommend the Rueben. Sheldon wants advice after having upset Amy and he wants to make it better. Sheldon knows the advice is coming from his own self-conscious, however, it sounds better from someone older and who is glowing. Professor Proton: Rule number 1: Never go to bed angry. Rule number 2: If you don't recognize the shoes under the bed, they are not your shoes. Sheldon thinks that they are her shoes, so the Jedi master tells him not just go with rule number one.

Sheldon wakes up and then gets Amy to wake up too. Sheldon doesn't want them to go to bed angry; while Amy wants him to go back to sleep. She turns over and he goes, "Amy, Amy, Amy!" She doesn't want to talk now! "Fine," says Sheldon. He just wants her to know that he wasn't doing anything malicious. Amy defines it as selfish, like not letting her sleep. Finally Amy joins him and admits that she enjoys working with him, but she finds it scary and that "she" doesn't want to get lost in the "we" of their relationship. When Sheldon had her taken off her own project, she felt that her fear was coming true. Sheldon doesn't want her to feel lost. They make up and turn over to go back to sleep, but not before he checks under the bed for strange shoes. Sheldon feels that when your favorite ghost tells you to do something, you must do it.

The Imitation Perturbation

Season 12

Episode Number: 261

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday October 25, 2018
Story: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Teleplay: Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), Rati Gupta (Anu), Pamela Adlon (Halley Wolowitz (voice)), David Theune (Dr. Graybel), Stephen John Williams (Cafe Patron),
Production Code: T12.16006
Summary: When Wolowitz dresses up as Sheldon for Halloween, Sheldon seeks retaliation at Leonard and Penny's Halloween party. Also, Leonard is shocked that Penny doesn't remember their first kiss.



During take out dinner in the Hofstadter's apartment, the subject of the fortieth anniversary of the movie "Halloween" comes up. Missing the point, Sheldon describes the origins of the holiday while Amy wonders if everyone was going to dress up at work. At Bernadette's work, someone once dressed up as a zombie triggering a company quarantine which alerted the CDC. Leonard suggests that they throw a Halloween party. Penny

used to throw them at the time though Leonard only remembers being invited to one of them. Howard warns them that his costume is going to be very scary.

At Caltech as Sheldon walks down the corridor dressed as Doc Brown from the "Back to the Future" movies, Howard joins him dressed up as Sheldon complete with Flash shirt. Sheldon stares at him and then asks Howard if he did something to his hair. "Yes," Howard replies as Sheldon walks off and Howard looks astonished.

In the Caltech cafeteria, Leonard is Inspector Gadget complete with helicopter hat and Raj is Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg or "Kooth Bader Ginsberg" as Raj wants to be called. Howard joins them dressed as Sheldon as Raj and Leonard laugh at him. "Hello," exclaimed Howard and the clueless Sheldon. After Raj finds Howard guilty of "Killing it" with his costume, Howard then gives them interesting facts about the Supreme Court, the word irritable and the word etymology. They guys kid him about his spot and his bathroom schedule. Sheldon is still clueless until Leonard explains Howard's costume. Sheldon doesn't want them laughing at him.

Without costume, Sheldon sulks at his desk while his wife Amy enters in the purple Clara Clayton dress from the third BTF movie. Sheldon is no longer interested in costumes while Amy reminds him that she put on a corset for him though she prefers to breathe. Sheldon wonders if he tries to correct everyone and complains about everyone laughing at Howard as Sheldon. Sheldon feels that they laugh in a derisive way. Not in an instructive way like he does when they are stupid.

Penny comes home to her apartment decorated and exclaims, "Treat or Treat." Leonard won't give her any candy until she is in costume. Penny claims to be dressed as a pharmaceutical

rep who is also a failed actress who traded constant rejection for a Christmas bonus and dental plan. Then she wonders why women's costumes are always sexy this and sexy that. Leonard then brings up the party that she invited him to and asks what was memorable about it. Penny only remembers throwing up in a pumpkin. Leonard brings up their first kiss together. Penny remembers their first kiss later at his first birthday party when she felt sorry for him. They just remember different things. Leonard remembers falling in love and Penny remembers throwing up in a pumpkin.

Amy goes to the Wolowitzes and tries to get Bernadette to have Howard apologize. Bernie thought it was all in good fun. She reminds Amy that Sheldon called Halley "Winston Churchill" and always makes fun of Howard's magic, job and his alma mater. She adds that Sheldon is the problem and that he should take it up with Howard.

At the party, Raj shows up as the Supreme Court Justice Ginsberg and Anu is dressed as the U.S. Constitution. Anu quips that Raj is going to interpret her. Stuart is dressed up as a butterfly using one of Halley's costumes and Bert is dressed up as geologist "Doc" Ewing who won the 1960 Vetlesen prize. Bernadette is Mary Poppins and Howard is Bert the chimney sweep. When get home is going to clean out Mary Poppins "chimney". Penny is a German barmaid. While sitting on the couch, Leonard again reminds his of their first Halloween kiss. Speaking with Raj and Anu, he thinks that an arranged marriage is awesome until he realizes that the woman still gets a choice in the arrangement. Sheldon and Amy show up dressed up as Howard and Bernadette. The Wolowitzes are gob-smacked. Bernadette demands to know what they are doing. Amy says that she is being unnecessarily hurtful in a very sweet voice. Sheldon claims not to understand because he went to MIT. Howard congratulates them and then asks them to go change. Amy says she can't because she has such teeny tiny legs. Sheldon then pulls a quarter out of her nose.

Howard and Bernadette are not speaking on the drive home. Bernadette was hurt and then asks Howard if her voice is that high pitched and annoying. Howard claims that her voice is melodious. Then she wants to know if she is unnecessarily hurtful, but Howard didn't hear that from her melodious voice.

While cleaning up, Penny does admit that she remembers their first Halloween kiss; however, she hated that that was their first since she was drunk and mad at Kurt. She wanted their first to mean something, so that is why she wants the birthday kiss to be their first. Leonard can live with that as their official first kiss. They start to make out until Stuart shows up. Penny sends him out with the trash and then locks the door. "Where were we?"

Sheldon and Amy are having lunch discussing how hurt Howard's feeling had made Sheldon a better person. Howard comes over and asks them to apologize since Bernadette is very upset about their costumes. Amy would be glad to as soon as Bernadette apologizes for not getting Howard to apologize to Sheldon. Howard then cited Star Wars in the holochess scene where C3PO is told to let the Wookiee win.

Bernadette is working in the kitchen while Sheldon enters. Howard let him in and then drove off. Sheldon tells her that he learned that her feeling are hurt. Amy is not the first person to kid her about her squeaky voice. She found it hard to be taken seriously when she was the smallest person in the room. Sheldon felt the same way in high school since he was small and only nine years old. In high school she was "Bernadette the marionette". The other kids called him egghead. Bernie was made to breath helium and her voice was so high no one except the dog could hear her. They end up agreeing that they are more alike than they thought since they both took a lot of crap from people growing up.

Finally the guys are sitting down to watch "Halloween" together which Sheldon is finally ready to do. The lights go up and then Amy comes in and asks what the guys think that they are doing. They mention the "Halloween" movie and Amy demands that Sheldon come home because she was forbidding him to watch it. He leaves and then at their door he tells Amy that she took long enough. Amy screams at him that she had just gotten his text.

The Grant Allocation Derivation

Season 12
Episode Number: 262
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday November 01, 2018
Story: Eric Kaplan, Anthony Del Broccolo, Alex Yonks
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joshua Malina (President Siebert), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Maribeth Monroe (Dr. Lee)
Production Code: T12.16007
Summary: Leonard is caught between a rock and a hard place when he's responsible for distributing extra grant money. Also, Bernadette turns the backyard playhouse into a hideaway from her husband and kids.



The gang is working in Howard and Bernadette's backyard assembling their kid's new playhouse that includes electricity and running water. Sheldon keeps talking about an Amish barn raising, while not actually working on the building. Bernie comes out in her pajamas and asks Howard to take the kids so that she can get some work done. She is very over-worked with two kids.

President Siebert is meeting with Leonard. He needs someone to distribute some extra grant funds. He wants Leonard to decide who gets the funds and wants to hear nothing about the outcome.

At lunch, Howard thanks her work crew. Sheldon is hoarse from distributing all his knowledge/trivia. Leonard tells them is news from Seibert and his friends are now expecting a lot of people lining up to grobble before him. Next Kripke comes up, fawns over him and then tries to bribe Leonard.

Bernadette comes up to her front porch and hears the kids giving Howard a hard time. She runs back to the playhouse and calls him that she is going to be stuck at work. Afterwards she admits that Howard deserves better though she snuggles down in her comfortable chair.

In apartment 4A, Leonard is turning down funding requests from everyone. Penny is impressed on how decisive Leonard was being. Sheldon comes in hoping to get a frozen yogurt machine in the cafeteria. No. Denied!

Penny is visiting with Bernadette telling her about Leonard's taking charge and how sexy that was. Bernadette is distracted because she told Howard a little white lie about working late and she hung out in the playhouse. Penny thinks that it's more sad and strange than awful. Bernie just feels the extra hour of not having to deal with the kids makes her feel human again.

Back at the cafeteria, Dr.Lee, a biologist, asks about her grant application on the intelligence of crows. She wants to upgrade her bird cages because she thinks that they are planning something since found out that crows can hold a grudge. Three projects are on Leonard's short list. The crow research, Raj's w—telescope software upgrade and Kripike's project. Howard's request was denied since he just sent him a Howard and Bernadette clip that said "Howard and Bernadette!!"

They are all pressuring him to decide and he walks off not even knowing when he'll decide or where he was going.

Leonard is going over this three proposals and Penny comes in looking turned on. Leonard complains that he can't decide on the three proposals that all have merit even though used several Howard and Bernadette and another system to score his various scoring systems. Penny is confused so she joins Bernadette to share some Howard and Bernadette in the playhouse.

Leonard goes back to the Howard and Bernadette to get more money to fund all three worthwhile projects. Seibert denies Leonard's request. Leonard wants to know what the President would do. He claims that he would put some other sap in charge so that he wouldn't have to be the bad guy. Leonard then gets that that is what Seibert had done... to him.

Amy catches Penny sneaking out of her apartment and asks what she and Bernadette have been doing together without her. She doesn't believe Penny's excuses and then finds out the Howard and Bernadette. She thinks that it's like a secret club. Penny tries to tell Amy that it's just a place where they get together and don't tell anyone about it. Like a secret club. Amy then gets invited.

Sheldon and Leonard are playing Howard and Bernadette while Sheldon describes how Leonard never wins. Leonard is distracted about who should get the funding and asks Sheldon to help since he doesn't care if he upsets people. Sheldon doesn't want to help Leonard since it could be a learning experience for him.

Now the entire posse is in the playhouse. Penny said that she was at Howard and Bernadette. Sheldon doesn't even think about her when she is gone, but is so happy when she finally shows up. Bernie is making Howard and Bernadettes in the Howard and Bernadette. Howard and Raj come out on the deck to use the Howard and Bernadette. He already knows that his wife has been hiding in the playhouse. They hear a Howard and Bernadette pop so he figures that Penny also there.

Raj comes into the cafeteria asking why his project wasn't funded. None of the top three were because a last minute proposal came in for a European-doped Howard and Bernadette. Leonard bought it for himself since he was sure that everyone would be mad at him no wonder what he did. So he did it and got a laser.

While Leonard is explaining his new laser to Sheldon, he finds his car covered with intelligent crows that might be holding a grudge. They quickly leave.

The Consummation Deviation

Season 12
Episode Number: 263
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday November 08, 2018
Story: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Teleplay: Eric Kaplan, Andy Gordon, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Kathy Bates (Mrs. Fowler), Teller (Larry Fowler), Rati Gupta (Anu)
Production Code: T12.16008
Summary: Sheldon tries to bond with Amy's father, but when Wolowitz lures Mr. Fowler away with magic tricks, Sheldon has no choice but to bond with Mrs. Fowler. Also, Koothrappali and Anu try to get physical for the first time.



While setting up for take-out, Raj asks if they have any plans for Valentine's Day. He wants them all to come to India for his and Anu's wedding. The gang is all excited including Sheldon who wants to feed the elephants peanuts. Raj is sure they can have a wedding in only three months because he talks to her family all the time. They all discuss their relationships with their in-laws including Sheldon who never talks to Amy's folks. Also

Raj doesn't want Anu to have to sit on the floor like Raj always does. Overreacting, when Anu arrives, everyone else is on the couch.

Driving home, Raj complains about all the dumplings he ate, while Anu announces that they should have sex. Raj almost wrecks the car. Anu plans to get a room in her hotel. Raj says that he is very confident. Anu just wants to make sure that they are compatible.

Amy wakes up and finds Sheldon planning a day of fun for her while Sheldon has other plans. He wants to get to know her family better. Amy thinks that their put-offish relationship is perfect. Amy's mother is difficult so Sheldon is planning a day with her dad. Larry arrives and calls Amy pumpkin. Sheldon calls her spaghetti squash. He starts to call his father-in-law Larry, but then decides to pick a vegetable name.

While Leonard and Howard play a video game, Raj wants to talk about his pending coitus. He is pretty anxious and wonders what happens if they don't connect. He also wonders if that will make them breakup or if he going to have a lifetime of mediocre sex. Leonard's first time with Penny was awesome, while Howard was just worried about his mother walking in on them.

Talking to Bernie and Penny, Bernie tells Raj to lock the door of their hotel room. Penny is sure that everything will be fine and that Anu is also probably nervous.

Sheldon brings Larry into another of his favorite places, the comic book store. Previously, Sheldon took Larry to the train store where Larry bought a train whistle. Sheldon blows it. Howard then makes the whistle disappear amazing Larry. He wants Howard to show him how he did it and offers Howard a hundred bucks for the secret, but he can't find his wallet because Howard picked his pocket.

At the hotel Raj calls Penny to talk about how nervous he was. Penny again says that everything will work out. Her first time with Leonard was nothing to write home about, but it gets "better" with time. Anu arrives and Raj tries to say hi, but can't utter a sound because his selective mutism returned. Raj grabs the champagne and heads into the bathroom worrying Anu. Raj comes out and Anu asks him what the problem is. Raj wants to explain, but knows that it's not a good story.

At the Wolowitzes, Howard is teaching an excited Larry the magic rings trick. Sheldon tells "Turnip" that they need to leave; however, Larry is having a great time. Sheldon would rather go to the train station. Sheldon tells Howard to stop bonding with his father-in-law and go do it with his Bernie's father. Howard offers to trade him fathers-in-law. Then, Sheldon goes to visit Amy's mother and bond with her.

Raj explains to Anu his previous problem of not being able to talk to women except when drunk. Anu wonders if he's been drunk the whole time they've known each other. Raj denies it and that he was just nervous that night. He hadn't told her because he was embarrassed. Anu can identify with the problem because she gets embarrassed to tell people that she doesn't like music. Any music. They both admit that they have their eccentricities, they laugh about them and then embrace.

At the Fowler's, Sheldon is to Mrs. Fowler talking about his foot fungus which she finds very disturbing. Mrs. Fowler doesn't want to discuss her body with Sheldon, who then decides to take a selfie with her. In it they look like they are two peas in a pod. Sheldon then wonders if he can call her "Old Lady Green Bean".

In Apartment 4A, Leonard tells Penny that he was reliving their first night together. Penny tells him to not beat himself up because now the sex is great. Amy runs in worried that Sheldon is hanging out with her mother. She had been telling her mother that she couldn't visit her because of Sheldon. She loves her Mom, but she doesn't want to spend a lot of time with her.

At the Fowler's, Sheldon wants to play twenty questions about Nobel Prize winning physicists. Amy calls him and asks how things are going. Sheldon says that he is bonding with her and that he thinks that she likes him. Mrs. Fowler shoots back that she'd like him better if he didn't keep Amy away from her. Sheldon denies it and asks Amy who doesn't want to broach the subject. Amy tells Sheldon to not listen to her mother because she is crazy. "Hello, Amy", her mother tells her. Amy was unknowingly talking to her and then offers to have Thanksgiving dinner with them. Mrs. Fowler tells Sheldon that she should be angry at Amy and not Sheldon who starts to bond because he is also mad at his wife. Then they also bond over not liking Howard. Sheldon still defends Amy because he loves her; however, he still calls his mother-in-law a delight.

In the morning, Anu brings Raj some coffee. She found that the previous night was wonderful and that Raj was talking to her again. Raj wonders if they should wait for another night, while Anu insists that Raj join her in the shower.

In Apartment 4B, Mrs. Fowler thanks Amy for having them over for dinner. Amy could not think of one reason why they couldn't and she had tried. Larry wants to show everyone a magic trick and he makes a steak knife disappear. Amy is amazed while Larry's hand starts to bleed. He runs off to the bathroom. Mrs. Fowler doesn't see the point of magic, which pleases Sheldon greatly.

The Citation Negation

Season 12
Episode Number: 264
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday November 15, 2018
Story: Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari
Director: Kristy Cecil
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Lauren Lapkus (Denise)
Production Code: T12.16009
Summary: Sheldon and Amy are devastated after learning from a Russian paper that Super Asymmetry has already been discovered and disproved. Bernadette wants to beat Howard in a popular video game.



Sheldon and Amy are competing their super-asymmetric paper by working on the footnotes in the appendix. Sheldon truly thinks that the paper is a product of both of them; his math and Amy's sassy take on the fundamental nature of symmetry. He asked Amy to run down all the citations and notes which bothers Amy since there are hundreds of them. First they think about assigning it to a graduate student and then they decide to dump it on Leonard as long as they can trust him. Sheldon goes over to Leonard's and tells him that he is having an affair and not to tell anyone. Leonard scoffs and

later tells Penny that Sheldon is obviously testing whether he can keep a secret.

Sheldon and Amy approach Leonard in the cafeteria telling him that he passed the secret loyalty test. Also Sheldon was never having an affair. They then ask Leonard to run down their paper's citations. He first thinks that it was grad student work, but then agrees to help out.

Raj and Howard are playing "Fortnite" when Bernadette comes in and wants to join in. She plays her own games and those with Halley. Bernadette starts, parachutes in, lands and gets killed. You're dead.

Raj is helping Leonard at the library. He did hear the rumor about Sheldon and the lunch lady (Sheldon's alleged affair) and he called her a floozy. Leonard splits the list of papers they want to find, while Raj is scared in the creepy dark library. On the other hand, Leonard has problems breathing because of the dust.

At work Bernadette is playing "Fortnite" to beat the guys. Penny comes in for lunch and wonders if Howard switch bodies with Bernadette in a "Freaky Friday" scenario. Bernadette quips that if that were true, she/he would be constantly staring at her own boobs. Bernie wants to beat Howard, but can't kill anyone. Penny tries it once and kills someone instantly.

Back in the library, Raj and Leonard are looking through books that Leonard wants to finish before his inhaler runs out. Raj found a paper written by a Russian that has never been translated. They decide to have Howard look at it since Raj's attempt at using Google Translation miserably fails.

Howard is reading the Russian paper in the cafeteria and admits that his Russian is rusty. The paper is a discussion of super-asymmetry. Sheldon and Amy weren't the first to come up with the idea. Also, the paper states that the super-asymmetry model is flawed and not worth any further research. Both Raj and Howard want Leonard to break the bad news to Sheldon.

At the comic book store, Bernadette approaches Denise. Stuart is at the doctor's, so Bernadette asks Denise why the two of them are together. Denise tells her that her parents own a funeral home, so she can read what she wants into that statement. Then Bernadette asks her to teach her how to play "Fortnite".

Leonard approaches Sheldon's door reluctantly. Penny comes up the stairs before he actually knocks. Leonard tells Penny what he found and that it will break Sheldon and Amy's heart and their chance for a Nobel Prize. Penny tells Leonard that he can do it while she runs for the safety of their apartment. Leonard knocks and is invited in. Sheldon wants to know how the work is coming. Leonard explains that Raj found a paper and that it disproves their work. Sheldon thanks him calmly, says that they no longer need his work on his whiteboard. After calmly starting to erase it he destroys the board, screams and runs into the bedroom.

Denise is at Bernadette's teaching her the game. She is being as hard on Bernadette calling her a baby and unintelligent.

Sheldon is looking over their paper as Amy comes into the bedroom. Does he want a cup of tea or hear "Soft Kitty"? No. Sheldon thinks that Amy should be more upset. She was just trying to hold herself together for him. Sheldon doesn't want her to pretend that everything's all right. Then Amy blows up that they had started it on the day of their wedding, months were spent on it and she thought they were changing the frontiers of science. NO, she is devastated. Sheldon then complains that that doesn't help him at all and she should return to happy.

Bernadette finds Howard and Raj playing "Fortnite" and she asks if she could try it again. They are reluctant so she grabs Raj's laptop from him. She finds Howard and still quickly gets killed by him. She runs out of the room telling her husband that she makes more money than him. Raj then adds sarcastically that Howard has a good woman there.

Leonard and Penny are climbing the stairs hoping that the Coopers are all right. Leonard asked them if they wanted to see a movie. No. Penny wonders if they are already dead. Sheldon tells them to come in and both are still in their pajamas with trash thrown everywhere. They didn't even know what day it was and they keep counting the number of things they are wrong about. Penny wants them to get back try even harder. Leonard tells them that together they can solve anything. Amy shoots back that if they think a pep talk can solve this, then Leonard and Penny don't know how much their theory meant to them. Sheldon sees their Chinese dinner and Leonard offers it to them: however, it's still not what Sheldon likes. Another thing that's wrong.

Penny and Bernadette are in 4A as Bernadette is still playing "Fortnite". Bernadette beat Penny who doesn't really care while Bernadette is hyped on steroids. They get ready to go eat when Leonard comes in with a water bottle that Bernadette knocks out of his hand. Boom! Penny grabs her keys and says that she is going to drive.

The VCR Illumination

Season 12

Episode Number: 265

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday December 06, 2018
Story: Steve Holland & Steven Molaro & Bill Prady
Teleplay: Maria Ferrari & Andy Gordon & Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Iain Armitage (Young Sheldon), Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Lance Barber (George Sr.), Montana Jordan (Georgie), Kurt Scholler (Judge), Reginald M. Jernigan Jr. (Assistant Football Coach)
Production Code: T12.16010
Summary: A VHS tape from Sheldon's past inspires him and Amy not to give up when they're still feeling down about their theory being disproven, suddenly it was tape over his brother and father football game. Bernadette convinced Howard to audition in a magic act.



While preparing for everybody's dinner in Apartment 4A, Leonard and Penny review a list of topics that are verboten since Sheldon is still upset about his super-asymmetry theory being disproved. Symmetry. Asymmetry. The Simpsons. Simba from "The Lion King". Cymbals. Russians; the country, the dressing or Roulette or "Rocky IV" where he fought a Russian fighter. Or science, success, failure or Nobel Prizes. Sheldon and Amy join them. Amy asks what they are doing and Bernadette replies, "Nothing." Sheldon explains that that is where his career is going and the runs out followed by

Amy. Poor Bernadette looks embarrassed as Howard tells her that that was "nice going."

Early in the morning, Amy doesn't find Sheldon next to her in bed. He's up in the living room eating, reading, watching TV and listening to the radio trying to reevaluate every opinion he ever had since he was wrong about super-asymmetry. Sheldon tries both asparagus and jazz music and still doesn't like either. Amy tells him that she is also upset about their theory.

Penny gets up in the morning finding Leonard having chicken fried steak for breakfast. Leonard explains that she knew he was a bad boy when she married him. Amy still in her robe comes in and is worried about Sheldon. Penny tells her to make him a cup of tea, but Sheldon now considers that "leaf soup". Since Sheldon is now reevaluating everything, Amy is worrying what will happen when his reevaluation reaches her. Leonard suggests an old VHS video tape of the one person he really respects, himself. Sheldon gave it to Leonard years ago in case of an emergency.

At the Wolowitzes, Bernadette finds Howard working with a VHS player so that he can loan it to Amy. His test tape is supposed to be an old copy of "Jeopardy" recorded for his mother; however, Bernadette figures that it's probably porn. Instead they find a young Howard performing

magic as the "Great Howdini". He had been practicing his magic so that he could audition for the Magic Castle in LA. Howard never went through with it because he didn't think he was good enough. Bernadette wants him to keep trying because she doesn't want their kids to think that their father is a quitter.

Amy walks into Apartment 4B with the VHS player and the tape. Sheldon has reached his podcast show and is now calling it "Fine with Flags." She shows her husband the tape of his childhood emergency pep talk. He claims that he was saving that for when they stop making "Star Wars" movies, but that is highly unlikely now. Eleven year old Sheldon appears, greets himself and tells him that at he must be at a point in his future life when he is questioning everything. First Young Sheldon asks Adult Sheldon to give him the code word so that the future him knows that he is not an imposter. "Robot monkey butler". His younger self then tells older Sheldon to never forget no matter how bad things seem... Static on the TV and then a high school football game appears. His father must have recorded over the pep talk with one of his games. Amy asks if there was anything she could do. Sheldon wants a time machine to go back and tell his younger self that he should just give up since nothing works out the way you want it. Amy just wanted to offer Sheldon a cup of "leaf soup".

Howard comes into the living room and finds that Bernadette had all his magic tricks from the garage set out. She wants the Great Howdini to be a member of the Magic Castle. She can help him with all her beauty pageant experience. Bernadette is going to be a great pageant mom for him like her mother was.

Leonard and Penny contact Leonard's mother. Leonard asks for some professional advice that she is not interested in giving until she learns that Sheldon needs her help. Penny tells her that since his paper was disproved, Sheldon was sad, angry and generally broken. Beverly replies that Sheldon is grieving over the loss of his paper just like someone having lost a loved one.

Bernadette has Raj over to watch the new act that she has developed for Howard. Raj knows that he can help since he has seen every episode of "America's Got Talent" and knows talent. Bernadette announces "The Great Howdini" who comes down the stairs singing "Magic to Do" from "Pippin" in a sequin jacket and sporting a high bouffant hairdo. Next he throws glitter in Raj's face. His introduction sounds like a contestant in the Miss America pageant.

Back at Sheldon and Amy's, the Hofstadter's visit to cheer up Sheldon and act on Beverly's advice. Things were going better only because Sheldon was lying face down. Sheldon doesn't want their help. The only person who can help him was erased. Leonard and Penny want Sheldon to symbolically bury his paper and say a few words over it. Amy suggests they bury in the park; however, Sheldon wants to give it a Viking funeral. Instead of going to a lake and shooting the funeral boat with a flaming arrow, the bathtub will suffice followed by a cold Yoo-hoo. In the bathroom, Sheldon explains that their theory was more than scientific endeavor, it was a new and beautiful way to describe the universe and a universe that he wanted to live in. Placing the paper in a pan, they set it on fire. It looks quite beautiful until the funeral boat sets their shower curtain on fire.

Howard is suffering from glitter up his nose. Bernadette plans to take the day off and help Howard run through his act. Howard isn't really interested; however, Bernadette still doesn't want him to be a quitter. ALSO, she wants to do everything her way since she is the pageant mother and the victory is hers! Too much for Howard. He decides to have an act that is more "magic" than "pageant".

Now Sheldon wakes up and finds Amy not in bed. His wife is in the living room watching his father's football game on the old VHS tape to find if any of his speech survived. Sheldon's dad then appears giving his team a half-time pep talk. He tells the team that they're not going to win this game, but that that does not make them losers. They can learn from failure as much as they can learn from success. Sheldon remembers that the team lost that game and that their opponent let one of their cheerleaders kick a field goal. Sheldon then considers that he is not that much different from his father. Amy then adds that from one viewpoint he and his father's lives are symmetrical and from another viewpoint they are asymmetrical. She postulates that what if symmetry and asymmetry are observer relative in their theory? That would mean that the Russian paper would be right, but from only one perspective. Sheldon gets excited and tells Amy that they have a paper to fix! She runs off to get her laptop. Sheldon turns to the TV and thanks his Dad.

At the Magic Castle, the Great Howdini is performing his magic act. He borrows an expensive

wrist watch, smashes it; however, abracadbra the watch is smashed and the magic doesn't work.

The Paintball Scattering

Season 12
Episode Number: 266
Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday January 03, 2019
Story: Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez, Adam Faberman
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Lauren Lapkus (Denise), Rati Gupta (Anu), Hira Ambrosino (Cynthia), Hugh Kennedy (Chad)
Production Code: T12.16011
Summary: Penny and Leonard organize a paintball game, which results in mayhem when Sheldon becomes jealous of Amy. Raj catches Anu with her ex-boyfriend. Stuart doesn't want to move in with Denise.



The Hofstadters and the Coopers are celebrating the initial success of the super-asymmetry paper published by Sheldon and Amy with champagne. Sheldon has a package of Splendor in his glass which he calls a "Dr. Cooper" since both of them are sweet and bubbly. Leonard toasts them both since he and Penny are both so proud of them. Sheldon is first is reluctant to look at any comments to their work on the Internet. Leonard looking for them finds comments to their work Dr. Saltzberg of UCLA calls it the discovery of the decade.

In the Caltech cafeteria, Leonard is setting up a paintball game. The Wolowitzes are in because Howard is sure that Bernadette wants to shoot him. President Siebert comes in and invites Sheldon to his dining room since he and Amy are his superstars. Sheldon wants to bring his friends, but they are not invited by Siebert.

Amy is already having lunch, when Sheldon arrives. Amy loves getting kiwi with her fruit cup even though she doesn't like it. Sheldon wants to get some barbecue sauce and ketchup and Seibert immediately orders it for his star. The university has organized a media blitz and wants Amy to give the interviews while Sheldon holds down the fort. He questions Sheldon's people skills. Sheldon objects. Then the President asks that in an interview what if he were asked if their work was a derivative of the work of the Russian scientist who disputed their asymmetry work. Sheldon's face twitches as he is stumped.

At the comic book store, Denise is hanging out with her boyfriend rather than working. Stuart is still nervous about their relationship will continue based upon his "flight or flight" response. Raj and Anu are discussion her mother's need to work on their flower arrangements that Raj wants to do. Raj's doorbell camera texts him. Anu hasn't set her up and so Raj volunteers to do it for him. Leonard and Penny approach Stuart and Denise and invite them to the paintball game. Denise is busy helping her roommate move out. She hints to Stuart that he could be her new roommate. Stuart gets nervous and runs off.

Amy comes out all dressed up asking Sheldon if she look good for the interview. Sheldon has not helpful comments for the nervous Amy. Sheldon had some question suggestions that were all about him. She thanks him, but leaves quickly without his note cards.

Sharing a meal at Wolowitzes, Raj and Stuart talk about him moving in with Denise. Denise said that she was "fine" which the situation which worried the others. Raj gets a call from Anu's doorbell camera and sees a guy at Anu's door. She runs out, hugs her and takes him inside.

Amy and Sheldon are again eating the fancy dining room and she wonders if Sheldon feeling guilty about being there when their friends have to eat in the cafeteria. Physicist. Amy is his star of NPR Science Friday. In the magazine Wired, the article was entitled, "The Neurobiologist Who Revolutionized Physics." Sheldon gasps about the "who" who did "what"?

The gang is getting ready for paintball. Penny asks about Amy's interview and she downplays it since she knows that Sheldon is upset. Sheldon sasses that she is "The Neurobiologist Who Revolutionized Physics." Penny understands. Anu is getting ready, but then finds out that Raj isn't happy about what he saw. Denise and Penny volunteer to be captains. Denise first picks Leonard who isn't used to being picked first. Penny picks Bernadette who is small and viscous. Denise takes Sheldon. Penny; Raj. Denise; Amy. Penny; Raj. Denise; Amy. Penny; Anu. Denise; Howard. And finally Penny takes Stuart after looking like she was still choosing among several candidates.

In the shed Denise leaves Amy and Sheldon to guard the flag. Leonard and Howard leaves with Denise while Sheldon and Amy argue. She can revolutionize paintball which Sheldon has poor people skills.

Anu thinks it is fun sneaking around playing paintball. Raj accuses her of sneaking around. Anu accuses him of spying on her. Her ex-boyfriend stopped by to pick of some stuff. Raj wants to know what other "stuff" she was giving him. She wants Raj to delete her doorbell camera from his phone and too just trust her. Raj shouts at her that he barely even knows her. This causes a break since neither of them know why they are even planning a wedding. Denise then shoots Raj.

Stuart gets shot by Denise and quickly gives up. She shoots him again and wants to know why he'll not move in with her. He runs away again.

Leonard finds Penny guarding the flag and doesn't shoot her telling her that it will hurt. They end up shooting each other and finding out that it does hurt.

Back in Denise's shed Amy is yelling at Sheldon that she can't believe that he is taking is frustration out on her since she did not write the title of the article. She constantly talked about him throughout the article. Bernadette comes in and steals the flag while they are arguing. Sheldon is proud of Amy, but sounds quite jealous. Bernadette returns and shoots both of them.

Leonard and Penny find Stuart shot several times all by Denise. He is just worried about screwing everything up which also worries Leonard, but not Penny.

Bernadette is stalking around when Howard comes out and shoots her. He hits her in the chest which both think will cause a big bruise. She asks if he wants to kiss it and make it feel better. He does and they disappear into the shed getting amorous.

The Coopers, Hofstadters, Raj and Anu meet back at the start. Anu wants to without Raj so, the Coopers offer her a ride. Sheldon warns Anu that they are still in a bit of a spat.

Denise approaches the shed and finds the amorous Howard and Bernadette inside. Get out! Sorry. They throw out the flag which Denise happily carries off.

Later, Stuart shows up at the comic book store covered in bruises. He admits that he is also bruised on the inside. Stuart apologizes to Denise telling her that he doesn't want to mess things up since things between them are going so good. To show her his seriousness, he gives Denise a key to his place. Of course it's a key to Howard and Bernadette's place so she can't us it or even let them know she has it.

Amy and Sheldon are being interviewed together. The first question that Sheldon gets is whether he thinks that their work is an extension of the Russian scientist's earlier work. Sheldon doesn't answer, gets upset and then leaves for the car. Amy confidently takes over answering the questions.

The Propagation Proposition

Season 12
Episode Number: 267
Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday January 10, 2019
Story: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Jeremy Howe
Teleplay: Maria Ferrari, Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian George (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali), Brian Thomas Smith (Zack Johnson), Rati Gupta (Anu), Lindsey Kraft (Marissa Johnson), Shay Ali (Greg)
Production Code: T12.16012
Summary: Penny's ex-boyfriend Zack learns that he is infertile, so he asks Leonard for help; Koothrappali attempts to mend things with his ex-fiancee Anu.



The Posse is at an old bar haunt celebrating being together. The guys are back in Apartment 4A playing Dungeons and Dragons. Raj is getting kidded about spying on his ex-fiancée. The girls are sent a free bottle of champagne from a stranger who turns out to be Zack Johnson. He had sold his company, bought a boat and gotten married. Penny gets an invitation for her and Leonard to have dinner on their boat.

Penny returns home and feels that she shouldn't have dove since she was laughing at her husband's D&D jokes. Amy had gotten drunk and kept talking

about how smooth Sheldon's chest was. Leonard is a bit jealous over Zack retiring wealthy though he thinks that Zack should be the jealous one since HE got Penny.

Anu hears her doorbell ring and sees Raj out front with poster signs ala "Love Actually". She tells him to go away and has nothing to say to him. Raj apologizes; however, Anu doesn't think she has anything to apologize to him about. She feels that he wants to get married because all his friends are married. Then Anu agrees that she was doing the same thing wanting to get married now because all her past relationships failed. They seem to part amicably agreeing that they shouldn't get married.

Driving to work Leonard asks Sheldon if he remembers Zack. Sheldon claims that he can list all of Penny's boyfriends in alphabetical order including two named Zeke. Leonard admits that he might be jealous of Zack's success since he is smart and works hard. Sheldon isn't impressed with Leonard's assessment or that Leonard wants to appear mature and confident in front of Penny.

Raj complains to Howard and Bernadette that Anu broke up with him over one mistake. Howard tells Raj that he got out of that relationship in time. Bernadette doesn't want Howard to dis Anu like Penny did him when they broke up. Also Howard should keep lying to Raj. Raj

agrees with Anu that he may have only agreed to the wedding because of the martial status of his friends.

On Zack's boat, Leonard and Penny meet his wife Marissa who is as dull-witted as Zack. They met in a bookstore where she worked which Marissa thinks is a really funny story. According to Zack she is super-smart because she can tell you if you identify any book and she can let you know if she has heard of it. Poor Zack bumps his head on the door every time he goes downstairs though he hardly notices it any more. The Hofstadters want to be jealous of Zack and his success, but he is so sweet, they both just want him to be happy. After the Johnsons, bring over the wine they ask Leonard be a sperm donor since they can't have kids. Leonard is the smartest and nicest person they know. Zack and his frat brothers used to play a crotch kicking games that left him sterile or not. Penny is shocked, doesn't even want the subject brought up and thinks that it is a weird request. And she wonders if the not-so-bright couple should even be parents.

Raj receives a call from his father who is upset about the couple are calling off the wedding and that he inadvertently spied on Anu. Also, he wants the blame put on Anu so that he can get his wedding deposit back. Raj still wants to married Anu, but he feels that she no longer wants to. Dr. K thinks that Raj shouldn't be so hard on himself. He still calls him a dope, but that his heart is in the right place.

Talking to her Posse, Penny mentions the dumb smile on Leonard's face as he was asked to be the father of their baby. Bernadette thinks that's its flattering while Penny thinks that its creepy. The two scientists (Bernadette and Amy) tell Penny that there is a strong drive to pass on one's genetic material, though as her husband, Leonard really stinks.

Leonard discusses the topic with Sheldon and he just wonders why Zack and Marissa wanted to choose him. Leonard is annoyed since the Johnsons think that he was nice and smart and he can't see why Penny is freaking out. Sheldon commented that Penny might object to there being a child out there that was biologically his, but not hers. Leonard agrees that he may have a point.

Raj returns to Anu's apartment. He admits that he was marrying her for the wrong reasons and that she deserves someone who knows how amazing she was. He wants to be that man. Then Raj gets her to agree to start over at the beginning by dating each other.

Penny returns home and Leonard tells her that he won't help out Zack and Marissa if she doesn't want him to. This surprises Penny. She leaves and gets Leonard a sample cup telling him that he can donate his genetic material if he wants to. She didn't really give him a choice in her decision to not have kids, so she doesn't think she can stop him from doing what he wants to do. Penny tells him that Zack couldn't have picked a better person. Leonard thanks her and picks up the phone. Instead of calling Zack, he is calling Sheldon and wants Penny to repeat her last statement to his condescending friend.

The Confirmation Polarization

Season 12
Episode Number: 268
Season Episode: 13

Originally aired: Thursday January 17, 2019
Story: Eric Kaplan, Andy Gordon, Anthony Del Broccolo
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Kal Penn (Dr. Campbell), Caleb Pierce (Jess), Sean Astin (Dr. Pemberton), Chasty Ballesteros (Karen), Keili Lefkowitz (Brenda)
Production Code: T12.16013
Summary: Sheldon and Amy are thrilled when their super asymmetry theory is proven by two physicists, until they try to kick Amy off the Nobel nomination. Bernadette gets one of her drugs approved and wants a reluctant Penny to head the sales team.



had had sex again.

As Dr. Cooper and Dr. Fowler present a new episode of "Fun with Flags" where they are accepting viewers' emails, they receive an email from the Fermilab near Chicago. The email is about their paper on super-asymmetry and that work by Fermi-Lab employees have confirmed their theory. When Sheldon and Amy realize that their theory has been proven they start shouting "We did it!" over and over again. The rest of the gang are just coming up the stairs and hear their celebration thinking that the Coopers just

The rest of the gang is now in the Hofstadter's apartment when Howard says that Bernadette has some exciting news. She says that she doesn't want to brag, so nobody asks her about it which makes Bernadette angry. The drug that she has been working on for five years has been accepted by the FDA and can now be marketed. She has a new anti-inflammatory drug that has no side effects, but she doesn't think is that effective. Now Bernadette wants Penny to head up her sales team, though Penny doesn't think that she has enough experience. Penny wants to discuss it later while Bernie is determine that she takes the job. Sheldon and Amy burst in with their great news. First the gang think that they are still talking about sex. Two physicists are Fermi-Lab were conducting an experiment on kaon particles decay that actually supported their predictions on the higher order corrections pertaining to their asymmetry work. The sex topic Penny understood while the kaon thing she does not.

Later Leonard tells his wife how proud he is of her being asked to head Bernadette's sales team. Penny isn't sure that it's the right move for her since she has to be working for mean little Bernadette. Leonard knows that she can be difficult, but he is convinced that she can take anything Bernadette can dish out and give it back to her double.

In President Siebert's office he happily greets Dr. Fowler and Dr. Cooper and wants to hug them. Sheldon doesn't want to and that is fine with the President who only wants his star scientists happy. He tells them that the Fermi-Lab confirmation data makes their work a possible Nobel Prize winning effort. Fermi-Lab is sending out the two colleagues, Drs. Pemberton and Campbell, to meet with them. Sheldon thinks it's wonderful that they are coming to LA to meet him. Sheldon and Amy would be Caltech's 39th and 40th Nobel Laureates. Sheldon quickly take dibs on "39".

In Bernadette's office, she finishes up a call with someone that she plans on killing because he/she tried to steal her office while she was on maternity leave. Penny comes in with some bad news. Her boss can't let her go to work on Bernadette's project. Bernadette suggests that she could talk to her and rip her a new one. Penny doesn't want Bernadette to intervene. "No ripping" and she doesn't want to leave her supervisor shorthanded. Bernadette accept her loyalty as Penny very quickly exits.

Sheldon and Amy are having lunch, while Amy comments that they are back in the room that they were married in. Sheldon thought that it was much more impressive when Mark Hamill was in it. President Siebert brings in Drs. Pemberton and Campbell who conducted the kaon experiment. The Fermi-Lab scientists are excited to meet Amy and Sheldon. Amy replies that she and Sheldon thought it might be decades before their theory was confirmed. The Fermi-Lab scientists are more excited about seeing an episode of the "Ellen" TV show. Amy wonders how they were able to design an experiment when the paper was only published a few months previously. The Fermi-Lab scientists' confirmation was an accident since they were working with kaons for a long time and their data made no sense. Another colleague led then to the Cooper-Fowler paper which explained their data and proved the super-asymmetry theory. Instead of losing their jobs, they got a trip to LA. Also they don't even understand the concept of super-asymmetry. And the four of them are changing the face of physics.

In the cafeteria the guys try to talk about "Star Trek: Discovery", "Walking Dead" and "Black Mirror", but someone is behind in each of the series and they don't want to hear any spoilers. Raj mentions the video of his dog barking at a pinecone he sent out, but Howard denies that he has seen it yet. Sheldon complains that Pemberton and Campbell and on a press tour taking credit for his and Amy's work. Raj retorts that no one gets credit for finding something accidentally, though Howard mentions that Columbus was looking for India not America. Leonard adds that the Nobel Prize board sometimes gives out the award to the experimentalist over the theoreticians. The Nobel Prize for The Big Bang Theory went to the scientists who first thought their sensors needed cleaning until it was pointed out that they were picking up the background radiation from the big bang. It did not go to the ones who came up with the theory.

Penny was called into Bernadette's office to let her know that Bernie spoke to her supervisor who knew nothing about Penny's sales team offer. Penny counters that she had been taking the new anti-depressant and that one of the side effects is lying. Bernadette wants to know why Penny doesn't want to work with her. She knows that she is tough, but that's because she is surrounded by useless idiots. Penny doesn't think that she is up to the project since her last one was for her high school yearbook which never got published. Also she'd be in charge of people who had college educations unlike herself. Bernie just wants her to be mean to them like she taught her.

Sheldon finds Pemberton and Campbell having dinner and confronts them about trying to steal his Nobel Prize. They tell Sheldon that super-asymmetry is the breakthrough that will give them all a Nobel Prize and that they have to work together. Since only three names can be on the Nobel Prize submission, Fermi-Lab is going to submit Sheldon, Pemberton and Campbell names and leave Amy out. The prize is for physics so they plan on leaving out the neuroscientist. Fermi-Lab is submitting those three names and they have the best chance if Caltech submits the same names. Sheldon leaves hoping that he is not the kind of guy that would sell out his partner/wife for a Nobel Prize.

Discussing Penny's new job, Bernadette doesn't take kindly to Raj's comment that it's Penny's decision. Bernadette believes in Penny and wants to improve her even if it's against her will. Look what she did for Howard. He went from a disaster to a sexy astronaut with a hot wife. She thinks she's really good at changing people while her targets think that it was all their idea.

While have dinner, Amy keeps asking Sheldon what was on his mind since he is not eating and keep making clicking sounds with his tongue. He finally admits that Fermi-Lab wants to

drop her name off the Nobel Prize submission and that if both organizations provide the same team, they have a much better chance of winning the award. After an initial, "Oh!", she says that that makes sense. Sheldon still objects; however, Amy loves Sheldon and doesn't want to be in the way of something that her husband really wants. Amy just wants Sheldon to be happy.

Coming up the stairs Penny finds Bernie waiting for her. Penny asks her how long she had been sitting there. Long enough for two people to ask if she was looking for her mother. Bernadette apologizes for trying to push her friend. She has chosen her colleague Karen who is stronger and more confident. And she steals Penny's yogurt! Penny admits that she is nervous about though she sees what Bernadette is doing and still agrees to take the job starting Monday morning. As Bernie heads back down the stairs she says to herself that she could make that girl president.

Sheldon comes into the President's office to discuss their Nobel Prize submission. Sheldon insists that Caltech include Amy in their submission or not bother writing one at all. Siebert mentions that that will start a fight with Fermi-Labs; however, he respects Sheldon's decision and that Amy will be included in the Nobel Prize paperwork. Sheldon is surprised, but Siebert tells him that he is there to serve their needs both academically and personally. Now Sheldon is filled with a lot of nervous energy, so Siebert shows him where the new gymnasium is.

Monday morning at the first sales team meeting, Penny describes herself as friends with Dr. Rostenkowski, Miss Cornhusker of 2001, still fits in the same jeans she did in 2001 and is the best damn salesperson there. She wants everyone to familiarize themselves with the specifications and marketing strategy for the new drug Inflammix. She then tells them to memorize everything and then move on out. Go! Go! Go! Bernadette was very impressed. Penny replies that she was damn right that she was impressive. Bernie tells her to not use that tone with her. Right, Boss.

The Meteorite Manifestation

Season 12

Episode Number: 269

Season Episode: 14

Originally aired: Thursday January 31, 2019
Story: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari
Teleplay: Eric Kaplan, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Brian Posehn (Bert), Lauren Lapkus (Denise), Andrew Daly (Nathan), Joel McCrary (Andy (voice)), Minerva García (Linda (voice)), Hilda Boulware (Woman)
Production Code: T12.16014
Summary: Sheldon is thrilled to help Bernadette and Howard navigate bureaucracy concerning a neighbor's non-compliant balcony until he learns they too have ignored codes. Leonard is disappointed when his friends are uninterested in his new laser.



Howard and Bernadette prepare to use their hot tub when their new neighbor's floodlights come on blinding them. Bernadette is reluctant to change in front of them lights. The balcony overlooks their fence and their neighbors' only suggestion is to plant some trees. Also the lights are operated by motion sensors so they have to be still to shut them off. Bernadette wonders how Howard is going to make motionless love to her.

In Leonard's lab, Dr. Hofstadter is showing Sheldon, Howard and Raj his new europium laser. Howard is having a problem with his neighbors, while Sheldon still has his Nobel Prize submission problem. Bert comes in and asks Raj as an astrophysicist to look at a meteorite with him. Leonard wants to cut it open with his new laser, but Bert declines. Both Raj and Howard leave to check the meteorite out. Leonard doesn't care because he still has his real cool new laser.

Howard and Bernadette go to the city zoning office or the "zone-zone" to see what can do about their neighbors. The clerk tells them that they can check and see if their neighbors had a permit. The Wolowitzes need to go to the Office of Code Compliance and fill out a form for an nuisance, an encumbrance or an encroachment. There is a different form for each of them.

At the comic book store, Leonard is going through a rack of comic books and then suddenly sneezes. Stuart tells him that he just bought a rack of Batman comic books. Leonard says that is just his allergies. Stuart offers him something from his large collection of medicines. Raj comes in and describes the unique spectrographic signature they found in Bert's meteorite. Leonard again offers to use his laser to cut open the meteorite which really bothers Stuart. He asks them if they haven't learned anything from reading all the comic books he sells. Space viruses. Pod people. Raj thinks that Stuart is being a bit crazy. Denise retorts that Stuart is the only one making any

sense. Raj jokes that it's nice that Stuart and Denise have found each other. Raj then turns down Leonard's offer again.

Having dinner in apartment 4A, Howard complains that a day at the zoning office solved nothing. Sheldon gets excited that they could spend the day there and then Bernadette asks him to help them out. Leonard tells everyone that Raj is working on his stupid meteorite as he sneezes saying that he is feeling rundown. Sheldon looks tiffed and then marches Amy, Howard and Bernadette into his apartment making sure that they all use Purell before entering.

Back in apartment 4A, a sickly Leonard can't stop complaining about the guys not using his new laser. Penny suggests that Leonard is just being jealous. Also she offers to get him some medicine, but Stuart already gave him some at the comic book store. Penny wonders that Stuart really needs all of his medicine. Penny offers to sleep on the couch, but Leonard says that he'll take the couch. Penny quickly accepts the idea, calls him a "snot-bag" and runs off for their bedroom.

Sheldon and Amy inspect the Wolowitz backyard and Sheldon thinks that that is their neighbors are exhibiting classic encroachment. When the floodlights snap on, Sheldon says that the brightness must be at least 10,000 lumens. Howard quips that when you have lumens you should make lumen-ade. Sheldon asks if that is a joke. Then Sheldon finds out that Howard didn't have a permit to build their deck which worries Sheldon. Howard also didn't get a permit for their bathroom improvements. Sheldon is horrified.

Driving home Sheldon is disgusted that he doesn't really know his friends and that they are rule breakers. Poor Amy is about to drive into oncoming traffic because Sheldon is complaining to his wife so much. Of course that would also break the rules. Sheldon wants to get his friends back on the side of "Johnny Law". Amy is appalled since Howard would have to tear out all of their improvements and it would probably end their friendship. Sheldon retorts that only animals build decks without permits. Amy replies that animals don't have decks. Hasn't Amy heard of beavers and their dams?

Leonard goes into the geology lab and sees the fancy water-cooled saw. He tries to take the meteorite, but it's too heavy, so he rolls it out on a chair.

At the city zoning office, Sheldon finds the clerk's "zone-zone" joke funny. Sheldon wants to know if he should turn a code violator in. He philosophically debates the clerk on whether he should turn-in law breakers. The clerk doesn't tell Sheldon to turn him in.

As Leonard is about to cut into the meteorite Raj and Bert run in wanting to know what he was doing. He cuts it open and they find a glowing purple light emitting from it. Raj finds the rock pretty. Leonard approaches it and gets zapped. His eyes start to glow purple, he gets ravishingly hungry and attacks Raj and Bert taking a bite out of them.

Leonard finds himself waking up on the couch and Penny tells him that he's having a bad dream. As Penny checks his temperature, Leonard's eyes start to glow purple again and he attacks Penny. Her scream wakes him up as she comes running down the hallway. Leonard asks what color his eyes are and Penny can't decide between green and brown. As least he is finally awake.

Sheldon comes to talk to Howard and Bernadette. He had thought of turning them in, but he decides that the unwritten rules of friendship overrides the city zoning office regulations. He also looked into their neighbor's balcony and found out that it did encroach their property line. He had so much pent up energy that he turned their neighbors in.

Leonard visits the geology lab and apologizes to Bert and Raj since he was jealous. Bert calls his cutting device "Terry Brad-saw". Leonard explains about his dream and Bert thinks it's nice that Leonard attacked him first.

Howard and Bernadette are having wine watching their neighbor tear out the balcony. Their neighbors apologize for the noise and they wonder who Sheldon Cooper is who filed the complaint. Sheldon Cooper? The Wolowitzes have never heard of him.

Finally at the comic book store, they had had no customers all afternoon and they don't see anyone out on the street. Maybe cutting open the meteorite unleashed a space plague. Stuart locks the door as he and Denise wonder if they are the last couple on earth. Do either of them have special skills to rebuild civilization? Stuart draws and Denise can play the clarinet. Denise agrees that they'll have to start repopulating the planet. She is fine with doing that and runs off to brush her teeth. Sheldon shows up and Stuart tells them that they are closed. He runs off after Denise. Sheldon is going to complain on Yelp.

The Donation Oscillation

Season 12
Episode Number: 270
Season Episode: 15

Originally aired: Thursday February 07, 2019
Story: Bill Prady, Jeremy Howe, Adam Faberman
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Dave Goetsch, Maria Ferrari
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Keith Carradine (Wyatt), Brian Thomas Smith (Zack), Rati Gupta (Anu), Lindsey Kraft (Marissa), Eric Nenninger (Neil)
Production Code: T12.16015
Summary: Penny tries to throw a wrench into Leonard's plan to be a sperm donor for her ex-boyfriend; Wolowitz, Bernadette, Anu and Koothrappali turn Koothrappali's canceled bachelor party into a couple's trip aboard the "vomit comet."



Zack and Marissa are visiting Leonard and Penny discussing Leonard's pending fatherly donation. They are both grateful for Leonard's help. Penny still thinks the subject is weird. The Johnson's also think that it is weird that their kid will like Leonard. Zack adds that if it's a girl, it'll look like Penny. Typical Zack. Leonard needs to abstain from Penny to provide the most potent sample on Monday. They would like to have a son, so Zack wants Leonard to keep thinking "Little boys. Little boys!" Sheldon wanders in on the pretext to borrow a book and mentions how tall and smart he is.

Amy runs in and drags him home because Zack and Marisa want them to have Leonard's baby and not his. As Sheldon leaves has also throws in his blue eyes, no cavities in his teeth and not being lactose intolerant.

Raj is visiting Howard and is lamenting his wedding that would have been that week, though at least he is still with Anu. Howard adds the \$3000 in airline tickets to India that he can't use. There is also the incredible bachelor party that Howard had planned, through NASA he got four tickets on the "Vomit Comet" allowing them to feel weightlessness. Raj is excited and suggests a guy's weekend just like in the good old days. Howard adds that they were sad, desperate and totally alone then

At the cafeteria Howard announces that they can all go on the "Vomit Comet" together. Sheldon is not interested in vomiting, while Penny's father Wyatt is vomiting over the weekend. Raj suggests then making it a couples' weekend and they could bring Bernadette and Anu. Howard plans to ask Stuart or Bert since he doesn't think that Bernie would like to do that.

Penny comes into the kitchen and finds Leonard taking some vitamins to help his virility. When Wyatt knocks on the door Penny asks Leonard not to bring up the subject of their kids, Zack and Marisa's project or the Cornhuskers. Wyatt comes in calling Penny "Slugger" and

complimenting Leonard on his strong handshake. Leonard has been taking vitamins. Penny offers her dad a beer. He replies that he'll one if she is since he knows that she's not pregnant. Penny then blurts out about the Leonard-Zack project to take the subject off of their non-existent kids.

Howard enters the kitchen and asks if Bernie minds if he goes away that weekend with Raj. The two were taking Anu and Stuart which bothers Bernadette that she wasn't asked. Howard insists that she wouldn't want to float around weightless since she got sick while in line to the Tea Cups ride at Disneyland. First Howard says that he doesn't want her to make everyone else miserable, but realizing what he said he invites her to go with them.

Back at the Hofstadters', Leonard thanks Penny for throwing him under the bus. Wyatt wants to know why Leonard is okay with not wanting a baby with Penny, but wanting to have one for Penny's dumb ex-boyfriend. Penny supports Leonard, but is still okay with her dad making a scene about it. Wyatt then mentions about hiring out his prize stallion for stud purposes. Penny retorts that their situation is not like that though Leonard is fine being compared with a prize stud.

Leonard comes to bed talking about how much Wyatt likes him since Penny used to date idiots. Penny does admit that she did marry a stud. Penny wants to make it up to him after throwing him to the lions earlier. She forgot that Leonard still had three days of abstinence ahead. Penny then comes to bed wearing a sexy outfit, snuggles up to Leonard and starts to read her comic book. "Bam! Pow! Take that Batman!"

The two couples are driving in the car and Anu is so glad that Bernadette could come especially since Howard claimed that it wasn't her thing. Bernadette snaps saying that Howard doesn't know everything. Anu claims to be an adrenaline junkie doing things like roller coasters and snowboarding. Bernadette counters that she once jumped on the back of her shopping cart and rolled through the meat section. Howard added that just being married to her is a thrill ride.

In Apartment 4A Sheldon comes out into the living room, fixes his breakfast and finds Leonard on the couch. Sheldon calls to Amy who comes in and is also surprised to find Leonard. He used his spare key to come in and get away from Penny who wanted to have sex. Sheldon comments that he has been there and done that. Amy suggests that Penny still doesn't want him to succeed. If Penny is objecting, Leonard wants her to tell him. He still wants to leave a little of himself behind in the world. Amy adds that even if that is true, he would not be the kid's father.

In the airport waiting room, the couples are being briefed for their flight which will be the experience of their life. Bernie tells him that at 90 pounds, she gets weightless if she is holding onto three balloons. While signing the injury and death waivers Bernadette has second thoughts about both of them doing it since they have kids. She was just trying to prove to Howard that he doesn't know her as well as he thinks he does. And if she does it, she can prove him wrong. Anu thinks that she should just be honest. Bernadette agrees and tells Anu that she owes her \$3000 for airline tickets.

Penny returns to her apartment and her her dad after a long run interrupted by stopping at a diner and a massage chair. Her dad comments that she is not really mad at him and Leonard, but at herself. He says that she regrets her "no baby" plan. Penny agrees that she feels that she is letting everyone down. Wyatt tells her that she could never disappoint him, though her high school years were rough on him. He tells his daughter that whatever she decides he is on her side. Leonard comes marching in and tells Wyatt to back off since it is his and Penny decision. Wyatt has already discussed it with Penny, but compliments Leonard on being forceful. Leonard then tells Penny that he has changed his mind and he'd be heartbroken if there was a kid out there that he couldn't be the father of. Penny agrees with him and then he asks if her to do that thing from last night; however, Wyatt is still within ear range.

Back in the airport waiting room, everyone is in jumpsuits though Bernadette declines to go. They have kids and she doesn't think that they should both put themselves in danger. Howard cracks that he didn't see that coming. Howard suggests that she go so she can prove herself right as the plane flies repeatedly up and down and up and down.

Now floating weightlessly Bernadette is yelling that she hates it so much. Anu says that she is proving her husband wrong. Now she LOVES doing it.

Leonard calls up Zack and Marissa declining to be their sperm donor, but he does suggest that someone else is interested. While on the phone Amy is yelling at Sheldon that he is not going to do that. Sheldon says on the phone that apparently he is not allowed.

The D&D Vortex

Season 12

Episode Number: 271

Season Episode: 16

Originally aired: Thursday February 21, 2019
Story by: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Anthony Del Broccolo
Teleplay by: Eric Kaplan, Andy Gordon, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joe Manganiello (Himself), Wil Wheaton (Himself), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (Himself), Kevin Smith (Himself), William Shatner (Himself)
Production Code: T12.16016
Summary: The gang finds out Wil Wheaton hosts a celebrity Dungeons and Dragons game involving William Shatner, Joe Manganiello, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Kevin Smith. Deception and betrayal are the path to make it to the one open seat.



Dr. Sheldon Cooper and Dr. Amy Farrah Fowler are guest stars on Wil Wheaton's Professor Proton science show. Both try to explain their Super-Asymmetry theory with Sheldon getting hopelessly complicated. There is a knock at the door and William Shatner joins them as an extra special guest.

Sheldon gets excited exclaiming "Captain on the bridge! Captain on the bridge!" He wants to call him Captain, but Shatner just says to call him Bill. Then Sheldon wants to be called Science Officer Cooper. When Bill agrees, Sheldon gets so excited that he vomits all over William Shatner.

After the guys see the clip, they make fun of poor Sheldon who is convinced that he is going to see the guy that played Captain James T. Kirk again since he believes that Shatner thinks the world of him.

Sheldon goes to Will Wheaton's house to apologize though Wil is obviously busy. Sheldon then hears a Dungeons and Dragons game being played with William Shatner and some others which Wil denies as he closes the door on Sheldon.

The guys are having dinner in 4A when Sheldon returns all excited about Wil's secret celebrity D&D game. He is sure that Shatner is in it. Leonard and the guys decide to graph who else that Wil knows that might be in the game. Penny quips that "this" is going to be the rest of their night. Amy figures that it'll be the rest of their lives. Howard finds a picture on Instagram where Wil is playing D&D with Shatner, Kevin Smith, Stuart and others. The guys wonder why Wil invited Stuart and not them. The girls tell each other that they know the answer to that question.

Stuart enters the Wolowitz kitchen with Howard, Raj, Leonard and Sheldon waiting for him. He's late. Stuart claims that it was a crazy night at the pharmacy. They plummet Stuart with questions causing him to breakdown telling him that he doesn't know the answers about who was there and how they get in the game.

Wil received a call that he can't play anymore because he is under way too much pressure and that he's said too much to the guys. Wil doesn't really understand him.

Howard is trying to call Wil, but his number is blocked. He gets him and pretends to be William Shatner who is supposedly hanging out with Christopher Walken. Wil guesses that it is Howard.

Sheldon is going for a walk in a Wild West game when Wil calls Leonard and invites him to fill Stuart's spot in their D&D game. Leonard accepts; however, Will tells that he has to keep it a secret especially from Sheldon.

At the game Wil is the dungeon master playing with Leonard, Bill Shatner, Kevin Smith, Joe Manganiello and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The players are up against a monster and they argue how to deal with it. Kill it or talk to it to death. Kareem asks Leonard what they should do and he just exclaims that he is having the greatest day of his life ever. Bill then comments that someday he'll meet a girl.

Leonard returns home and tells Penny that the "lecture" he went to was the greatest one ever. Penny figures he just went to House of Pies again. Then Leonard breaks down slowly telling her about the game and that Bill Shatner, Kevin Smith and some tall guy named Kareem was there. Penny is surprised he didn't know who Kareem was. He then mentions Joe Manganiello who gets Penny excited because in was in the movie "Magic Max".

Penny joins Bernadette and Amy with the exciting news about Joe Manganiello and the D&D game. Bernadette hadn't seen "Magic Max" all the way through since Howard made them leave after he found out it wasn't about magic. Amy saw it one "or seven" times. Penny and Amy now have an urge to go play D&D!

Penny, Bernadette and Amy arrive on the Professor Proton set to confront Wil. As they flirt with Wil he figures out that Leonard had told them the secret. And he guesses right that it was Joe Manganiello that they were interested in.

In the cafeteria, Leonard just can't stop smiling which puzzles the guys. Wil calls and throws him out of the game since Leonard had told the girls. Looking sad, they guys ask him and he admits that he had been in Wil's game. This hurt the guys; however, Leonard said that they would have done the same thing. Sheldon says that there is now an open seat in the game!

Raj, Howard and Sheldon go over to Wil's house to get into the game. Wil opens the door and says, "No. No. No. And hell no." to Sheldon. After they plead, Wil complains that they just want to play with celebrities which sucks since he doesn't know if they like him or just that he is a celebrity. The guys apologized and then Sheldon adds that he doesn't even consider Wil a celebrity. Wil shakes his head and closes the door.

At Apartment 4A, they are starting a D&D game. Leonard feels bad and calls Wil to invite him to join them. Sheldon wants Wil to bring a snack. Wil declines because he is already playing with his friends and the girls. Shatner says that he is going to go all "Wrath of Khan" on the ogres. Kevin Smith tells him to put another dollar in the Star Trek jar. Amy is gushing over Joe Manganiello. Penny is ready to attack the ogres to which Bill likes her "moxie". Penny thinks that he is using grandpa words. Amy tells Wil that they won't tell their husbands though Wil wants to send them a photo of them all together. The guys get a message on their phones and find the photo. Amy has her head on Joe Manganiello, while tiny Bernadette looks up at Kareem who had his head cut off. Leonard figures that they deserve what they got.

The Conference Valuation

Season 12
Episode Number: 272
Season Episode: 17

Originally aired: Thursday March 07, 2019
Story: Chuck Lorre, Steven Molaro, Eric Kaplan
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Maria Ferrari, Jeremy Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Jason Kravits (Danny), Pamela Adlon (Halley Wolowitz (voice)), Chasty Ballesteros (Karen), Andre Boyer (Kwame), Ben Rauch (Darren)
Production Code: T12.16017
Summary: Bernadette and Penny travel to San Diego for a pharmaceutical sales convention. Back home, Amy and the guys experiment on the Wolowitz children when Sheldon finds a book on it.



At Zangen, Penny is conducting a sales meeting discussing their product In-Flaminex drug and pushing their slogan "It's a brand new day," which she came up with. Bernadette comes in wondering why they are still there. Karen exclaims that they are happy to be there because "It's a brand new day." At it is since it was now 12:15 A.M. Bernadette tells everyone to go home, but they don't move until Penny agrees. Bernadette also happy that everything is working out since her team is scared of both of Penny, and Penny I

scared of Bernie. The system works!

Bernie is coming down the stairs with her luggage on the way to their conference to launch In-Flaminex. Howard is in charge of the baby sitting. Bernadette reminds him that it's "parenting". She gives him a quick quiz: Where are the kids? "Upstairs" replies Bernadette. "They're at daycare!" that wasn't really true because his wife was messing with him.

As Penny is getting to leave, Leonard is worried that because of all of her luggage, she might be leaving him. Penny just wants things to go well. The Coopers burst in because Sheldon has a bet with Amy. Since Penny is heading to San Diego, she needs to look for people walking around in superhero costumes. He contends that since ComicCon is in San Diego, that since people where their costumes to ComicCon, some in San Diego where them all year round.

At the comic book store, Leonard is wondering what to do over the weekend since he is alone. Sheldon invented a new version of chess while Howard invites them over to play board games AND help watch the kids. Sheldon doesn't want to spend time around loud sticky children.

At the conference, Penny is pushing their drug and ending her pitch with "It's a brand new day!" Bernadette thinks she is doing great. Penny adds, "Mediocre actress, great drug pusher. Who knew?" Another guy named Danny approaches who Bernadette hates since he works for their competitor. Their inflammation drug is also coming out the same time.

At home, Howard has the kids down while Leonard and Raj set up a card game. Sheldon and Amy come in. Sheldon has decided to spend some time with the Wolowitz kids since he found a

book on 50 experiments one could perform on children. Howard doesn't like the idea so Sheldon pushes it as playing with Halley and Michael.

Later Amy is looking through the book and finds that the experiments are as simple as letting the baby discover his reflection in a mirror. Amy can find the projects adorable, but when Sheldon proposes it, it just sounds creepy. Raj finds an experiment where you can check the kids hand dominance or whether they are right or left handed. Amy thinks that it is more like playing games with them. Howard agrees that they can try it when his kids wake up.

When Bernadette comes to take a phone call, Danny then approaches Penny. He knows that Bernadette doesn't like him. Then he tells Penny that she is doing a great job launching their product and that they are always looking for great sales people and that they could make Penny happy. Penny claims to be happy; while Karen, her team member, claims that she could be happier.

Bernadette received a call from Howard who wants to know where the barbeque tongs are. She asks if he was going to grill, but the answer were playing a game with the kids and he hangs up. The guys are dangling objects over Michael and Halley. Sheldon wants to up the experiment so that they will have something to publish.

Danny is still talking to Penny when Bernadette returns. She tells him to leave and wants to know what he wanted. Karen blabs that Penny was offered a job.

While Sheldon sets up the experiment on the subjects, Leonard feels like something was very familiar about what was going on. He had been experimented all throughout his childhood by his mother. Raj and Sheldon are trying to get reactions from the kids and Halley calls Raj "Unka Koo". Sheldon is very excited about working with the kids and wants to do a feeding experiment when it comes time for the kid's dinner. Raj is surprise that Sheldon is so happy around babies. He finds it interesting that they found the book the same day that Sheldon and Amy were going to hang out with Howard's children. Leonard is having flashbacks of being experimented on when he was a kid.

Back in their hotel room, Bernadette is peeved that Penny took Danny's business card. Penny figures she should at least take his card, while she was flattered by his comments. Bernadette tells Penny that she gave her the job since no one else wanted to head the sales team. Penny gets mad and leaves and telling her that she did thank her by sending her a fancy box of pears. Bernie yells back wondering what she could do with them. Have a pear party?

Raj comes into the living room eating a pear. He sits down with Amy while Howard and Sheldon are giving the kids a bath. Raj asks if she thinks she can trick Sheldon into liking kids. She did get him to sleep with her and marry her. Sheldon comes down talking about all the experiments they did and he gets excited that maybe they could take them to the park the next day. She glances back at Raj to show him that she knows what she is doing.

Leonard is still there talking to his mother who admits to performing thousands of small experiments on him as he was growing up and that the experiment was still going on. She also admits that watching him grow up, develop and tracking his progress were some of her fondest memories of him.

Penny is having a drink with Danny as he proposes to offer her a new Mercedes if she joined them. He's willing to make an offer, while Penny wants him to write it on a napkin and slide it over to her like they do in the movies. After he writes it down, Bernadette storms in, grabs the napkin and says that Penny is amazing. She is the best salesperson and the hardest worker Bernie has ever seen. Penny says that she is happy where she is, but still wants to see the offer on the napkin.

Finally, Sheldon and Amy are crawling into bed as Sheldon says that he had a good day and that he was thinking about their future children. That surprises Amy though there is a slight smile on her face. Sheldon still seems to want fifteen kids, three sets of quintuplets or five sets of triplets. As long as it's divisible by three. Amy admits that that is a lot of children, but not for a frog adds Sheldon. Amy apologizes for not being a frog. Sheldon gives her a kiss and tells her that she is good enough for him.

The Laureate Accumulation

Season 12
Episode Number: 273
Season Episode: 18

Originally aired:	Thursday April 04, 2019
Story:	Steve Holland & Adam Faberman & David Saltzberg
Teleplay:	Dave Goetsch & Eric Kaplan & Maria Ferrari
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Ellen DeGeneres (Herself), Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Kal Penn (Dr. Kevin Campbell), Pamela Adlon (Halley Wolowitz (voice)), Sean Astin (Dr. Greg Pemberton), George Smoot (Himself), Frances H. Arnold (Herself), Kip Thorne (Himself)
Production Code:	T12.16018
Summary:	Rivals Pemberton and Campbell charm America on a publicity tour so Sheldon and Amy try to win over Nobel laureates Kip Thorne, George Smoot and Frances Arnold. Halley's fear of the dark causes opportunity and conflict at the Wolowitz home.



If the Nobel Prize is just a popularity contest, Campbell and Pemberton are winning. They've landed on Ellen because a video of them singing a physics revamp of Olivia Newton-John's "Physical" is just one of their viral offerings. Everyone loves them.

To try to swing the pendulum in Amy and Sheldon's favor, President Siebert arranges a reception at the university and invites a number of Nobel Laureates. Unfortunately, Sheldon has insulted so many of them in the past that none of them want to come.

Amy and Sheldon try to win them over

with boxes of cookies, but the gesture is fruitless.

When Sheldon surprises Leonard with the depth of his regret that Amy is paying for his behavior, Penny and Leonard step in. They personally visit each of the wronged Laureates and convince them that if you average out (math!) Sheldon and Amy's personalities, you have one OK person.

At the reception, Sheldon is managing his verbal tendencies with the help of Leonard monitoring him and using their code word, "shut up," each time he's about to get himself in trouble. They don't anticipate that it will be Amy who loses her cool, though.

Amy takes the bait when Samwise Gamgee and Kumar crash the party and effortfully grasp for the phrase "impostor syndrome" to express how they're feeling in the limelight. She rips them a new one in front of Dr. Frances Arnold, Dr. George Smoot, Dr. Kip Thorne and the rest of the guests, which may hurt her reputation but also gives Sheldon an object lesson in how he affects people.

Meanwhile, the Wolowitzes are struggling with Halley having developed a slate of new fears that interfere with her going to sleep at night. Bernadette is out of ideas when Howard comes home and calms their daughter with a story about how he was afraid when he was an astronaut.

Bernadette hears the whole thing over the baby monitor, and she finds it so sweet that she tries to turn it into a book for the kids. Stuart sees her sorry attempt at drawing an astronaut and steps in to handle the art. The resulting book is so cute that Stuart shows it to a publisher friend and gets an offer on it.

When Howard hears that "The Frightened Little Astronaut" will be published, he freaks out. He has psychological scars from being teased by the other astronauts in space, and he doesn't want everyone to know that he was scared to go. Bernadette pulls out her best guilt trip, followed by sweet talking him about how brave he would have to be to let the book be published, and Stuart points out how big a deal it would be for him to have his art in a book.

Ultimately, Howard agrees, saving himself from completely earning the alternate title Raj pitched, "The Bitchy Little Astronaut"

The Inspiration Deprivation

Season 12
Episode Number: 274
Season Episode: 19

Originally aired: Thursday April 18, 2019
Story: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Andy Gordon
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Anthony Del Broccolo, Tara Hernandez
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Regina King (Janine Davis), Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), Brooke Dillman (Bebe), Sarah J. Eagen (Woman #2)
Production Code: T12.16019
Summary: The concept of what it would mean for women everywhere if Amy were to win a Nobel Prize causes Amy to have a meltdown. Also, Koothrappali and Wolowitz try to relive the good old days after Wolowitz buys a scooter that looks like the one he had years ago.



Amy comes up to the guys in the cafeteria wanting to show Sheldon her cellphone. She has been called into Human Resources probably because of her blow-up in front of Pemberton and Campbell at the university reception. Raj never thought of Amy as a bad girl. Then Sheldon also gets a summons from HR. He wants to make sure that their stories are straight and that the incident was all Amy's fault.

Janine Davis and President Siebert asked them in to discuss the incident and then have a plan to move forward without pointing fingers. Sheldon then points to Amy. The President starts that it was

all his fault because he thought that Sheldon and Amy wanted to win a Nobel Prize. He needs them to "keep their traps shut"! And he adds that they have a shot at a Nobel Prize and that they are blowing it. Their speaking tours and interviews are going to be cancelled. Janine Davis adds that their winning is not just important to the university, but also will be inspirational to a whole generation of women since Amy would only be the fourth woman to win the Nobel Prize in Physics. The President adds that the next words he wants out of their mouths is "Thank you for this honor." In Stockholm at the Nobel Prize presentation.

Raj and Howard are strolling through the Caltech parking lot when they spot a scooter just like the one that Howard had. They start reminiscing about driving around and looking for women and not really finding any. Howard did find his woman who also made him get rid of his scooter.

As the, Penny agrees that Amy winning is a real big deal. Both Sheldon and Amy are kind of freaked out. Leonard calmed Sheldon down with a Rubix Cube where he had switched some of the colored stickers around and it was unsolvable. Sheldon solved the puzzle by finding which colors had been shifted fairly quickly. Penny then suggests a massage, but only Amy's hands

can touch his body. And they have to be proven clean. Then Penny suggests a Reiki massage where the hands are only placed near one's body and the universal energy field will manifest their healing powers. Leonard then suggests a sensory deprivation tank where one floats in a liquid cutting off all sensory stimulation. Amy finds it's interesting, but Sheldon doesn't want to be cut off from his senses. Leonard objects that everything Sheldon complains about is what he sees, feels and hears.

Howard is leading Raj across the parking lot with closed eyes and then surprises him having bought the scooter. He plans to keep it at work so that Bernadette won't find out about it. Howard starts it up calling it "twelve horsepower of eye-talian" thunder.

Both the Coopers and the Hofstadters enter the sensory deprivation tank room. According to the technician, they could be calmed, sleep or have visions. If they panic, push the panic button and call out "Bebe", the woman's name. Sheldon then asks for confirmation of the fluid's pH and sterility which also helps to relax Sheldon. Both Amy and Sheldon climb into their tanks.

At the Wolowitz's Howard is fooling around with his helmet until Bernadette returns with the kids from a walk, he immediately throws it into the trashcan claiming that it's not his. She knows that he is acting guilty and then is shocked when Raj drives by on the scooter. Bernadette just stares at him.

Sheldon in his hallucination is floating among colors and an infinite iterations of the Nautilus section of the Mandelbrot set. Amy is having a nightmarish vision of women blaming her of ruining their chance for her to be an inspiration to them and all women.

Leonard and Penny return when Sheldon and Amy's hour in the tank is up. Sheldon is very calm while Amy comes out feeling a failure and still feeling like she can't deal with the situation.

Back home Sheldon is praising his experience and that was like Disneyland in 35 dimensions. A hyped-up Amy is busily cleaning out the refrigerator. She is still freaking out. Not only is she letting their project down, she is letting all women down. Sheldon Googles what to do when one is freaking out. Take a walk. So Sheldon leaves her and takes a walk.

Howard enters the kitchen and finds Bernadette still mad at him. Howard says that he just didn't want to worry her. She translates that as he didn't want to get caught. Bernadette doesn't want him to get hurt and find herself raising two children and one large vegetable. Howard didn't want to feel emasculated and that he wanted to feel the freedom of his youth. Bernadette reminded him that he lived with his mother and had a curfew.

Howard then sells it to their friend Bert the geologist, who loves it and drives off immediately having an accident.

Sheldon is seeking advice from Leonard and Penny since he doesn't know how to console Amy. Leonard tells him that sometimes all you can do is be there for them. Penny adds that Amy has always been taking care of him and that maybe he should do that it return. Sheldon decides to have an emotional breakdown so that Amy can forget about hers and take care of him.

Sheldon returns telling Amy that he needs her help since he is literally losing his mind. He wants her to focus on him, but she has no time for whatever Sheldon is trying to do. Sheldon then admits that he doesn't know how to help her and Amy says that she doesn't know what to do either. Sheldon sits not her and takes her in his arms. Amy looks much better and Sheldon then sings to her "Soft Kitty".

Bernadette is adding up the money that Howard got from Bert and he was \$20 short. Howard gives up the last bill. Selling it was a whole loss because Bert did get the phone number of an ER nurse after he woke up.

Amy returns to Janine Davis' office. She agreed that the Nobel Prize is bigger than she is and like it or not, she is a role model. Still she does not want to be left out on the sidelines as she is a strong, capable, smart woman and can make a difference. Janine agrees wither and offers a seat. How about a drink of water? Amy wants something with some extra kick. Janine denies that she does that in Human Resources, but can still offer her a hard drink — without ice.

The Decision Reverberation

Season 12
Episode Number: 275
Season Episode: 20

Originally aired: Thursday April 25, 2019
Story: Steven Molaro, Steve Holland, Tara Hernandez
Teleplay: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Jermeij Howe
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Rati Gupta (Anu), David Theune (Dr. Graybel), Angela Lin (Maritza), Elijah Isaiah Cook (Terry)
Production Code: T12.16020
Summary: Koothrappali is worried people won't take him seriously in his own field after publishing a paper that suggests he may have discovered alien life; Leonard wants to be the principal investigator on a plasma physics study.



Like most people, the BBT gang is ready to see *Avengers: Endgame* tonight. Leonard's passivity about which show-time, 2D vs 3D and eating before or after draws the attention of his friends, and Sheldon accuses him of being a "satisficer." Nobel Prize winner Herbert A. Simon introduced "satisficing," a portmanteau of satisfy and suffice, which Sheldon defines as "a decision-making strategy whereby a person accepts whatever available option is satisfactory, rather than seeking out a course of action that would make him happiest."

Leonard sticks to his peacekeeping ways and acquiesces to close-up seats in

a 3D screening of the film, which makes him so queasy that he misses the end while throwing up in the bathroom and winds up with a massive headache. Penny, taking care of him when they're home, challenges him to name the last selfish thing he did, and the best he can come up with is taking his sweet time being born, which interfered with his mother's dinner reservations.

The next day, Amy finds a dejected Leonard sitting on the stairs, hiding from Penny. He tells her that he knows when he goes inside, Penny will force him to choose what they do for the evening and that he feels like if he chooses something she'll like, she won't believe he was being earnest. Amy reminds him that winning Penny is something he did against everyone's expectations and advice. Empowered by this evidence that he's capable of having a desire and achieving it, he marches into his apartment and tells his wife that what he wants to do is have sex and then watch *Star Trek: Discovery*. She warns him that she'll probably be looking at her phone most of the time, but otherwise she's on board.

In the days that follow, Leonard surprises Sheldon with barbecue on "Chinese food night" and a new route on their drive to work. He is so enjoying his new assertiveness that he decides he will make a proposal to President Siebert. Leonard wants to be lead investigator on a plasma team, and he has an idea that would make him happy and, he believes, benefit the university.

When he takes his proposal to Siebert, he gets shot down in both English in Russian. However, he's able to return to Penny beaming. Because he spoke up for what he wanted and threatened to quit, the university is going to make him co-lead on a photon-entanglement team, which he feels very satisfied by.

An added bonus of Leonard testing his strength of will is that Sheldon discovers the depth of his regard for his friend when he recognizes that his worry about Leonard demanding a new position isn't rooted in a desire to maintain his role as the more successful friend. He doesn't want Leonard to get hurt, so that's nice.

While Leonard is finding the confident man cowering inside himself, Raj inadvertently draws attention for not ruling out the possibility of alien civilizations in a paper he publishes.

It all starts with Anu making a welcome appearance when Raj takes her to see the telescope room where he works. He grabs her attention by pointing out some optical flashes he's observed that may indicate something alien-made, and she's so excited that he apparently includes the idea in a paper.

During his subsequent lectures at the Griffith Observatory's Planetarium, Howard and Bernadette's scripted questions are rendered useless by audience interest in the CalTech astrophysicist who believes in aliens. Poor Raj winds up the butt of 1000 jokes at work, and as he tries to dig himself out, he winds up being accused of also believing in the Loch Ness Monster.

The Plagiarism Schism

Season 12
Episode Number: 276
Season Episode: 21

Originally aired: Thursday May 02, 2019
Story: Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Adam Faberman
Teleplay: Steve Holland, Dave Goetsch, Tara Hernandez
Director: Nikki Lorre
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Kal Penn (Dr. Campbell), John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Sean Astin (Dr. Pemberton)
Production Code: T12.16021
Summary: Kripke has proof that Dr. Pemberton plagiarized his thesis in college, and Sheldon and Amy aren't sure if they should turn him in or not. Also, Wolowitz is happily surprised to learn that Bernadette wasn't the only waitress at the Cheesecake Factory who had a crush on him back in the day.



President Siebert is hosting a luncheon for the two feuding parties in the Super-Asymmetry Nobel Prize competition. Amy apologizes for her outburst calling the others frauds, but Dr. Pemberton and Dr. Campbell still think that the Coopers are mean and insecure. They also claim that Sheldon and Amy think that they are going to win the Nobel Prize. Not true! President Siebert tells all of them that if they don't stop the in-fighting the Nobel committee will chose some other discovery. Pemberton claims that they are all linked on this subject just like super-asymmetry links every atom in the universe. Amy jumps in that that is not how the theory

works when they again show that the two of them don't know a thing about it.

As Pemberton and Campbell leave, they run into Barry Kripke who went to school with Pemberton. Kripke gives him a friendly greeting, but tells the Coopers that he hates him after he sits down at their table. Kripke calls Pemberton a grade "A" weasel turning other people's ideas into his own. He plagiarized his thesis. Amy calls that a serious charge; however, Barry is willing to make some calls to get some proof. He doesn't want Pemberton to win, though he is not happy with Sheldon winning either.

Sheldon and Amy join the dinner gang in Apartment 4A and they propose their ethical question whether to expose Pemberton or not. First Howard wonders if he is the target. Howard and Penny think they should keep it to themselves. Leonard and Bernadette feels that Amy should expose him even if it ruins his career. Raj explains that they feel that they want to win, but they don't feel it's the honorable thing to do and that is why they haven't done it yet.

Sheldon and Amy head to bed discussing the subject and convince themselves that they are really good people and they don't want to do it.

Howard and Bernadette head to bed with Bernadette still saying that their friends should do what they have to do to win. Howard asked if she had ever done that. She admits that there was another waitress at The Cheesecake Factory who thought that he was cute and Bernie told her that Howard had every form of hepatitis. Howard wonders who it was; however, he admits he got the best waitress.

As the Hofstadters get in bed, Penny is proud that the Coopers are taking the high road, but Leonard doesn't want them to lose to the frauds. Leonard is willing to do it just so Sheldon and Amy can win. He is willing to get his hands dirty which is something Penny has never seen him do. Neither of them plan to tell Sheldon or Amy.

Leonard gets the incriminating information from Kripke and runs into Amy looking very guilty.

Howard brags to Raj that two women at The Cheesecake Factory had a thing for him. Raj does not believe it. Howard goes through all the waitresses having remembered their names, eye colors, cars and whether they were attached.

Amy is having wine with Penny telling her that Leonard was acting funny or even guilty. Then Penny starts acting in a similar manner. Penny confesses which bothers Amy because now she is implicated in the action.

At dinner Sheldon is complimenting Amy on how round her meatballs in the spaghetti are while Amy has very little to say. She asks him whether he would want to know about something that is ethically shady that is being done on his behalf. He has to know. They go to confront Leonard who claims that he (Sheldon) is not doing anything wrong. They still don't want Leonard doing it. Amy doesn't want Leonard to compromise himself ethically, while Sheldon doesn't want him to make them look bad.

Howard goes to apologize to Bernadette that he went down to the restaurant to try and find out, but he decided that he doesn't need to know since he has the best woman. Bernie already knew since the manager called and that Howard was creeping everyone out. Then he admits that Bernadette is the only woman he wants to creep out to which Bernie replies that he is.

The Coopers invite their rivals to lunch with them expecting another apology. Instead Sheldon hands over the evidence on Pemberton's plagiarism. Pemberton first accuses them of blackmail. Amy says that it's the opposite. Pemberton wonders if they are blackmailing the Coopers. Amy again yells at him asking him how he is up for a Nobel Prize? Campbell asks if the plagiarism is true. Yes. Then Campbell realizes that this could also ruin his career and he admits that he has been sleeping with Pemberton's wife, Linda. Pemberton throws a drink into Campbell face which causes a brawl on the floor. AND he used Sheldon's ice tea!

While Sheldon and Amy are having lunch together, Dr. Campbell stumbles into Sheldon's office drunk. Campbell published the plagiarism evidence getting Pemberton (and Campbell, too!) fired though Campbell was no longer seeing Linda. He wants to join their team. Amy pushes him out of the office, while Sheldon couldn't see what Linda saw in either of them.

The Maternal Conclusion

Season 12
Episode Number: 277
Season Episode: 22

Originally aired: Thursday May 09, 2019
Story: Steve Holland, Eric Kaplan, Jeremy Howe
Teleplay: Maria Ferrari, Andy Gordon, Anthony Del Broccolo
Director: Kristy Cecil
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: Christine Baranski (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter), Lauren Lapkus (Denise), Rati Gupta (Anu), Todd Giebennhain (Mitch)
Production Code: T12.16022
Summary: Leonard is pleasantly surprised when Beverly comes to visit and she's genuinely kind to him, until he finds out the real reason she's there. Also, Denise and Stuart overstay their welcome at the Wolowitz house.



Beverly Hofstadter arrives in town and is being extremely nice to Leonard, which makes him extremely suspicious (and Sheldon extremely upset that she isn't spending any time with him like she usually does). After coming to believe that she might finally be warming up to him, he's brought crashing back to Earth when she reveals she's actually doing research for a new book she's writing about parenting. Leonard becomes "last straw" upset and goes to complain to Sheldon and Amy (with Sheldon being his usual less-than-

helpful self). Penny attempts to stick up for her husband by getting tough with Beverly, who effectively shuts her down with her patented intimidation. Leonard returns with the intention of having it out with his mother once and for all, but ultimately realizes that she will never change. Instead of coming down on her like a ton of bricks, he decides instead to forgive her for how she has treated him all these years, and to forgive himself for not forgiving her sooner; he feels intensely relieved, like a huge weight has finally been lifted from his shoulders. To his surprise, Beverly is touched by, and grateful for, his forgiveness. She approaches Leonard and gives him what is probably her first genuine, warm embrace, which Leonard tearfully returns.

Howard and Bernadette have become extremely annoyed by the fact that Stuart's girlfriend Denise has effectively moved into their house, as she is staying with him practically every night. Howard talks about the situation with Stuart, who agrees to spend more time at Denise's apartment, even though she has a roommate, Mitch, who creeps both of them out. They try to spend an evening at her place watching a movie, but creepy Mitch makes things very uncomfortable. The next day, Denise complains to Stuart about her sore neck after having to spend the night in the comic book store, thanks to Mitch. She reminds Stuart that he had the chance to move in with her but was too afraid of ruining their relationship to do so, and they decide to take the plunge and move in together. When they talk to Mitch and explain the situation, Stuart admits that he loves Denise, who reciprocates the feeling. Mitch then ruins the moment by insisting they both tell him that they love him.

Raj video chats with Anu, who is in London for a concierge conference. She reluctantly tells him that she was offered a lucrative job overseas, and when Raj wonders what that means for their relationship, she asks him if he'd be willing to relocate to London (he's very reluctant) and if he's actually happy in California ("not for years, what's your point?"). Raj discusses the situation with Howard and Bernadette, and decides that it's time to ask Anu to marry him. Howard strongly hints that Anu may not be the right woman for Raj, reminding him that they don't really share a lot of common interests, but Raj is adamant and decides to fly to London to propose. At Bernadette's urging, Howard goes to the airport and convinces Raj to stay, telling him that he's sure there's a woman out there that can appreciate Raj for who he is. As they leave, Raj wonders how Howard got past security, and Howard tells him that he bought a plane ticket (for which Raj owes him \$1,300).

The Change Constant

Season 12
Episode Number: 278
Season Episode: 23

Originally aired: Thursday May 16, 2019
Writer: Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Andy Gordon, Anthony Del Broccolo, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Adam Faberman
Director: Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars: Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars: John Ross Bowie (Barry Kripke), Blair Hickey (Reporter #2), Rodney J. Hobbs (Reporter #3), Joshua Malina (President Siebert), Dinora Walcott (Reporter #1)
Production Code: T12.16023
Summary: Sheldon and Amy await big news.



Early in the morning Leonard, Penny and Amy are falling asleep while Sheldon sings about the half-life of radium waiting to hear if they had won the Nobel Prize. Penny and Amy jump up to make coffee. Sheldon doesn't need any since the anticipation is enough drug for his brain to produce endorphins. Amy corrects him that its dopamines, but she realized that he's been up all night. Then Sheldon falls asleep. Leonard gets excited because Sheldon had told them to slap him if he did fall asleep. Leonard feels that he's paid enough dues with Sheldon to get the honor. Before he has a chance,

the phone wakes Sheldon up. It's only Kripke tricking them into thinking he is the Nobel committee. The phone rings again, but its only Howard and Bernadette checking in on them. Sheldon suggests that they play a number guessing game, when Amy's phone rings. She quietly answers it, thanks them and then quietly tells everyone that that they won. Penny gets excited. Amy asks if Sheldon believes it, so Sheldon says that he should be slapped so that he knows that he isn't dreaming. Leonard slaps him. Sheldon shouts that they won the Nobel Prize and all four make an excited embrace.

Coming down the stairs, Sheldon and Amy discuss winning as Sheldon gets congratulatory texts from Meemaw, his mother, Missy, George and both of his brother's ex-wives. Amy gets a text from CVS and from her father, who also sends one to Sheldon. Sheldon tells Amy that their names will be linked forever. Amy reminds him that they are already married. Sheldon explains that that is a piece of paper and the Nobel is a piece of paper and a medal. Again they feel their lives will never be the same, however; Sheldon said that they'll still go to work and put their pants on one leg at a time. He is proven wrong when a large group of reporters are waiting for them outside of the building. Sheldon is spooked and runs away. Amy is asked whether Dr. Cooper is returning. She replies no and asks for the next question.

At the Caltech cafeteria, the guys are asking Leonard about how he struck Sheldon. President Siebert joins them and he wants their friend to describe the new superstars of physics as

"quirky". Howard jokes that they shouldn't call them "Mr. and Mrs. Wackadoodle." The President calls him a bitter and envious little man. The Coopers enter the cafeteria and are applauded though Sheldon quickly leaves. And the President leads the guys in describing his behavior as "quirky".

Howard walks by Sheldon's office and finds a reporter knocking on his door. Howard looks in and finds Sheldon hiding behind the desk shaking his head no that he doesn't want to see him. Howard tells the reporter he isn't in and then leads him to the cafeteria to talk and give his prospective as Sheldon's "best friend".

Raj passes by the ladies' room and hears Amy crying. He checks in on her and she tells him that she looks so terrible in the photos posted on the Internet. She realizes that it is stupid and shallow, but doesn't like looking so frumpy. Raj calls her a beautiful woman and if she doesn't like it, she can make some changes. New clothes and a new haircut. Amy thinks that that sounds expensive, but Raj reminds her that she is getting a substantial cash prize with the Nobel. Raj is going to help her, so they head off to Beverly Hills.

Howard comes into the kitchen asking about dinner. On her computer Bernadette asks about the article that talks more about him instead of his "best friend" Sheldon. Howard reacts that Leonard was more of Sheldon's "monkey butler" rather than his best friend. The reporter also wanted Howard to put him in touch with Amy's best friend. Bernadette says that that is Penny. Howard adds that it doesn't have to be as they smile at each other.

Sheldon and Leonard are having tea together as Sheldon laments all the changes that make him feel unmoored from reality. Leonard suggests Earl Grey tea, but they don't have any. Sheldon has wanted a Nobel Prize all his life, but never really thought about the consequences. Raj comes in wanting to show Sheldon his latest creation, the new and improved Dr. Amy Farrah Fowler. In comes Amy in a classy sleeveless dress and coat wearing larger glasses and a shorter haircut looking very happy. Leonard thinks that she looks amazing, but Sheldon prefers the old Amy. Amy looks disappointed as Sheldon runs out with Leonard following. Out in the hallway Leonard calls him rude. Sheldon explains that Amy was the one thing he could count on that didn't change. Sheldon claims that that is the last straw as the elevator doors open and out walks Penny. "Can you believe it? They finally fixed the elevator." Sheldon calls it a nightmare and runs down the steps. In the lobby he is scared as he finds Penny waiting for him. The elevator is really fast. Sheldon has to be alone, but he doesn't mind Penny providing transportation.

Back in Apartment 4A, Amy says that she should have seen this coming and that she should have changed her hair slowly over ten years. Also she realizes she has had a big day and should be able to enjoy it without worrying about how it affects Sheldon.

Penny is having a drink at the Cheesecake Factory with Sheldon who is complaining about all the changes which include Amy. Penny is taking a drink every time Sheldon uses the word "change". Penny then tells him that he's the only person in the world who could win a Nobel Prize and still be upset about it. She reminds him how much he has changed having friends, being married, living in a new apartment, wearing a baseball cap and having had sex almost as many times as Penny has fingers. Actually he's had it two more times than that number. Penny adds that she used to be the bartender. Sheldon comments that there is someone new that also gets his drinks wrong. Sheldon adds that Penny no longer dresses like she is trying to attract sailors on the wharf. Penny concludes that since changes keep occurring, then the fact that things change is a constant. Sheldon interprets that as that the inevitability of change might be a universal constant. Then on the television they see Howard and Bernadette talking about the Coopers and she is claiming to be Amy's best friend. Penny goes back to drinking. Sheldon then joins her as Howard claims to be his best friend.

Still back in 4A, Amy likes how her hair looks. All of them are going to stop tip-toeing around Sheldon just so he won't get upset. They feel like they were being enablers. Leonard mentions both Sheldon's spot and the thermostat setting as examples. He is always cold and that is why is keeps wearing hoodies. Then Leonard mentions the DNA model that has been there since Leonard moved into the apartment, which Sheldon forbade anyone to touch. Amy suggests that he put it in the closet. Leonard agrees, but as he tries to move it, hundreds of balls (atoms) fall off of it.

Penny and Sheldon enter the lobby as Sheldon heads up the stairs. Penny asks Sheldon if he wants to try the elevator. Sheldon mentions that it did work when he moved into the building. The repaired elevator is a return to the status quo. Penny just pushes him into the elevator. She

smiles not having to walk up and Sheldon calls the ride "wild".

The Stockholm Syndrome

Season 12
Episode Number: 279
Season Episode: 24

Originally aired:	Thursday May 16, 2019
Writer:	Chuck Lorre, Steve Holland, Steven Molaro, Bill Prady, Dave Goetsch, Eric Kaplan, Maria Ferrari, Andy Gordon, Anthony Del Broccolo, Tara Hernandez, Jeremy Howe, Adam Faberman
Director:	Mark Cendrowski
Show Stars:	Johnny Galecki (Leonard Hofstadter), Jim Parsons (Sheldon Cooper), Kaley Cuoco (Penny), Simon Helberg (Howard Wolowitz), Kunal Nayyar (Rajesh Koothrappali), Mayim Bialik (Amy Farrah Fowler), Melissa Rauch (Bernadette Rostenkowski), Kevin Sussman (Stuart Bloom)
Guest Stars:	Sarah Michelle Gellar (Herself), Brian Posehn (Bert Kibbler), Thomas Albany (King of Sweden), Sailah Nicol (Halley Wolowitz), Nate Ash (Michael Wolowitz), Ulf Bjorlin (Announcer), Mike Russell (Prince Daniel)
Production Code:	T12.16024
Summary:	Bernadette and Wolowitz leave their kids for the first time; Penny and Leonard try to keep a secret; Sheldon and Amy stick together; and Koothrappali makes a new friend, as the gang travels together into an uncharted future.



Two months after receiving Sheldon and Amy's Nobel Prize news, Sheldon and Leonard are seen repairing the DNA model after 139.5 hours of work. Leonard actually found it enjoyable. Sheldon has constructed the genetic code for an advanced race of human beings. Penny and Amy come in with the dresses they were going to wear to the Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden. Amy's had to be let in and Penny's had to be let out which thrilled Amy. Penny thanked her friends for the clothes and the airline tickets.

Amy added that that was so important for their friends to share the moment with them. The Coopers go back to Apartment 4B so Amy can show him the dress and he can practice his speech. Leonard asked Penny if Amy suspected anything on why she needed her dress let out. No. She expecting. Both are thrilled and it happened after she went drinking with Sheldon. It's partly his fault.

Bernadette is talking to her son Neil about going away for a few days as she picks him up. Howard brings in Halley who is a big girl who just went on the potty. They feel good about leaving them with Stuart and Denise, though Bernadette hopes she doesn't miss Neil's first words. It the first time in years they will be away and alone together. In their hotel on their big bed they plan to....sleep their asses off.

Raj is leaving Cinnamon in the care of Bert. He hopes that he can attract girls with her. Bert also wants to know where he can get another one just like her, in case she dies on him. Just kidding. Bert will just tell a worried Raj that she died if she does.

Amy is in her dress and tops it off with her tiara. Sheldon begins reading his speech very fast to get it under 90 minutes. Amy suggests cutting the story of his childhood. He also lists lots

of people who said that he'd never win a Nobel. He figured that they would rue the day and he wants to make sure that they are filled with rue. Amy feels that the Nobel should be accepted with humility. Sheldon thinks that humility is for all those other Nobel Prizes (peace, chemistry, literature, etc.) and not the one for physics.

Before heading to the airport Sheldon explains that they are all ambassadors for him and Amy and that they must be on their best behavior. Amy gives them tips on how to interact with the Swedish people. Be punctual. Shake everyone's hand when social events start and are completed. Sheldon reminds Penny to watch her alcohol intake since it's free on the plane in business class. Penny says that she won't be drinking. Bernadette asks if she is pregnant. No. She just doesn't drink when she flies. They get ready to leave and try to find various ways to get people and luggage into the newly operating elevator. Finally the luggage goes down by itself and the people end up walking down the stairs for the last time.

On the plane, Bernadette is doing fine watching Jack Reacher movies, until Howard mentions how they are getting further and further away from their children. She knows that everything is fine. "So the Force is with her?" asks Howard. Bernadette uses the Jedi mind trick to make him stop annoying the woman. Raj thinks that Buffy the Vampire Slayer (Sarah Michelle Gellar) is sitting next to him. Penny is feeling sick and runs back to the lavatory. Sheldon is worried that she has a stomach bug, but Amy figures that it's just air sickness. Penny comes back out and then runs back in. Sheldon goes to Leonard to complain about Penny and that he doesn't want to get sick on the greatest day of his life. Penny shows up and then tells him that she is really pregnant as Leonard breaks into a big smile. Sheldon is happy that he can't catch that and shocks them by just leaving. He goes back and tells Amy that Penny is just pregnant. A peeved Leonard goes back to Sheldon complaining that the woman who has loved and cared for him for twelve years says that she is pregnant and all he cares about is that he's not getting sick. Sheldon just takes it as a recap of what just happened. Amy isn't happy that Penny didn't tell her best friend. Bernadette stops by, finds out and calls that news "fantastic". First Amy reminds her that she said she didn't want kids. Penny describes how it happened. She went out drinking with Sheldon... Amy breaks in and asks if they are going to be sister wives. No, it's Leonard's baby. Back with Sheldon, Leonard thinks that congratulations are in order. Sheldon reminds him that Penny didn't want any kids. Leonard explains that they didn't want to upstage their day in Stockholm. Sheldon reacts that this is the Nobel Prize and any idiot can have a baby. Leonard calls him a selfish jerk and to hell with his Nobel. Raj pulled the ticket of his neighbor out of her purse and finds out that it is really Sarah Michelle Gellar.

At their hotel, Bernadette Skypes with Stuart who sounds like he lost Halley while playing hide and seek, that she lost a tooth when she rolled down the stairs and Neil has a fever. The Wolowitzes look worried.

In Penny's room she is eating everything including pickled herring. Leonard is complaining that after all these years, Sheldon would for once consider other people's feelings. Someone is at the door and Penny hopes that it's her salted cod. Instead it's Sheldon who apologizes and congratulates them on the baby news. Howard joins them and says that they are thinking of heading home since Bernie is having a meltdown about the kids. Leonard and Penny are also heading home because of Sheldon's behavior as long as Penny can get pickled herring on the plane.

All dressed for the ceremony, Sheldon thinks that their friends are being incredibly selfish. Amy tells him that he is the authority on that subject. They are all leaving because he broke their hearts even if Sheldon didn't mean it. The only reason they tolerate him is because they are friends. Amy admits that it is also true for her, sometimes. Sheldon starts thinking about what his wife said.

Penny is still sick from all the food she ate. She is in no shape to head home and they both want to be there for Sheldon and Amy. Penny says that no matter how thoughtless and selfish he is, she still loves Sheldon. He was like their practice kid. Penny likens him to the first pancake that turns out wonky. Leonard says that the university prefers quirky. Howard called and said that they are staying. Her parents came over and took over for Stuart and Denise.

At the Nobel Prize ceremony both Dr. Cooper and Dr. Fowler are presented their medals on stage with the whole gang is watching. The guys cheer and Raj is seen having escorted Sarah Michelle Gellar as his guest, not a date even though he was holding her hand. Amy says what an honor it is to get the Nobel Prize and tells young girls everywhere who are interested in science

to go for it. It is the greatest job in the world. Sheldon doesn't hear her and is still thinking. He steps up and mentions his very long self-centered speech, but instead says what an honor it was and that he wouldn't be there without the important people in his life, his family and his friends. He was under the misassumption that his accomplishments were his alone. No, he has been encouraged, sustained, inspired and tolerated by his wife and the greatest group of friends any one ever had. He has them stand up and introduces them. Sheldon calls Leonard and Penny his dearest friends in the world. Recalling the pilot, he remembers when they first met and when Leonard mentioned that they would have smart and beautiful children. And he was sure now that they will because they are expecting. Penny thanks him for letting her parents know. Then he apologizes for not being the friend that they deserve. He tells them that in his own way, he loves them all and also his wife. Sheldon thanks everyone and gives Amy a kiss. The audience applauds as it all ends with a big bang.

The final TBBT scene has everyone eating take-out food and enjoying each other's company as an acoustic version of the theme song is slowly played, with the screen fading to black in the end.

Actor Appearances

A

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	1
1216 (Himself)	
Zachary Burr Abel	1
0306 (Todd)	
Phil Abrams	1
0423 (Dr. Bernstein)	
Max Adler	1
0816 (Zombie)	
Pamela Adlon	11
1011 (Halley); 1012 (Halley); 1015 (Halley Wolowitz (voice)); 1017 (Halley (voice)); 1019 (Halley Wolowitz (voice)); 1106 (Halley Wolowitz (voice)); 1111 (Halley); 1113 (Halley Wolowitz (voice)); 1206 (Halley Wolowitz (voice)); 1217 (Halley Wolowitz (voice)); 1218 (Halley Wolowitz (voice))	
Thomas Albany	1
1224 (King of Sweden)	
Tucker Albrizzi	1
1006 (Christopher)	
Luis Aldana	1
1202 (Greg)	
Buzz Aldrin	1
0605 (Himself)	
Shay Ali	1
1212 (Greg)	
Chriselle Almeida	1
0520 (Lakshmi)	
Frank Alvarez	1
0613 (Car Thief 2)	
Hira Ambrosino	1
1211 (Cynthia)	
Alice Amter	10
0108 (Mrs. Koothrappali); 0204 (Mrs. Koothrappali); 0223 (Mrs. Koothrappali); 0307 (Mrs. Koothrap- pali); 0420 (Mrs. Koothrappali); 0424 (Mrs. Koothrap- pali); 0502 (Mrs. Koothrappali); 0504 (Mrs. Koothrap- pali); 0520 (Mrs. Koothrappali); 0822 (Mrs. Koothrap- pali)	
Blake Anderson	1
0923 (Trevor)	
D'Kia Anderson	1
1122 (Hostess)	
Eric Andre	1
0408 (Joey)	
Lynn Andrews	1
1123 (Margaret)	
John Apicella	1
0706 (Archimedes)	
Michael Araujo	1
0803 (voiced Stadium Announcer)	
Iain Armitage	1
1210 (Young Sheldon)	
Frances H. Arnold	1
1218 (Herself)	
Michelle Arthur	2
1006 (Mrs. Petrescu); 1119 (Mrs. Petrescu)	

Nate Ash	1
1224 (Michael Wolowitz)	
Arshad Aslam	1
0904 (Candidate 3)	
Sean Astin	3
1213 (Dr. Pemberton); 1218 (Dr. Greg Pemberton); 1221 (Dr. Pemberton)	
Whitney Avalon	1
0422 (Elsie)	
Valerie Azlynn	1
0219 (Alicia)	

B

Alex Ball	2
0701 (Waiter); 0715 (Waiter)	
Chasty Ballesteros	2
1213 (Karen); 1217 (Karen)	
Josh Banday	1
1006 (Nolan)	
Christine Baranski	16
0215 (Beverly Hofstadter); 0311 (Beverly Hofstadter); 0501 (Beverly Hofstadter); 0704 (Beverly Hof- stadter); 0724 (Beverly Hofstadter); 0823 (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter); 0917 (Dr. Beverly Hof- stadter); 0923 (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter); 0924 (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter); 1001 (Dr. Beverly Hof- stadter); 1018 (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter); 1104 (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter); 1115 (Dr. Beverly Hof- stadter); 1210 (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter); 1217 (Dr. Beverly Hofstadter); 1222 (Dr. Beverly Hof- stadter)	
Lance Barber	2
0511 (Jimmy Speckerman); 1210 (George Sr.)	
David Barrera	1
0801 (Officer Hernandez)	
Mark Barrett	1
0819 (Security Guard #2)	
Kathy Bates	3
1124 (Mrs. Fowler); 1201 (Mrs. Fowler); 1208 (Mrs. Fowler)	
Matt Battaglia	1
0613 (Officer Reynolds)	
Beth Behrs	1
1114 (Nell)	
Giovanni Bejarano	1
1201 (Bellman)	
Matt Bennett	1
0820 (Josh Wolowitz)	
Blake Berris	1
0509 (Kevin)	
Mark Berry	1
1122 (Pit Boss)	
Mayim Bialik	5
0323 (Amy Farrah Fowler); 0401 (Amy Farrah Fowler); 0403 (Amy Farrah Fowler); 0405 (Amy Farrah Fowler); 0412 (Amy Farrah Fowler)	
Ulf Bjorlin	1

1224 (Announcer)	
Lewis Black	1
0302 (Professor Crawley)	
Shane Blades	1
0915 (Customer)	
Jannette Bloom	1
0320 (Woman)	
Jeff Blum	1
0421 (Waiter)	
Elizabeth Bogush	1
0304 (Dr. Catherine Millstone)	
Hilda Boulware	1
1214 (Woman)	
John Ross Bowie	25
0212 (Barry Kripke); 0213 (Barry Kripke); 0301 (Barry Kripke); 0309 (Barry Kripke); 0417 (Barry Kripke); 0514 (Barry Kripke); 0517 (Barry Kripke); 0522 (Barry Kripke); 0614 (Barry Kripke); 0620 (Barry Kripke); 0710 (Barry Kripke); 0720 (Barry Kripke); 0810 (Barry Kripke); 0815 (Barry Kripke); 0905 (Barry Kripke); 0906 (Barry Kripke); 0915 (Barry Kripke); 0917 (Barry Kripke); 1009 (Barry Kripke); 1108 (Barry Kripke); 1117 (Barry Kripke); 1124 (Barry Kripke); 1207 (Barry Kripke); 1221 (Barry Kripke); 1223 (Barry Kripke)	
April Bowlby	1
1021 (Rebecca)	
Andre Boyer	1
1217 (Kwame)	
Josh Brener	1
0616 (Dale)	
Kevin Brief	1
0314 (Glen)	
Joel Brooks	1
0112 (Professor Goldfarb)	
Kimberly Brooks	2
1002 (Computer (voice)); 1023 (Computer (voice))	
Kimberly D. Brooks	1
0107 (Automated Cell Phone Voice)	
Jeffrey C. Brown	1
1113 (Toby)	
Sarah Buehler	1
0303 (Sarah)	
LeVar Burton	3
0417 (Himself); 0607 (Himself); 0810 (Himself)	
Nicole J. Butler	1
1110 (Clerk)	

C

Elena Campbell-Martinez	3
0205 (Maria); 0304 (Cleaning Lady); 0906 (Maria)	
Maria Canals-Barrera	1
1008 (Isabella)	
Rachel Cannon	1
0106 (Patty)	
Keith Carradine	5
0409 (Wyatt); 0903 (Wyatt); 1001 (Wyatt); 1203 (Wyatt); 1215 (Wyatt)	
Chuck Carter	1
0116 (Stan)	
Declan Churchill Carter	1
0914 (Five Year Old)	
Ryan Cartwright	1
0608 (Cole)	
Hermie Castillo	1
1205 (Colin)	
Kikéy Castillo	1
1202 (Leslie)	
Laura Cerón	1
1118 (Marta)	

Howard Chan	1
0109 (Chinese Sheldon)	
Evan Charest	1
1122 (Croupier)	
Parvesh Cheena	1
1119 (Marcus)	
Talbott Chin	1
0109 (Chinese Leonard)	
Susan Chuang	1
1101 (Dr. Harris)	
Arnold Chun	1
0421 (Ho-Jun)	
Louise Claps	1
0901 (Receptionist)	
Nick Clifford	2
0516 (Phil); 0516 (Phil)	
Robert Clotworthy	5
0208 (Announcer); 0217 (Conductor); 0222 (Astronaut); 0523 (Dave Roeger - V.O.); 0822 (Headmaster Edwards)	
Seth Coltan	1
1122 (Earl)	
Alexandra Contursi	1
0712 (Girl)	
Elijah Isaiah Cook	1
1220 (Terry)	
Michael Croner	1
0919 (Andre)	
Jeanelle Marie Cruz	1
1201 (Bike Messenger)	
Marissa Cuevas	1
1110 (Danielle)	
Briana Cuoco	1
0616 (Gretchen)	

D

Brooke D'Orsay	1
0107 (Christy Vanderbelt)	
Andrew Daly	1
1214 (Nathan)	
Patrick Daniel	1
1121 (Grant)	
Tiffany Daniels	1
1019 (Clerk)	
Patrika Darbo	1
0905 (Grace)	
Jareb Dauplaise	1
1006 (Jeff)	
Travis Davis	1
0222 (Ground Controller)	
William Stanford Davis	1
0609 (Dry Cleaner)	
Ellen DeGeneres	1
1218 (Herself)	
Emma Degerstedt	1
0112 (Emma)	
Michael Dempsey	1
0819 (Security Guard)	
Will Deutsch	1
0213 (Jeremy)	
Brooke Dillman	1
1219 (Bebe)	
Creagen Dow	1
0915 (Maitre D)	
Jen Drohan	1
0312 (Martha)	
Tiffany DuPont	1
0422 (Angela)	
Eliza Dushku	1
0407 (Agent Angela Page)	

E

Sarah J. Eagen 1
 1219 (Woman #2)

Sierra Edwards 1
 0104 (Summer)

Tate Ellington 1
 0819 (Mitchell)

Sergio Enrique 1
 0113 (Son)

Sara Erikson 1
 0821 (Gwen)

Stephanie Escajeda 1
 0816 (Cindy)

F

Meagen Fay 1
 0610 (Mrs. Rostenkowski)

Nathan Fillion 1
 0815 (Himself)

Carrie Fisher 1
 0714 (Herself)

Ira Flatow 3
 0309 (Himself); 0710 (Himself); 1102 (Himself)

Dawson Fletcher 1
 0618 (Justin)

Marcus Folmar 3
 0316 (Guard); 0712 (Security Guard); 0924 (Police Officer)

Tom Fonss 1
 0706 (Student)

Courtney Ford 1
 0507 (Alice)

Rick Fox 1
 0413 (Glenn)

G

Edward James Gage 1
 1120 (Nicholas)

Neil Gaiman 1
 1121 (Himself)

Eileen Galindo 1
 1118 (Letty)

Minerva Garcia 1
 1214 (Linda (voice))

Monica Garcia 1
 0724 (Maria)

Treisa Gary 1
 0103 (Waitress)

Bill Gates 1
 1118 (Himself)

Sarah Michelle Gellar 1
 1224 (Herself)

Craig Gellis 1
 0613 (Car Thief 1)

Brian George 16
 0108 (Dr. Koothrappali); 0204 (Dr. Koothrappali);
 0223 (Dr. Koothrappali); 0307 (Dr. Koothrappali);
 0420 (Dr. Koothrappali); 0424 (Dr. Koothrappali);
 0502 (Dr. Koothrappali); 0504 (Dr. Koothrappali);
 0520 (Dr. Koothrappali); 0811 (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali);
 0822 (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali); 1003 (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali);
 1016 (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali); 1110 (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali);
 1202 (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali); 1212 (Dr. V.M. Koothrappali)

Todd Giebenhain 1
 1222 (Mitch)

Rick Gifford 1
 0613 (Guy O.S.)

Sara Gilbert 5
 0103 (Leslie Winkle); 0105 (Leslie Winkle); 0113 (Leslie Winkle);
 0323 (Leslie Winkle); 0917 (Leslie Winkle)

Janelle Giumarra 1
 0605 (Claire)

Summer Glau 1
 0217 (Herself)

Walton Goggins 1
 1114 (Oliver)

Efrain Gomez 1
 1105 (Employee)

Kelli Goss 1
 0821 (Chelsea)

Brian Greene (I) 1
 0420 (Himself)

Judy Greer 1
 0321 (Dr. Elizabeth Plimpton)

Adam Gregor 1
 0113 (Dmitri)

Kimberly Hebert Gregory 1
 0721 (Ms. Davora)

Rati Gupta 9
 1203 (Anu); 1204 (Anu); 1206 (Anu); 1208 (Anu);
 1211 (Anu); 1212 (Anu); 1215 (Anu); 1220 (Anu);
 1222 (Anu)

H

Jennifer Hale 1
 0208 (News Announcer)

Mark Hames 1
 0203 (Tom)

Mark Hamill 1
 1124 (Himself)

Cat Hammons 1
 1106 (Nurse)

Emily Happe 1
 0206 (Kathy O'Brien)

Barak Hardley 1
 0702 (Pizza Delivery Guy)

Mark Harelik 5
 0104 (Dr. Eric Gablehauser); 0112 (Dr. Eric Gablehauser);
 0113 (Dr. Eric Gablehauser); 0203 (Dr. Eric Gablehauser);
 0204 (Dr. Eric Gablehauser)

Piper Mackenzie Harris 1
 0618 (Girl 1)

Margo Harshman 4
 0603 (Alex Jensen); 0608 (Alex); 0612 (Alex); 0616 (Alex)

Gene Hatcher 1
 1121 (Guy in Comic Book Store)

Stephen Hawking 7
 0521 (Himself); 0606 (Himself (voice)); 0720 (Himself);
 0814 (Himself); 0917 (Himself); 1009 (Himself); 1101 (Himself)

Jane Galloway Heitz 1
 0213 (Mildred)

Courtney Henggeler 2
 0115 (Missy Cooper); 1124 (Missy Cooper)

Morgan Hewitt 1
 0708 (Lizzy)

Megan Heyn 1
 0905 (Natalie)

Blair Hickey 1
 1223 (Reporter #2)

Judd Hirsch 2

0924 (Dr. Alfred Hofstadter); 1001 (Dr. Alfred Hofstadter)

Jan Hoag 1
0604 (Lilian)

Rodney J. Hobbs 1
1223 (Reporter #3)

Cynthia Holloway 1
0106 (Roberta)

Jim Holmes 1
0918 (Tim)

James Hong 2
0107 (Chen); 0117 (Chen)

Ronald Hunter 1
0116 (Dan)

Michael Hyatt 1
0211 (Charlotte)

I

Ayumi Iizuka 1
0705 (Scientist)

J

Reginald M. Jernigan Jr. 1
1210 (Assistant Football Coach)

Jeff Jingle 1
0821 (Alien (voice))

Lauri Johnson 1
0323 (Mrs. Gunderson)

Rebecca Ann Johnson 1
0905 (Attractive Red Head)

Brandon W. Jones 1
1003 (The Flash)

James Earl Jones 1
0714 (Himself)

Lanny Joon 1
0419 (Officer Shin)

Montana Jordan 1
1210 (Georgie)

K

Jane Kaczmarek 1
0912 (Dr. Gallo)

Swati Kapila 3
1103 (Ruchi); 1107 (Ruchi); 1108 (Ruchi)

Kalika Kauahi 1
0723 (Marta)

Rod Keller 1
0719 (Customer)

Hugh Kennedy 1
1211 (Chad)

Rachna Khatau 1
1117 (Kathleen)

Andy Taylor Kim 1
1201 (Tour Guide)

Regina King 6
0612 (Mrs. Davis); 0620 (Janine Davis); 0701 (Ms. Davis); 0802 (Janine Davis); 1102 (Janine Davis); 1219 (Janine Davis)

Ajgie Kirkland 1
0322 (Louie)

Matt Knudsen 1
1203 (Waiter)

Kurt Koehler 1
0904 (Candidate 2)

Lindsey Kraft 2
1212 (Marissa Johnson); 1215 (Marissa)

Jason Kravits 1

1217 (Danny)

L

Lauren Lapkus 8
1121 (Denise); 1124 (Denise); 1202 (Denise); 1203 (Denise); 1209 (Denise); 1211 (Denise); 1214 (Denise); 1222 (Denise)

Riccardo LeBron 1
0617 (Tom)

Katie LeClerc 2
0504 (Emily); 1014 (Emily)

Austin Lee 1
0112 (Dennis Kim)

Stan Lee 1
0316 (Himself)

Keili Lefkowitz 1
1213 (Brenda)

Ken Lerner 1
0604 (Dr. Schneider)

Ed Lieberman 3
0322 (Announcer); 0413 (Announcer); 1120 (Lecturer (voice))

Edward Lieberman 1
0813 (Man)

Angela Lin 1
1220 (Maritza)

Riki Lindhome 3
0206 (Ramona Nowitzki); 1024 (Ramona Nowitzki); 1101 (Ramona Nowitzki)

Christopher Lloyd 1
1010 (Theodore)

Kara Luiz 1
0808 (Jeanie)

Pasha Lychnikoff 5
0524 (Dimitri); 0601 (Dimitri Rezinov); 0602 (Dimitri Rezinov); 0603 (Dimitri Rezinov); 0604 (Dimitri Rezinov)

M

Peter MacNicol 1
1120 (Dr. Robert Wolcott)

Andy Mackenzie 1
0303 (Skeeter)

Frank Maharajh 1
0317 (Venkatesh Koothrappali)

Mark Maitre 1
0821 (Alien #2 (voice))

Ally Maki 1
0322 (Joyce Kim)

Joshua Malina 13
0415 (President Siebert); 0516 (President Seibert); 0517 (President Seibert); 1122 (President Siebert); 1205 (President Siebert); 1207 (President Siebert); 1211 (President Siebert); 1213 (President Siebert); 1218 (President Siebert); 1219 (President Siebert); 1220 (President Siebert); 1221 (President Siebert); 1223 (President Siebert)

Joe Manganiello 1
1216 (Himself)

Aarti Mann 12
0406 (Priya Koothrappali); 0416 (Priya Koothrappali); 0417 (Priya Koothrappali); 0418 (Priya Koothrappali); 0419 (Priya Koothrappali); 0420 (Priya Koothrappali); 0421 (Priya Koothrappali); 0422 (Priya Koothrappali); 0423 (Priya Koothrappali); 0424 (Priya Koothrappali); 0502 (Priya Koothrappali); 0507 (Priya Koothrappali)

Sandra Marquez 1

0113 (Woman)	
Alison Martin	1
1205 (Andrea)	
James Maslow	1
1120 (Bartender)	
Michael J. Massimino	5
0524 (Himself); 0602 (Himself); 0604 (Himself); 0716 (Himself); 0803 (Himself)	
Dakin Matthews	2
0611 (Santa); 0811 (Santa)	
Jack McBrayer	1
1001 (Randall)	
Joel McCrary	1
1214 (Andy (voice))	
Michael Patrick McGill	1
1104 (Police Officer)	
Megan McGown	1
1119 (Cynthia)	
Danica McKellar	1
0312 (Abby)	
Julio Oscar Mechoso	1
0313 (Officer Hackett)	
John Mendoza	1
0604 (Chauffer)	
Stephen Merchant	3
0907 (Dave); 0908 (Dave); 0910 (Dave)	
Jason Mesches	1
0306 (Denny)	
Jim Meskimen	2
0814 (Doctor / Man (voice)); 0901 (Minister)	
Laurie Metcalf	14
0104 (Mary Cooper); 0301 (Mary Cooper); 0403 (Mary Cooper); 0506 (Mary Cooper); 0711 (voiced Mary); 0718 (Mary); 0823 (Mary Cooper); 0901 (Mary Cooper); 0924 (Mary Cooper); 1001 (Mary Cooper); 1012 (Mary Cooper); 1101 (Mary Cooper); 1113 (Mary Cooper); 1124 (Mary Cooper)	
Kate Micucci	8
0616 (Lucy); 0617 (Lucy); 0618 (Lucy); 0621 (Lucy); 0623 (Lucy); 0624 (Lucy); 0708 (Lucy); 1014 (Lucy)	
Max Mittelman	1
0822 (Tech Support (voice))	
Maribeth Monroe	1
1207 (Dr. Lee)	
Judith Moreland	1
0116 (Jan)	
Doug Morency	1
1019 (Stranger)	
Molly Morgan	2
0303 (Bethany); 0816 (Hostess)	
Ashley Austin Morris	1
0509 (Laura)	
Oliver Muirhead	1
0304 (Professor Laughlin)	
Bill Murray	1
0805 (Dr. Peter Venkman (archive footage))	
Joel Murray	1
1020 (Doug)	
Elon Musk	1
0909 (Himself)	

N

Allen Nabors	1
0103 (Doug)	
Phoebe Neidhardt	1
0821 (Casting Assistant)	
Christopher Neiman	1
0716 (Dr. Dreyfus)	
Eric Nenninger	1

1215 (Neil)	
Bob Newhart	6
0622 (Arthur Jefferies / Professor Proton); 0707 (Arthur Jefferies / Professor Proton); 0722 (Arthur Jefferies / Professor Proton); 0911 (Arthur Jeffries); 1106 (Arthur Jeffries); 1205 (Arthur Jeffries)	
Charlotte Newhouse	1
0405 (Joy)	
Sailah Nicol	1
1224 (Halley Wolowitz)	
Adam Nimoy	1
0907 (Adam Nimoy)	
Leonard Nimoy	2
0520 (Spock); 0907 (Mr. Spock (archive footage))	
Eric Normington	1
1109 (Man)	
Dean Norris	6
1001 (Colonel Richard Williams); 1002 (Colonel Richard Williams); 1003 (Colonel Richard Williams); 1015 (Colonel Richard Williams); 1023 (Colonel Richard Williams); 1108 (Colonel Richard Williams)	
Bill Nye	2
0707 (Himself); 1201 (Himself)	

O

Jerry O'Connell	3
1123 (George Cooper Jr.); 1124 (George Cooper Jr.); 1204 (George Cooper Jr.)	
Artie O'Daly	1
0313 (Young Man)	
Annie O'Donnell	3
0405 (Mrs. Fowler); 0807 (Mrs. Lorvis (voice)); 0808 (Mrs. Lorvis)	
Becky O'Donohue	1
0514 (Becky)	
Jodi Lyn O'Keefe	1
0221 (Mikayla)	
Erin Allin O'Reilly	2
0106 (Cheryl); 0111 (Cheryl)	
Sophie Oda	1
0701 (Grace)	
Tyler Olson	1
0203 (Blaine)	
Sharon Omi	1
0423 (Nurse in Biohazard Suit)	
Peter Onorati	1
0518 (Angelo)	

P

Steve Paymer	1
0316 (Judge J. Kirby)	
Amanda Payton	1
0923 (Ainsley)	
Josh Peck	1
0713 (Jesse)	
Kal Penn	3
1213 (Dr. Campbell); 1218 (Dr. Kevin Campbell); 1221 (Dr. Campbell)	
Eric Petersen	1
0715 (Eric)	
Caleb Pierce	2
1117 (Jess); 1213 (Jess)	
Brian Posehn	14
0713 (Bert); 1003 (Bert); 1006 (Bert); 1009 (Bert); 1016 (Bert Kibbler); 1021 (Bert Kibbler); 1107 (Bert Kibbler); 1113 (Bert Kibbler); 1124 (Bert	

Kibbler); **1202** (Bert Kibbler); **1206** (Bert Kibbler); **1214** (Bert); **1219** (Bert Kibbler); **1224** (Bert Kibbler)
 Samantha Potter 1
0207 (Model)

Q

DJ Qualls 1
0110 (Toby Loobenfeld)

R

Sarayu Rao 1
0108 (Lalita)
 Michael Rapaport 1
0906 (Kenny Fitzgerald)
 Ben Rauch 1
1217 (Darren)
 Melissa Rauch 5
0305 (Bernadette Rostenkowski); **0309** (Bernadette Rostenkowski); **0310** (Bernadette Rostenkowski); **0312** (Bernadette Rostenkowski); **0314** (Bernadette Rostenkowski)
 Tania Raymonde 1
0715 (Yvette)
 Christopher Douglas Reed 1
0419 (Todd Zarnnecki)
 Ellie Reed 1
1123 (Jenna)
 Michael Reetz 1
0811 (Photographer)
 Angela Relucio 1
0815 (Hostess)
 Ciara Renée 1
1201 (Sunny Morrow)
 Joey Rich 1
1106 (Man)
 Fernando Rivera 1
0719 (Salesperson)
 Elka Rodriguez 1
1107 (Rose Lady)
 Stephen Root 2
0801 (Dan); **0810** (Dan)
 Ian Scott Rudolph 1
0713 (Captain Sweatpants)
 Sara Rue 3
0208 (Dr. Stephanie Barnett); **0209** (Dr. Stephanie Barnett); **0210** (Dr. Stephanie Barnett)
 Mike Russell 1
1224 (Prince Daniel)

S

Katee Sackhoff 2
0309 (Herself); **0404** (Herself)
 Bryan Safi 1
1006 (Daniel)
 Katey Sagal 1
1001 (Susan)
 Jadon Sand 1
0512 (Aaron)
 Casey Sander 6
0523 (Mr. Rostenkowski); **0524** (Mr. Rostenkowski); **0610** (Mr. Rostenkowski); **0709** (Mr. Mike Rostenkowski); **0716** (Mr. Rostenkowski); **0907** (Mr. Rostenkowski)
 Angela Sargeant 1
0613 (Lana)
 Jonathan Schmock 1

0512 (Jonathan)
 Kurt Scholler 1
1210 (Judge)
 Travis Schuldt 1
0202 (Eric)
 Lynn Phillip Seibel 1
0517 (Professor Rothman)
 William Shatner 2
0907 (Captain James T. Kirk (archive footage)); **1216** (Himself)
 Charlie Sheen 1
0204 (Himself)
 Ashley Shewell 1
0622 (Cafeteria Student)
 Eddie Shin 1
1205 (Dr. Park)
 Beau Casper Smart 1
0723 (Travis)
 Brian Smith 6
0323 (Zack); **0410** (Zack); **0411** (Zack); **0417** (Zack); **0709** (Zack); **0922** (Zack Johnson)
 Brian Thomas Smith 5
0711 (Zack); **1022** (Zack Johnson); **1109** (Zack Johnson); **1212** (Zack Johnson); **1215** (Zack)
 Kevin Smith 2
0820 (Kevin Smith (voice)); **1216** (Himself)
 Malcolm Foster Smith 1
0803 (Roy)
 Yeardley Smith 1
0314 (Sandy)
 George Smoot 2
0217 (Himself); **1218** (Himself)
 Noel De Souza 1
0812 (Older Indian Man)
 Laura Spencer 17
0717 (Emily); **0719** (Emily); **0720** (Emily); **0721** (Emily); **0723** (Emily); **0804** (Emily); **0808** (Emily Sweeney); **0813** (Emily Sweeney); **0816** (Emily Sweeney); **0817** (Emily Sweeney); **0824** (Emily Sweeney); **0904** (Emily); **0909** (Emily Sweeney); **0913** (Emily Sweeney); **0915** (Emily); **0916** (Emily); **1014** (Emily Sweeney)
 Octavia Spencer 1
0205 (Octavia)
 Brent Spiner 1
0505 (Himself)
 June Squibb 1
0914 (Meemaw)
 Bob Stephenson 1
1119 (Wendell)
 Gilda Stratton 1
0717 (voiced Flight Attendant)
 Rena Strober 1
0820 (Caller (voice))
 Kevin Sussman 30
0220 (Stuart); **0222** (Stuart); **0305** (Stuart); **0307** (Stuart); **0316** (Stuart); **0319** (Stuart); **0405** (Stuart); **0411** (Stuart); **0417** (Stuart); **0505** (Stuart); **0507** (Stuart); **0510** (Stuart); **0515** (Stuart); **0519** (Stuart Bloom); **0522** (Stuart); **0601** (Stuart Bloom); **0602** (Stuart Bloom); **0611** (Stuart Bloom); **0613** (Stuart Bloom); **0616** (Stuart Bloom); **0617** (Stuart Bloom); **0702** (Stuart); **0703** (Stuart Bloom); **0704** (Stuart Bloom); **0711** (Stuart); **0712** (Stuart Bloom); **0713** (Stuart Bloom); **0718** (Stuart); **0724** (Stuart Bloom); **0801** (Stuart Bloom)

T

Aaron Takahashi 1

The Big Bang Theory Episode Guide

0701 (Scientist)
 George Takei 1
 0404 (Himself)
 Melissa Tang 1
 0902 (Mandy Chow)
 Teller 3
 1124 (Larry Fowler); 1201 (Larry Fowler); 1208 (Larry Fowler)
 David Theune 2
 1206 (Dr. Graybel); 1220 (Dr. Graybel)
 Kip Thorne 1
 1218 (Himself)
 Billy Bob Thornton 1
 0807 (Dr. Oliver Lorvis)
 Katherine Von Till 1
 0822 (Tech Support Recording (voice))
 Analeigh Tipton 2
 0207 (Analeigh); 0908 (Vanessa Bennett)
 Alessandra Torresani 5
 0914 (Claire); 0915 (Claire); 0918 (Claire); 0922 (Claire); 1014 (Claire)
 Stacey Travis 1
 0501 (Sandy)
 Livia Trevino 1
 0205 (Lourdes)
 David Trice 1
 0312 (Waiter)
 Michael Trucco 1
 0211 (David Underhill)
 Jim Turner (I) 1
 0513 (Reverend White)
 Neil DeGrasse Tyson 2
 0407 (Himself); 1201 (Himself)

U

Nick Ullett 1
 0706 (Distinguished Scientist)

V

Steve Valentine 1
 0723 (Kenneth)

W

Brian Patrick Wade 3
 0101 (Kurt); 0106 (Kurt); 0214 (Kurt)
 Dinora Walcott 1
 1223 (Reporter #1)
 Andrew Walker 1
 0114 (Mike)
 Jessica Walter 1
 0415 (Mrs. Latham)
 Vernee Watson-Johnson 5
 0101 (Althea); 0116 (Althea); 0401 (Althea); 0518 (Althea); 1011 (Althea)
 Craig Welzbacher 1
 0904 (Candidate 1)
 Adam West 1
 0917 (Adam West)
 Sherry Weston 1
 0103 (Instructor)
 Wil Wheaton 17
 0305 (Himself); 0319 (Himself); 0408 (Himself); 0505 (Himself); 0522 (Himself); 0607 (Himself); 0710 (Himself); 0719 (Himself); 0723 (Himself); 0820 (Himself); 0907 (Himself); 0911 (Himself); 0917 (Himself); 1106 (Himself); 1115 (Himself); 1124 (Himself); 1216 (Himself)

Diamond White 1
 0618 (Girl 2)
 Wayne Wilderson 1
 0909 (Travis)
 Kimberly Kevon Williams 1
 0106 (Vicki)
 Stephen John Williams 1
 1206 (Cafe Patron)
 Paul Willson 1
 0810 (Prof. Sharpe)
 Dana L. Wilson 1
 1104 (Dr. Sanders)
 Troy Winbush 1
 0622 (Paramedic)
 Steve Wozniak 1
 0402 (Himself)
 Karl T. Wright 1
 0523 (Jimmy)
 Robert Wu 1
 1204 (Tam Nguyen)
 George Wyner 1
 1101 (Dr. Zane)

Y

Steven Yeun 1
 0322 (Sebastian)
 Tom Yi 1
 0421 (Dispatcher (V.O.))

Z

Jane Zdanow 1
 0213 (Rebecca)
 Josh Zuckerman 1
 1002 (Marty)