“The Vartabedian Conundrum”

#210

Story by
Chuck Lorre
&
Steven Molaro

Teleplay by
Bill Prady
&
Richard Rosenstock

Directed by
Mark Cendrowski
**THE BIG BANG THEORY**

“The Vartabedian Conundrum”  
#210

Final Draft  
November 17, 2008

**Tentative Production Schedule [as of 11/14/08]**

ALL LOCATIONS: WARNER BROS. STAGE 25 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 8:00 am</td>
<td>ESU/Crew Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Camera Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Shoot Kaley Promo/Presentation – LA Free Clinic [Lobby Set]</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am - TBD</td>
<td>TV.COM/CBS.COM – cast interviews/B-roll</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm - 3:45 pm</td>
<td>Touch-ups/Camera Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Run-thru Scenes J,K,L, Tag [w/out cameras]</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 pm - TBD</td>
<td>Pre-shoot Scenes D and K</td>
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### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008

<table>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>ESU/Crew Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Camera Refresh</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Camera Run-Thru</td>
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<td>4:30 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Hair/Make-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Load Audience/Warm-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 pm - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Continue Hair/Make-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:55 pm - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Cast Intros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm - TBD</td>
<td>Shoot Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD -</td>
<td>Pick-ups [as needed]</td>
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All Dates and Times Listed Are Subject to Change. This Does Not Constitute a “Work Call” For Any Date or Time
THE BIG BANG THEORY

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Cast

LEONARD ...............................................................Johnny Galecki
SHELDON .............................................................Jim Parsons
PENNY .................................................................Kaley Cuoco
WOLOWITZ .........................................................Simon Helberg
KOORTHAPPALI ....................................................Kunal Nayyar
STEPHANIE .........................................................Sara Rue
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Cues and Effects

P36  SFX: Leonard’s cell phone vibrates
### Scientific and Unfamiliar Terms

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<th>Title/Pg</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<td>P19</td>
<td>Electromyogram</td>
<td>i-lek-truh-MAHY-uh-gram</td>
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<td>P19</td>
<td>Laparoscopy</td>
<td>lap-uh-ROS-kuh-pee</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Open</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON’S APARTMENT - NIGHT</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON’S APARTMENT - MORNING</td>
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<td>INT. LEONARD’S BEDROOM – A MOMENT LATER</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CAFETERIA - LATER</td>
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<td>INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER</td>
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<td>INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT</td>
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<td>INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON’S APARTMENT – MOMENTS LATER</td>
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<td>INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - LATER</td>
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<td>INT. LEONARD’S BEDROOM - LATER</td>
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<td>L</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CAFETERIA - DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tag</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. PENNY’S APARTMENT - LATER</td>
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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)
(Leonard, Sheldon, Stephanie)

STEPHANIE IS LOOKING IN SHELDON’S EAR WITH AN OTOSCOPE.
LEONARD LOOKS ON. THE TV IS ON. VARIOUS DVD'S ARE ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

STEPHANIE

I don't see any problem, Sheldon.

SHELDON

Are you sure? I'm constantly hearing this annoying sound.

LEONARD

Me, too.

SHELDON

(TO LEONARD) Is it a high-frequency whistle?

LEONARD

No, it's more of a relentless, narcissistic drone.

SHELDON

Well, that's not what I'm hearing.
(LOOKING IN THE OTHER EAR) There's no inflammation at all, Sheldon.

SHELDON

Then it must be a tumor.

STEPHANIE

I really doubt it.

LEONARD

Yeah, I'm not that lucky.

SHELDON

I know. It's a lingering bacterial infection from childhood swirlies.

STEPHANIE

Swirlies?

SHELDON

Oh, yes, I used to get those all the time.

LEONARD switches off the TV, then takes the popcorn bowl to the kitchen.

LEONARD

There's not a toilet in East Texas that hasn't seen Sheldon's head.

SHELDON

Sadly true. Even in church.

STEPHANIE

(HUMORING HIM) Well, why don't we keep an eye on it for a few days?
SHELDON

No, no, you have to do something now.

STEPHANIE

Uh, okay.

SHE DRAWS ON SHELDON'S FOREARM WITH HER FINGERTIP.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Circle, circle, dot, dot, now you have
a cootie shot. (THEN, TO LEONARD)
I'm gonna get ready for bed.

STEPHANIE CROSSES OFF.

LEONARD

(CALLING AFTER HER) Okay, I'll be
right there.

SHELDON

It's not enough that she mocks me, but
that isn't even the correct procedure
for a cootie shot.

LEONARD

Do you understand Stephanie's not here
to treat your imaginary ailments?

SHELDON

How is it imaginary that I keep
hearing G above Middle C? (SINGS THE
NOTE) Is that imaginary? (SINGS THE
NOTE) I don't think so.

LEONARD

Good night.
LEONARD STARTS TO CROSS.

SHELDON

Leonard, there's something else.

Under Article One, Section Three of our Roommate Agreement, I'm calling an emergency meeting.

LEONARD

No.

SHELDON

Leonard moves the meeting not occur.

Is there a second? None heard, the motion fails. I'd like to begin the meeting by congratulating you on the progress in your relationship with Dr. Stephanie.

LEONARD

Thank you.

SHELDON

That being said, we have to discuss the implementation of the agreed upon "cohabitation" rider which has been activated now that the two of you are living together.

LEONARD

We're not living together.

SHELDON

I beg to disagree.
SHELDON PRODUCES THE AGREEMENT WHICH HE'S HAD AT THE READY.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(READING) “A girlfriend shall be deemed quote living with un-quote Leonard when she has stayed over for A: ten consecutive nights, or B: more than nine nights in a three week period, or C: all the weekends of a given month plus three weeknights.

LEONARD

That's absurd.

SHELDON

You initialed it. See? (SHOWING HIM EACH SIGNATURE) L.H. L.H. L.H. Now to review, the following provisions are hereby activated: In the refrigerator, instead of two separate and one communal shelf, the three of us get individual shelves and the door becomes communal. Next, apartment vacuuming shall be increased from two to three times a week to accommodate the increased accumulation of dead skin cells. Third, bathroom schedule--

LEONARD

I'm going to bed.
SHELDON

At least take this with you. (HANDS HIM THE AGREEMENT) Have Stephanie initial here, here, here, here, and...
Here, stating that she does not now nor does she intend to play a percussive or brass instrument.

LEONARD LOOKS AT HIM, CONSIDERS A RESPONSE, THEN CROSSES TO HIS BEDROOM. SHELDON CLOSES OFF ONE OF HIS EARS WITH A FINGER AND HUMS THE NOISE THAT'S IN HIS HEAD.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(SINGS THE NOTE)... (SINGS THE NOTE AGAIN)... (SINGING THE WORDS IN THAT NOTE) Sure sounds like a tumor pressing on the auditory nerve...

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES
ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 2)
(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Stephanie)

SHELDON AND LEONARD ARE MAKING BREAKFAST IN THE KITCHEN.

LEONARD

No, absolutely not.

SHELDON

It's not a big deal, Leonard. We have latex gloves.

LEONARD

I don't care what the symptoms are, my girlfriend is not going to give you a prostate exam.

STEPHANIE CROSSES OUT OF THE HALLWAY DRESSED FOR WORK.

STEPHANIE

Morning, Sheldon.

SHELDON

Good morning, Dr. Stephanie. I trust Leonard satisfied you sexually last night.
LEONARD
Oh, good god, Sheldon, we don't ask
questions like that.

SHELDON
I heard you ask it over and over. How
is it inappropriate for me to ask it
once?

STEPHANIE
He did very nicely.

SHELDON
See? She's not offended, and now you
finally have an answer.

PENNY ENTERS  STILL IN HER SLEEPWEAR.

PENNY
Out of coffee. Need coffee.

PENNY CROSSES INTO THE KITCHEN AND POURS HERSELF A CUP OF
COFFEE DURING:

STEPHANIE
(TO PENNY) Hello.

PENNY
(TO STEPHANIE) Oh, hi. Stephanie,
right?

STEPHANIE
Uh-huh. And you are?

PENNY
Penny. I live across the hall. I've
heard a lot about you.
STEPHANIE

Really? I haven't heard a thing about you.

PENNY

Is that so?

STEPHANIE

Yeah. Leonard, why haven't I heard a thing about the woman who lives across the hall and comes into your apartment in the morning in her underwear?

LEONARD

Uhhh.... She's heard about you because we're, you know, involved and you haven't heard about her because...

(BLURTING OUT) We never slept together, I swear.

SHELDON

In Leonard's defense, it wasn't for lack of trying.

LEONARD

Thank you, Sheldon.

SHELDON

You're welcome.
LEONARD

Look, I'm just saying Penny's one of our many neighbors, and in our building, neighbors come and go, it's casual, no dress code. In fact, sometimes I'll just mosey down to the third floor in my pajamas and have cereal with Mrs. Vartabedian.

SHELDON

Really? I have never once been invited to have cereal with Mrs. Vartabedian.

LEONARD

(QUICKLY, TO SHELDON) She doesn't like you. (THEN, TO STEPHANIE)

Anyway, you have a gall bladder to remove and I have to take a shower and Penny has clothes to put on, so...

STEPHANIE

It was nice meeting you, Penny.

PENNY

Nice to finally meet you, too.

STEPHANIE KISSES LEONARD.

STEPHANIE

I'll see you tonight.

STEPHANIE CROSSES OUT.
LEONARD

Bye bye.

STEPHANIE EXITS. AN UNCOMFORTABLE BEAT WITH LEONARD AND PENNY, BROKEN BY:

SHELDON

What could I possibly have done to offend Mrs. Vartabedian?

LEONARD

(RE: PENNY'S COFFEE) Hey, how 'bout that coffee?

LEONARD POURS SOME COFFEE FOR PENNY.

PENNY

Thank you... neighbor. That's very neighborly of you.

LEONARD

Yeah, okay, I didn't do that very well.

PENNY

No, you didn't. But she seems very nice.

SHELDON

Oh, she is. She's terrific. And she's proving to be a valuable roommate.

PENNY

(TO LEONARD) Roommate? You guys are living together?
SHELDON
Like hippies.

LEONARD
We're not living together.

SHELDON
* Do I have to pull out the paperwork * again?

LEONARD
* Don't pull out the paperwork. (THEN, * TO PENNY) We're not living together.

PENNY
You sure?

LEONARD
* How could I not be sure?

PENNY
* Let's find out.

PENNY CROSSES DOWN THE HALLWAY. LEONARD Follows her out * DURING:

LEONARD
* Find out what? Where are you going?

LEONARD CROSSES OUT. SHELDON Stops making his breakfast, * THEN:

SHELDON
(TO HIMSELF) Oh drat, I can't enjoy * these pancakes until I work things out * with Mrs. Vartabedian.

AND AS SHELDON CROSSES OUT, WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE B

INT. LEONARD'S BEDROOM - A MOMENT LATER (DAY 2)  
(Leonard, Penny)

PENNY OPENS UP LEONARD'S CLOSET AS LEONARD LOOKS ON. THE CLOSET IS FILLED WITH WOMEN'S CLOTHES. PENNY PULLS OUT A DRESS.

PENNY
Cute. Wear this a lot?

LEONARD
It's Stephanie's.

PENNY
There you go. You're living together.

LEONARD
No, we're not.

PENNY
Okay...

PENNY LOOKS AROUND THE ROOM.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Scented candles, fuzzy slippers, floral sheets. You're living together.

LEONARD
No, we're not.
PENNY

You're gonna go down swinging, huh?

All right...

PENNY CROSSES TO THE DRESSER.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(RE: A FRAMED PHOTO) Who are these people at Disney World?

LEONARD

The big dog is Goofy, but the old couple, I have no idea. (OFF HER SMILE) We're not living together.

PENNY

Jewelry box, lotion, InStyle Magazine...

LEONARD

Where's my Bat Signal?

PENNY

You have a Bat Signal?

LEONARD

I did. It was right here. (THEN, OFF HER LOOK) Oh my god, we're living together.

PENNY

Like hippies.

AND ON LEONARD'S EXPRESSION, WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE C

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CAFETERIA - LATER (DAY 2)
(Leonard, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Extras)

WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE EATING LUNCH. LEONARD CROSSES OVER WITH A TRAY.

LEONARD

Gentlemen.

WOLOWITZ

New pants?

LEONARD

Yeah. Stephanie got them for me.

WOLOWITZ

Nice. Cotton?

LEONARD

(SQUIRMING UNCOMFORTABLY) No, I think it's more of a wool, fire ant blend.

WOLOWITZ

So, the girlfriend's buyin' clothes for you, huh? Sounds serious.
LEONARD

It is actually. In fact, I gave it a lot of thought and I decided it was time for the two of us to live together.

WOLOWITZ

Oh, Leonard, huge mistake. There's a whole buffet of women out there and you're just standing in the corner repeatedly eating the same deviled egg.

LEONARD

At least I have an egg. What do you have?

WOLOWITZ

A veritable smorgasbord of potential sexual partners. See the blonde over there?

ANGLE ON: A PRETTY BLONDE AT ANOTHER TABLE

WOLOWITZ (CONT'D)

I can hit on her and you can't.

LEONARD

So go hit on her.

WOLOWITZ

She's not my type.
KOOTHRAPPALI

Too bad. 'Cause she was checking you out before.

WOLOWITZ

She was?

KOOTHRAPPALI

Of course not. Look at her.

LEONARD

You know what, I don't care what you guys think. Stephanie and I are very happy living together. We have a grown-up, mature relationship. (A BEAT, THEN) If we could agree on a new place for my Bat Signal, things would be perfect.

AND AS THEY CONTINUE EATING, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

SCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER (DAY 2)
(Sheldon, Stephanie, Extras)

STEPHANIE, MAKING HER ROUNDS, TURNS THE CORNER TO FIND SHELDON SITTING ON A GURNEY. HE'S TAKING HIS BLOOD PRESSURE WITH A BLOOD PRESSURE CUFF AND A STETHOSCOPE.

STEPHANIE

Sheldon, what are you doing here?

SHELDON

Hang on.

SHELDON RECORDS HIS BLOOD PRESSURE ON A CHART.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

One-thirty over eighty. A little high. But we can attribute that to the stress of sneaking past the security desk.

STEPHANIE

Sheldon, I'm kinda busy.

SHE CONTINUES DOWN THE CORRIDOR. SHELDON FOLLOWS.

SHELDON

I understand. All I need is for you to authorize these tests.
SHELDON HANDS HER A CLIPBOARD. STEPHANIE LOOKS AT IT.

STEPHANIE

(OFF CLIPBOARD) A cardiac stress test, full body MRI, an electromyogram, a CBC, baseline glucose, upper GI--

SHELDON

Oh, and an exploratory laparoscopy. Last time I had hiccups, it felt like my diaphragm was just going through the motions.

STEPHANIE

Go home, Sheldon.

STEPHANIE CROSSES AWAY.

SHELDON

(CALLING AFTER HER) Can I at least have the upper GI? I already drank the barium.

AND WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE E

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)
(Leonard, Penny)

AS PENNY ENTERS, LEONARD IS PUTTING HIS NEW PANTS IN THE WASHING MACHINE.

PENNY

Hey.

LEONARD

Oh, good. Do you have any fabric softener?

PENNY

Sure.

PENNY TOSSES HIM A BOTTLE. HE POURS THE WHOLE THING INTO THE WASHING MACHINE.

PENNY (CONT’D)

What are you washing? A crocodile?

LEONARD

The pants Stephanie bought me.

PENNY TAKES THE PANTS OUT OF THE WASHING MACHINE AND LOOKS AT THE LABEL.

PENNY

Oh, sweetie, you can't machine wash these. You'll ruin them.
LEONARD

You sure?

PENNY

Absolutely.

HE PUTS THEM BACK IN THE WASHER, CLOSES THE LID AND SLIDES THE COIN TRAY IN, STARTING THE MACHINE.

LEONARD

(FLATLY) Oh no. I wish you'd told me that sooner.

PENNY

You guys having problems?

LEONARD

No, everything's fine.

PENNY

Really?

LEONARD

Yeah, it's wonderful. I mean, maybe this whole living together happened a little quickly but it's fine, it's great.

PENNY

Great.

LEONARD

Yeah. Great.
PENNY
You know, Leonard, if you're not
entirely happy with how things are
going, you're allowed to say
something.

LEONARD
You sure? That doesn't sound right.

PENNY
Believe me, your feelings are just as
important as hers.

LEONARD
No, that doesn't sound right either.

PENNY
Trust me. Tell her what you want.
Tell her you care for her, and you
don't want the relationship to end,
but it has to move at a pace that
you're both comfortable with.

LEONARD
Wow, yeah, I could say something like
that to her. I'll go do that.

LEONARD STARTS OUT, THEN TURNS BACK FOR:

LEONARD (CONT'D)
You know, you really have a good grasp
on this. Could you possibly--

PENNY
No.
LEONARD

Yeah, no, I didn't think so. (A BEAT)

You wanna come with me? (OFF HER

LOOK) I'll go talk to her.

LEONARD CROSSES TO THE DOOR, THEN:

LEONARD (CONT’D)

Last chance.

PENNY

Go.

LEONARD NODS AND EXITS.

PENNY (CONT’D)

(TO HERSELF) Wow.

AND WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE H

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER (NIGHT 2)
(Leonard, Sheldon, Stephanie)

SHELDON IS SITTING ON THE COUCH. STEPHANIE IS LOOKING DOWN SHELDON'S THROAT WITH A LIGHT AND A TONGUE DEPRESSOR.

STEPHANIE

Oh no.

SHELDON

(THROUGH TONGUE DEPRESSOR) Wha?

STEPHANIE

You were right. Your larynx is inflamed.

SHELDON

(THROUGH TONGUE DEPRESSOR) I knew it.

What do I do?

STEPHANIE TAKES OUT THE TONGUE DEPRESSOR.

STEPHANIE

You need to stop speaking immediately.

SHELDON

For how--

STEPHANIE

Dut-dut-dut. Immediately.
LEONARD CROSSES IN.

LEONARD

Hey.

STEPHANIE

Hi, honey.

LEONARD

Sheldon.

SHELDON WAVES, POINTS TO HIS THROAT AND CROSSES TO HIS BEDROOM.

LEONARD (CONT’D)

(TO STEPHANIE) What's going on?

STEPHANIE

I just performed a Sheldonectomy.

LEONARD

Careful, if you don't get it all, it'll only come back worse.

STEPHANIE

Gotcha.

LEONARD

Listen, we need to talk.

STEPHANIE

Uh-oh. Do we need to talk or do we need to talk?

LEONARD

I don't know what that means.
STEPHANIE
Why don't you just tell me what you
have to tell me?

LEONARD
Okay, look, things between you and me
are going pretty fast.

STEPHANIE
And...?

LEONARD
And it's just a little scary.

STEPHANIE
I know, but scary good, right?

LEONARD
Oh, sure, when is scary not good? But
I think it's important to remember
that we move at a pace that is... our
speed.

STEPHANIE
What are you trying to say?

LEONARD
Okay, I have feelings, right?

STEPHANIE
Uh-huh.

LEONARD
And it's perfectly okay to express
feelings.
STEPHANIE

Sure, honey. Tell me what you're feeling.

LEONARD

Um... Oh shoot, I had it.

STEPHANIE

'Cause I can tell you what I'm feeling.

LEONARD

What's that?

STEPHANIE FLIRTATIOUSLY WHISPERS SOMETHING IN HIS EAR AND STARTS UNBUTTONING HIS SHIRT.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

Really? Right now?

STEPHANIE

(KISSING HIS NECK) Why not?

LEONARD

Well, I ate less than an hour ago. Aren't you supposed to wait?

STEPHANIE

That's for swimming.

LEONARD

Oh, okay.

STEPHANIE TAKES LEONARD'S HAND AND THEY CROSS OFF.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

I just hope I don't get cramps.

AND WE:

CUT TO:
PENNY IS TAKING CLOTHES OUT OF THE DRYER AND FOLDING THEM AS A TOUSLED AND RUMPLED LEONARD COMES BACK IN.

LEONARD

Hey.

PENNY

I put your clothes in the dryer.

LEONARD

Thank you.

PENNY

Your pants are ruined.

LEONARD

Good.

PENNY

How'd your talk with Stephanie go?

LEONARD

Well, on one level, really really great.

PENNY

You told her how you felt?
LEONARD
Not specifically, but I did tell her I have feelings. And then somehow the subject got changed.

PENNY
You had sex, didn't you?

LEONARD
Um... little bit.

PENNY LOOKS AT HER WATCH AND SHRUGS.

LEONARD (CONT’D)
What?

PENNY
Nothing. (THEN) Okay, well, I'm sure things'll work out.

LEONARD
Yeah, absolutely. This is great. She likes me, she's physically attracted to me, she enjoys spending time with me.

PENNY
But you said you're not ready to live together.

LEONARD
Yeah, see now, you keep bringing up my feelings and it really throws me.
PENNY
Leonard, maybe the fact that a woman
is willing to live with you doesn't *
mean you have to do it. *

LEONARD
Huh. *

LEONARD STARES OFF INTO SPACE, DEEP IN THOUGHT.

PENNY
What's going on?

LEONARD
Nothing. Just rethinking my whole 
life. (THEN) You know, I've never *
said no to a woman. *

PENNY
Never?

LEONARD
Lame, right?

PENNY
Not at all... is what I'd like to *
think.

LEONARD
Okay, here's the thing. I'm afraid if *
I say I'm not ready to live together, *
she'll just dump me. *

PENNY
Well, that's a chance you have to *
take.
LEONARD
Okay. How do I tell her?

PENNY
I don't know. Just tell her what women have told you.

LEONARD
I want to see how things go with Mark?

PENNY
Well, that'll get her to move out...

ON HER REACTION, WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE K

INT. LEONARD'S BEDROOM - LATER (NIGHT 2)
(Leonard, Stephanie)

LEONARD AND STEPHANIE ARE BREATHING HEAVILY, POST-COITAL.

AFTER A BEAT:

STEPHANIE

I'm sorry I interrupted you. What were you saying?

LEONARD

Oh, right, yeah. So Stephanie, here's the thing. I really like you--

STEPHANIE

Oh god, it sounds like you're breaking up with me.

LEONARD

Nooo... No breaking up. I really like you--

STEPHANIE

But...?

LEONARD STRUGGLES FOR A BEAT, THEN:

LEONARD

No buts. I really like you.
STEPHANIE

Oh good, 'cause I really like you, too.

AS THEY HUG:

LEANORD

Terrific.

AND ON LEONARD'S FROZEN FAKE HAPPY FACE, WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE L

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CAFETERIA - (DAY 3)
(Leonard, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Extras)

LEONARD JOINS WOLOWITZ AND KOOKHRAPPALI WHO ARE EATING LUNCH.

WOLOWITZ

Nice sweater.

LEONARD

Yeah, Stephanie bought it. It's kind of fun.

KOOTHRAPPALI

It's got a big bird on it, dude.

LEONARD

Yeah, yeah, that's the fun part.
Every morning she lays out a new outfit for me.

WOLOWITZ

No kidding.

LEONARD

Yeah, it's great. (THEN) Oh god,
I've gotta get her out of my apartment.
WOLowitz

That's what I've been telling you.  
Men like us can't be tied down.  We're 
randy stallions.  We must run free on 
the plains.

Koothrappali

I disagree.  If you find a good woman 
who wants to sleep with you, put a 
padlock on the door and don't let her 
get away.

Leonard

Why does it have to be one or the 
other?  Why can't guys like us set 
boundaries and have some say over our 
relationships?

Koothrappali

Because collectively, guys like us own 
over thirty-six thousand comic books.

Leonard

I don't care.  I'm gonna tell 
Stephanie I want her to move out.  I 
just have to figure out how to do it 
where we don't wind up having sex.

Koothrappali

Okay, now you've lost me entirely.

Wolowitz

You can always text her.
LEONARD
Really? Isn't that kinda cowardly?

WOLOWITZ
Oh, yeah. It's beyond contemptible.

LEONARD CONSIDERS FOR A BEAT THEN TAKES OUT HIS PHONE AND STARTS TEXTING DURING:

LEONARD
Oh, who am I kidding?

LEONARD HITS SEND AND SETS HIS PHONE DOWN ON THE TABLE.

LEONARD (CONT'D)
There. I told her I'd like her to spend more time at her place.

WOLOWITZ
Good for you.

LEONARD
Yeah, good for me. I may never have sex again.

SFX: LEONARD'S CELL PHONE VIBRATES

LEONARD LOOKS AT IT.

LEONARD (CONT'D)
Hey, I was wrong. See ya.

HE CROSSES AWAY HAPPILY.

WOLOWITZ
Man, is he whipped.

KOOTHARPALLI
Yeah. Lucky bastard.
WOLOWITZ

So, want to bag work and spend the afternoon at the comic book store?

KOOTHRAPALI

I'll do you one better. On the way, we stop and get cupcakes.

WOLOWITZ

No saddles on us.

KOOTHRAPALI

Best Wednesday ever.

AND WE:

CUT TO:
TAG

FADE IN:

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - LATER (DAY 3)
(Sheldon, Penny)

SHELDON IS STANDING IN THE HALLWAY HOLDING HIS OPENED LAPTOP. HE KNOCKS ON PENNY'S DOOR, THEN PRESSES A KEY ON THE LAPTOP AND HOLDS IT CLOSE TO THE DOOR.

COMPUTER VOICE

Penny.

SHELDON KNOCKS, THEN:

COMPUTER VOICE (CONT'D)

Penny.

SHELDON KNOCKS, THEN:

COMPUTER VOICE (CONT'D)

Penny.

PENNY OPENS THE DOOR.

PENNY

Sheldon?

SHELDON TYPES ON HIS KEYBOARD, THEN HOLDS IT UP.

COMPUTER VOICE

I have an inflamed larynx.

PENNY

Okay.
SHELDON TYPES MORE, THEN:

COMPUTER VOICE

We're out of herbal tea. Do you have any?

PENNY

Maybe. Let me look.

PENNY CROSSES IN. SHELDON FOLLOWS, TYPING AS HE WALKS.

COMPUTER VOICE

Some hiney would be nice, too.

PENNY

What?

SHELDON TYPES, THEN:

COMPUTER VOICE

Honey.

PENNY NODS AND LOOKS. AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW