# THE BIG BANG THEORY

"The Monopolar Expedition"  
#222  

Final Draft  
April 6, 2009  

**Tentative Production Schedule** (as of 4/3/09)  

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

**MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>9:30 am ESU/Crew Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>2:30 pm Camera Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>2:30 pm Publicity on Set (E! Online, TV Guide) Cast Interviews - print only</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>3:30 pm Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>4:00 pm Camera Block/Touch-ups</td>
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<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>12:00 pm ESU/Crew Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>3:00 pm Camera Refresh</td>
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<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>4:30 pm Camera Run-Thru</td>
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<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>5:00 pm Hair / Make-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>6:00 pm Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>6:30 pm Load Audience / Warm-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>7:00 pm Continue Hair / Make-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:55 pm</td>
<td>7:00 pm Cast Intros</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shoot Show</td>
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<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.
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Cast

LEONARD..............................................................Johnny Galecki
SHELDON.............................................................Jim Parsons
PENNY.................................................................Kaley Cuoco
WOLOWITZ............................................................Simon Helberg
KOOTHRAPPALI......................................................Kunal Nayyar
MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)..........................Carol Ann Susi
DR. KOOTHRAPPALI............................................Brian George
MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI...........................................Alice Amter
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Cues and Effects

P2  SFX: Computer chimes
P7  SFX: Toilet flush
P25 SFX: Operation buzz
P25 SFX: Operation buzz
P33 Lighting: Sheldon turns on a lamp
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Scientific and Unfamiliar Terms
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<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SCENE</th>
<th>STAGE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cold Open</td>
<td>N1</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (Leonard, Sheldon)</td>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM/INT. LEONARD'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (Leonard, Sheldon)</td>
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<td>(6)</td>
<td>INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (Leonard, Sheldon)</td>
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<td>(7)</td>
<td>INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APT - CONTINUOUS (Leonard, Sheldon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>(10)</td>
<td>INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY (Leonard, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>D2</td>
<td>(11)</td>
<td>INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APT - CONTINUOUS (Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>D3</td>
<td>(16)</td>
<td>INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY (Sheldon, Penny)</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>D4</td>
<td>(22)</td>
<td>INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY - THE NEXT DAY (Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Extras)</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>D4</td>
<td>(23)</td>
<td>INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY WALK-IN FREEZER - MOMENTS LATER (Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>(27)</td>
<td>INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Dr. Koothrappali, Mrs. Koothrappali, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.))</td>
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<td>INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS (Leonard, Penny, Mrs. Koothrappali (O.S.), Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.))</td>
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<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>N4</td>
<td>(33)</td>
<td>INT. SHELDON'S BEDROOM - LATER (Leonard, Sheldon)</td>
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<td>K</td>
<td>D5</td>
<td>(37)</td>
<td>INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY - MORNING (Leonard, Penny)</td>
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<td>INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (Penny)</td>
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<td>(40)</td>
<td>EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - DAY</td>
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<td>(40)</td>
<td>INT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS (Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)</td>
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<td>(43)</td>
<td>EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS (Sheldon (O.S.))</td>
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</table>
COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

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

LEONARD IS WORKING AT A WHITE BOARD. HE'S DIAGRAMMING A
SCHEMATIC FOR AN EXPERIMENT. SHELDON IS SITTING IN HIS SPOT
READING A SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL. SHELDON PUTS THE MAGAZINE
DOWN, PICKS UP HIS CUP OF TEA AND CROSSES TOWARD THE KITCHEN,
STOPPING FOR A MOMENT TO LOOK AT LEONARD'S WORK.

SHELDON

(QUICKLY, RE: LEONARD'S WORK) Oh,
boy.

SHELDON CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN WHERE HE MAKES HIMSELF A NEW
CUP OF TEA.

LEONARD

What?

SHELDON

I can't comment without violating our
agreement that I not criticize your
work.

LEONARD

Then what was "oh boy"?

SHELDON

Great restraint on my part.
LEONARD

There's nothing wrong with the science here.

SHELDON

Perhaps you mean a different thing than I do when you say "science."

LEONARD STUDIES THE BOARD AND QUICKLY MAKES A SERIES OF CHANGES. SHELDON CROSSES BACK AND LOOKS AT THE BOARD.

LEONARD

Okay, how's that?

SHELDON

You actually had it right in the first place. Once again, you've fallen for one of my classic pranks. Gotcha.

AS LEONARD FIXES THE BOARD, SHELDON'S COMPUTER CHIMES.

SFX: COMPUTER CHIMES

SHELDON STOPS TO LOOK AT IT.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(RE: COMPUTER) Here's a peculiar e-mail. The president of the university wants me to meet him at his office tomorrow morning at eight a.m.

LEONARD

Why?

SHELDON

It doesn't say. It must be an emergency.

(MORE)
SHELDON (CONT'D)

Everyone at the university knows I eat breakfast at eight and move my bowels at eight twenty.

LEONARD

Thanks to your Facebook page, that is common knowledge. (THEN) I guess you'll find out what it is in the morning.

SHELDON

That's fourteen hours away. For the next eight hundred and forty minutes, I'm effectively one of Heisenberg's particles. I know where I am or I know how fast I'm going, but I can't know both! How am I supposed to carry on with this huge annoying thing hovering over my head?

LEONARD

Yeah, I know the feeling.

LEONARD TURNS BACK TO THE BOARD, UNCAPS A MARKER AND STARTS TO WRITE.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

How'd the red cap get on the blue marker?
SHELDON

(LISTLESSLY) Gotcha. (THEN) Look at that. I'm so rattled, I can't even enjoy another of my classic pranks.

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES
ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM/INT. LEONARD'S BEDROOM/INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT (NIGHT 1)

(Leonard, Sheldon)

SHELDON KNOCKS ON LEONARD'S DOOR.

SHELDON


(KNOCKS) Leonard.

LEONARD OPENS THE DOOR IN HIS SLEEP CLOTHES.

LEONARD

Sheldon, it's two o'clock in the morning.

SHELDON

Why does everybody keep telling me what time it is?

LEONARD

Everybody?
SHELDON

You, the president of the university, his wife, their sullen teenage daughter. The entire family is fascinated by what time it is and whether people know it.

LEONARD

You went to President Seibert's house in the middle of the night?

LEONARD CROSSES INTO THE HALL. SHELDON Follows.

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
(Leonard, Sheldon)

SHELDON

He didn't respond to my e-mail, his phone number is unlisted. Tell me what my other option was.

LEONARD

You could have waited till the morning. (OFF HIS LOOK) I know, look who I'm talking to.

LEONARD CROSSES INTO THE BATHROOM.

SHELDON

Do you remember the grant proposal I submitted to the National Science Foundation to detect slow-moving monopoles at the magnetic North Pole?

(MORE)
SHELDON (CONT'D)

Well, space opened up at the last
minute on the N.S.F. Expedition to the
Arctic Circle.

LEONARD (O.S.)

Wait a minute.

SFX: TOILET FLUSH

THE DOOR OPENS. LEONARD COMES OUT.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

He offered to send you to the North
Pole?

SHELDON

Yes. In fact, he was quite
enthusiastic. He said, "Frankly, if I
could send you tonight, I would."

LEONARD CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN. SHELDON Follows.

RESET TO:

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

(Leonard, Sheldon)

LEONARD HEATS A CUP OF WARM SOY MILK.

LEONARD

Okay. Do you want to go?

SHELDON

Of course not. I'm a theoretical
physicist, a career I chose in no
small part because it's indoors.

(MORE)
SHELDON (CONT'D)

(THEN) But, if I'm able to detect
slow-moving magnetic monopoles there,
I'll be the scientist who confirmed
string theory. People will write
books about me. Third graders will
create macaroni-art dioramas depicting
scenes from my life.

LEONARD
Sure. Maybe a tableau of me trying to
pummel you to death.

SHELDON
Sarcasm?

LEONARD
Maybe.

SHELDON
I am on the horns of a dilemma. Can
you imagine me, Sheldon Cooper, at the
North Pole?

LEONARD
Easy-peasy. I'm doing it right now.

SHELDON
But I'm not good with cold, Leonard.
How often have we had to leave a movie
theater because I got a headache from
drinking the Icee too fast? I can't
go.
LEONARD

Then don't go.

SHELDON

How can you say that? The scientific opportunity of a lifetime presents itself and my best friend says don't go?

LEONARD

All right, go.

SHELDON

Listen to you. How can I possibly go?

LEONARD

Sheldon, what are the words I can say right now that will end this conversation and let me go back to sleep?

SHELDON

Odd. President Seibert posed the exact same question.

LEONARD

And how was it resolved?

SHELDON

It wasn't. His wife set their dogs on me and rendered the question moot.

AND WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE B

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 2)
(Leonard, Wolowitz, Koothrappali) / (Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPELLI ARE COMING UP THE STAIRS.

WOLOWITZ
Just imagine. If he says yes, we'll
have an entire summer without Sheldon.

KOOTHRAPELLI
We could play outside.

LEONARD
I could crack my knuckles in the
living room and whistle.

WOLOWITZ
We could get through an entire meal
without a lecture on "Ten Things You
Didn't Know About Corn."

A BEAT.

KOOTHRAPELLI
Our dreams are very small, aren't
they?

THEY ENTER THE APARTMENT.
INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS
(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

THEY ENTER. SHELDON IS SITTING IN HIS SPOT. HE IS LOOKING
AT MAPS AND INFORMATION, ETC.

SHELDON

Good news, gentlemen. I have
tentatively accepted--

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPELLI CHEER AND GIVE EACH OTHER
HIGH FIVES.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

--the invitation to join the arctic
expedition.

WOLOWITZ/LEONARD/KOOTHRAPELLI

(SOMBERLY) We're gonna miss you,
buddy. / Yeah, won't be the same
without you. / Godspeed.

SHELDON

Thank you. But your display of
sentiment and longing for me may be
premature and unnecessary.

KOOTHRAPELLI

Oh, I don't like where this is going.

SHELDON

I would like to propose that the three
of you accompany me.

WOLOWITZ

To the North Pole?
SHELDON

Yes.

KOOTHRAPALI

Is this just so we won't touch your stuff while you're away?

SHELDON

I'll admit that was a concern. But the fact is, I'll need a support team and the three of you are my first choice.

WOLOWITZ

Really?

SHELDON

Well, there are others who might be more qualified but the thought of interviewing them gave me a stomachache. Now I know I'm proposing an enormous undertaking, so why don't you take a few moments to discuss it?

SHELDON EXITS TO HIS ROOM.

WOLOWITZ

We're not really gonna go to the North Pole with him, are we?

SHELDON (O.S.)

I'm still within earshot. You may want to wait for my door to close.

A BEAT. WE HEAR SHELDON'S DOOR CLOSE.
WOLOWITZ

We're not really gonna go to the North Pole with him, are we?

LEONARD

Well, hang on, let's talk about it. This is a National Science Foundation expedition. I don't see how we can turn it down.

WOLOWITZ

Easy. Instead of saying, "no, we don't want to go on an N.S.F. expedition," say, "no, we don't want to spend three months stuck in a cabin in the Arctic Circle with an anal nutbag."

KOOTHRAPPAI

But if we were part of the team that confirmed string theory, we could drink for free in any bar in any college town with a university that has a strong science program.

LEONARD

Howard, this is big science. You could be the engineer who builds the equipment that puts us on the cover of magazines.
WOLOWITZ
I could also be the engineer who builds the crossbow that kills Sheldon.

KOOTHRAPPALI
You still might get on a magazine.

WOLOWITZ
So you guys are seriously considering this.

LEONARD
Yes.

WOLOWITZ
(TO KOOTHRAPPALI) And you think you can put up with Sheldon?

KOOTHRAPPALI
Well, I'm a Hindu. My religion teaches that if we suffer in this life we're rewarded in the next. Three months at the North Pole with Sheldon, and I'm reborn as a well-hung billionaire with wings!

SHELDON ENTERS FROM HIS BEDROOM.

SHELDON
Well, gentlemen, have you reached a decision?

LEONARD TAKES A MOMENT, THEN:
LEONARD

I'm in.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Me, too.

THEY BOTH LOOK AT HOWARD.

WOLOWITZ

Oh, dammit. Peer pressure. Fine.

SHELDON

Excellent. Just an FYI, when we're deployed, protocol dictates that be phrased, "Fine, sir." But don't worry, there will be a briefing.

SHELDON CROSSES BACK TO HIS ROOM. THE GUYS LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

KOOTHRAPPALI

I can feel my wings growing already.

AND WE:  

CUT TO:
SCENE C

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT — THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)
(Sheldon, Penny) / (Leonard, Sheldon, Penny)

SHELDON'S AT PENNY'S DOOR.

SHELDON

(KNOCKS) Penny.

PENNY (O.S.) Sheldon.

SHELDON

(KNOCKS) Penny.

PENNY (O.S.) Sheldon.

SHELDON

(KNOCKS) Penny.

THE DOOR OPENS REVEALING PENNY.

PENNY

All right, I give up. What do you want?

SHELDON

I need access to the Cheesecake Factory's walk-in freezer.
PENNY

Sheldon, I told you, the hamburger meat is fresh and stored at a safe temperature.

SHELDON

No. This is to train for a three-month expedition to the magnetic North Pole.

PENNY

What?

SHELDON

I don't know how that sentence could possibly confuse you, but to elaborate, I'm going to the Arctic Circle with Leonard, Wolowitz and Koothrappali.

PENNY

You're all going?

SHELDON

Yes.

PENNY

(CONSIDERS FOR A BEAT, THEN) Excuse me.

PENNY CROSSES PAST SHELDON TOWARD THE GUYS' APARTMENT.
SHELDON

Is that a yes or a no on the freezer?

(THEN, TO HIMSELF) The woman has the
attention span of a gnat.

PENNY CROSSES INTO THE APARTMENT.

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS
(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny)

AROUND THE ROOM IS ASSORTED GEAR: A PARKA, THERMALS, ETC.
PENNY ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY SHELDON, AS LEONARD EMERGES FROM
HIS ROOM.

PENNY

Hey, Leonard. Sheldon says you're
going to the North Pole.

LEONARD

Yeah. Pretty cool, huh?

PENNY

Yeah. I'm just a little surprised you
didn't tell me.

LEONARD

Well, it all happened kind of fast.
We had to get physicals and thermal
underwear and study up on, you know,
snow and stuff. Sorry, I was gonna
tell you.
PENNY
Hey, no, you don't have to apologize.
There's no reason you have to tell me.
I just was... surprised.

SHELDON
Yes, yes, you were busy, you were
surprised, all very fascinating. Now
where do we stand on the freezer?

PENNY
(TO LEONARD) Is he serious?

LEONARD
It actually would help.

PENNY
(TO SHELDON) All right, I'll see what
I can do. (THEN, TO LEONARD) Wow,
three months in the North Pole. That
is... awesome.

LEONARD
Yeah.

PENNY
Should I get your mail or forward it
to you?

LEONARD
No, we're going to have the post
office hold it.
SHELDON

I'm sorry, but at what point do you put this "see what you can do" plan into action?

PENNY

Just a warning, Sheldon: The freezer locks from the outside.

PENNY EXITS.

LEONARD

Did she seem upset to you?

SHELDON

No. Did she seem upset to you?

LEONARD

No.

SHELDON

Oh good, I got it right. (THEN, TENTATIVELY) And... are you upset?

LEONARD

A little.

SHELDON

(HAPPILY) Ooh, I'm two for two.

LEONARD

I know she's not my girlfriend or anything, but wouldn't you think she'd feel a little bad that I'm going to be gone for the whole summer?
SHELDON

That feels like a bonus question. I'm
going to stop here while I'm ahead,
but I've had a great time.

SHELDON CROSSES INTO HIS BEDROOM. ON LEONARD'S REACTION, WE:

END OF ACT ONE

FADE OUT.
ACT TWO

SCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY — THE NEXT DAY (DAY 4)
(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Extras)

THE GUYS ENTER, WEARING FULL ARCTIC GEAR — GIANT PARKAS,
SNOW SUITS, HEAVY BOOTS, GOGGLES, ETC. THEY CARRY SOME LARGE
BOXES AND TOOL KITS. EVERYONE ELSE IN THE PLACE IS DRESSED
FOR A WARM SUMMER DAY. PENNY APPROACHES.

PENNY

For god's sake, didn't I tell you to
go in the back door?

LEONARD

We couldn't open it with our mittens.

PENNY

Well, get going. We have to do this
before my manager wakes up.

THE GUYS CROSS OFF. PENNY TURNS TO A NEARBY CUSTOMER.

PENNY (CONT'D)

The kids with their clothes these
days. Who can keep track?

AND WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE E

INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY FREEZER - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 4)
(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

THE INSIDE OF A LARGE WALK-IN FREEZER, RINGED WITH BOXES.
THE GUYS ARE THERE AND UNPACKING THEIR BOXES AND TOOL KITS.

SHELDON

All right, the purpose of this drill
is to acclimate us to the use of tools
in extreme temperatures such as we
will face in the Arctic Circle.

KOOTHRAPALI

Where are your tools?

SHELDON

(POINTING AT HIS HEAD) Right here.
(THEN) All right, team, open your
practice kits.

DURING THE FOLLOWING, LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPALI OPEN
BOXES AND TAKE OUT THE ITEM SHELDON DESCRIBES:
SHELDON (CONT'D)

As the university did not permit me to bring the actual equipment we will be using to the Cheesecake Factory, because apparently, I'm "ridiculous," I've provided substitutes which will exercise your fine motor skills.

Leonard, you will be doing a series of complex mathematical problems on a vintage Casio model 1175 calculator watch I received when I won the Earth Science medal in third grade. Treat it with respect. Raj, you will be painting sideburns and a Van Dyke on a six-inch figurine of Legolas the elf.

Remember, a Van Dyke is a goatee without a mustache. Wolowitz, you'll be performing a series of delicate surgical procedures using the classic children's game Operation. To begin with, you will (PICKS UP A GAME CARD) "remove spare rib for two hundred dollars."

WOLOWITZ

For this I went to MIT.

SHELDON

And begin.
THEY EACH BEGIN WORKING ON THEIR PROJECTS.

SFX: OPERATION BUZZ

WOLowitz

Oh, dammit. I killed my patient.

LEONARD

I can't push any of the buttons with my gloves. (TAKES THE GLOVE OFF, THEN) Sonofabitch.

LEONARD PUTS THE GLOVE BACK ON. KOOTHRAPALI OPENS THE PAINT BOTTLE WITH HIS MOUTH.

KOOTHRAPALI

Oh, I think I swallowed some paint.

SHELDON

Adversity is to be expected. Continue.

SFX: OPERATION BUZZ

WOLowitz

Oh boy, am I gonna get sued.

LEONARD

I can't do this.

KOOTHRAPALI

Me, either.

SHELDON


(MORE)
SHELDON (CONT'D)

He cut open a tauntaun and used its internal body heat to warm him up.

A BEAT. WOLOWITZ TURNS TO LEONARD.

WOLOWITZ

You heard the man. Hold him down and I'll cut him open.

LEONARD

(TO WOLOWITZ) Hang on. (THEN, TO SHELDON) I know I don't possess the "toolbox" of leadership, but I don't understand why we can't assemble the equipment inside the hut and then take it outside.

SHELDON

(CONSIDERS, THEN) I hadn't thought of that. I guess we're done here.

AND AS SHELDON STARTS TO EXIT, WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE H

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT/INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY — NIGHT (NIGHT 4)
(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Dr. Koothrappali, Mrs. Koothrappali, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.))
(Leonard, Penny, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.), Mrs. Koothrappali (O.S.))

KOOTHRAPALI IS TALKING TO HIS PARENTS ON HIS LAPTOP. LEONARD AND WOLOWITZ ARE IN THE KITCHEN.

KOOTHRAPALI

Mummy, Daddy, I have some great news.

DR. KOOTHRAPALI (ON LAPTOP)

You finally met a girl?

MRS. KOOTHRAPALI (ON LAPTOP)

Is she Indian?

ANGLE ON: SHELDON HANDING OUT CUPS OF HOT CHOCOLATE, EACH WITH A STICK OF BUTTER, TO LEONARD AND WOLOWITZ.

SHELDON

Here, drink slash eat this.

LEONARD

What is it?

SHELDON

Hot chocolate with a stick of butter.

WOLOWITZ

Why?
SHELDON

Because in the frigid temperatures in
the Arctic, we need to consume at
least five thousand calories a day
just to maintain our body weight.

LEONARD

Sheldon, you know I can't eat butter.
I'm lactose intolerant.

SHELDON

Way ahead of you. That's an I Can't
Believe It's Not Butter Stick.

HE AND WOLOWITZ DRINK AS WE ANGLE ON: KOOTHRAPPALI ON THE
COUCH, TALKING TO HIS LAPTOP.

KOOTHRAPPALI

But Mummy, all the other guys are
going to the North Pole.

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

I don't care what the "other guys" are
doing. If the "other guys" jumped in
the Bay of Bengal and tried to swim to
Sri Lanka, would you follow them?

KOOTHRAPPALI

If you were standing behind me
nagging, I might.

DR. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

Don't talk back to your mother. This
trip is much too dangerous, Rajesh.
KOOTHRAPPALI

No, it's not. Howard, tell them.

HOWARD SITS DOWN ON THE COUCH NEXT TO RAJ.

WOLOWITZ

(TO THE COMPUTER) Dr. and Mrs. Koothrappali, namaste. I understand your concern, but if it'll make you feel any better, my mother's fine with me going and this is a woman who kept a safety rail on my bed until I was seventeen.

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

So she has no problem with her son being eaten by a walrus?

SHELDON JOINS THEM AS WOLOWITZ TAKES OUT HIS CELL PHONE AND DIALS.

SHELDON

That's very unlikely, Mrs. Koothrappali. If Raj dies, it'll be from frostbite, gangrene, acute sunburn or being ripped to shreds by a fifteen-hundred pound polar bear.

WOLOWITZ

(INTO PHONE) Ma, I'm putting you on speakerphone with Raj's parents. Can you tell them that you're okay with me going to the Arctic?
MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

Arctic? I thought you said Arkansas!

WOLOWITZ

I didn't say that! You never listen to me!

MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

He doesn't tell me anything! He lives a secret life because he's ashamed!

MRS. KOOTHAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

This is who you're travelling with?

DR. KOOTHAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

A boy who dishonors his mother?

WOLOWITZ

I don't dishonor my mother. Ma, tell them I don't dishonor you.

MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

He doesn't dishonor me. He just runs halfway around the world so he can have sex with loose Eskimo women.

WOLOWITZ

Oh, that part she heard.

THE THREE-WAY ARGUMENT CONTINUES AS PENNY LEANS IN.

PENNY

Hey, Leonard. Can I talk to you for a minute?
LEONARD

Sure, but let's do it out here.
Little quieter.

THEY STEP INTO THE HALLWAY.

RESET TO:

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY — CONTINUOUS
(Leonard, Penny, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.), Mrs. Koothrappali (O.S.))

LEONARD

What's up?

PENNY

I got you a little going away present.

SHE HANDS LEONARD A SMALL PACKAGE AND HE OPENS IT. IT'S A SNUGGY.

LEONARD

Oh, a blanket.

PENNY

Not just a blanket. Look, it has sleeves so you can be all snoodled up and still do your science stuff.

LEONARD

Wow, cool.

PENNY

I don't know, maybe it looks a little dorky.

LEONARD

That's all right. Have you met the people I'm going with?
PENNY

I'm gonna miss you.

PENNY GIVES HIM A HUG THAT LASTS A LITTLE TOO LONG, THEN CROSSES BACK INTO HER APARTMENT. LEONARD TAKES THIS IN FOR A MOMENT AND CROSSES BACK INTO HIS APARTMENT WHERE WE HEAR:

MRS. Koothrappali (O.S.)

I told you no. Why don't you believe me?

MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

'Cause it doesn't make sense to me. How can it be that in the entire country of India, there isn't one Outback Steakhouse?

AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
SCENE J

INT. SHELDON'S BEDROOM - LATER (NIGHT 4)
(Sheldon, Leonard)

SHELDON IS IN BED. LEONARD ENTERS.

LEONARD

Sheldon. Sheldon?

SHELDON

(WAKING UP) I want a cookie, Meemaw!

LEONARD

Sheldon, it's me.

SHELDON

Oh. How disappointing. I was about to have a cookie.

LEONARD

Listen, I don't know if I can go on the expedition.

SHELDON TURNS ON A LAMP.

SHELDON

What?

LEONARD

I don't think I can go to the North Pole.
SHELDON

Okay. Leonard, I know you're concerned about disappointing me, but I want you to take comfort from the knowledge that my expectations of you are very low.

LEONARD

Yeah, that is comforting.

SHELDON

Comforting is part of leadership. Not a part I care for but such is my burden.

LEONARD

Terrific. It's just that I don't think Penny wants me to go.

SHELDON

Assuming that's a valid reason not to go -- which it isn't -- how do you know this? Did she say it?

LEONARD

Not exactly. But she said she'd miss me and she gave me this.

HE HOLDS UP THE SNUGGY.

SHELDON

What is it?

LEONARD

It's a blanket with sleeves.
SHELDON
Oh, that's clever. Let me see if I understand this correctly. Her missing you is an emotional state you find desirable?

LEONARD
Yeah, obviously.

SHELDON
All right. Well, given that missing you is predicated on you leaving, logic dictates you must leave.

LEONARD
Yeah, okay, but I'm gonna be gone for three months. What if she doesn't miss me that long and meets somebody else?

SHELDON
She does have a short attention span coupled with bosoms, subcutaneous fat and a pelvic structure that potential breeding partners find appealing.

LEONARD
Exactly. So I can't go.
SHELDON

Leonard, you may be right. It appears that Penny secretly wants you in her life in a very intimate and carnal fashion.

LEONARD

You really think so?

SHELDON

Of course not. Even in my sleep-deprived state, I was able to pull off another one of my classic pranks.

Bazinga!

AND WE:

CUT TO:
SCENE K

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 5)
(Leonard, Penny) / (Penny)

LEONARD KNOCKS. PENNY ANSWERS THE DOOR IN HER SLEEP CLOTHES.

PENNY
Leonard, what time is it?

LEONARD
Seven a.m. Sorry it's early, but we're leaving soon and I needed to talk to you.

PENNY
Okay.

LEONARD
What did you mean when you said you're going to miss me?

PENNY
I don't know. You'll be gone and... I'll notice.

LEONARD
Oh. Okay, (HOLDING UP THE SNUGGY) what about this? What does this mean?

PENNY
Wine, a credit card and late-night television are a bad combination?
LEONARD
All right, fine. What about that
really long hug? What did that mean?
PENNY
That wasn't a long hug.
LEONARD
It was at least five Mississippis. A
standard hug is two Mississippis tops.
PENNY
Leonard, I don't know what to tell
you. It was just a hug.
LEONARD
Okay, thanks. I'm glad we cleared
that up. I guess I'll see you.
PENNY
Yeah, have a nice trip.
LEONARD
Thank you. Bye.
PENNY
Bye.

SHE CLOSES THE DOOR. WE STAY ON HIS SIDE. LEONARD TURNS AND
SADLY WALKS BACK TO HIS APARTMENT.

RESET TO:
INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS
(Penny)

PENNY

(TO HERSELF) It was six Mississippis.

PENNY HEADS FOR HER BEDROOM, AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED/INT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - DAY (DAY 6)

A SMALL, SHED, TINY AGAINST A VAST WHITE WASTELAND AND IN THE MIDST OF HORRIBLE, FRIGID WEATHER.

CUT TO:

INT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS
(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

THIS IS A PRIMITIVE CORRUGATED STEEL HUT BUILT BY THE MILITARY TWENTY YEARS AGO. WELL-WORN MILITARY-ISSUE FURNITURE IS ARRANGED TO VAGUELY SUGGEST THE GUYS' LIVING ROOM. WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE STOWING EQUIPMENT AS SHELDON CHECKS IT AGAINST A MANIFEST. LEONARD PREPARES FOOD IN THE KITCHEN AREA.

LEONARD

(LOOKING IN THE FRIDGE) Oh, damn.

WOLOWITZ

What?

LEONARD

We're out of ice.

SHELDON

All right, men, we begin initial assembly and deployment of the testing equipment starting tomorrow at 0700 hours, but until then, you are all off duty.

(MORE)
SHELDON (CONT'D)
I suggest you keep the horseplay to a minimum as medical help is eighteen hours away by dogsled.

KOOTHRAPALI
(SOTTO TO WOLOWITZ) Do you remember the episode of "Star Trek: The Original Series" where the shuttle crash-landed on a planet and Spock was in charge?

WOLOWITZ
(SOTTO TO KOOTHRAPALI) Sure.

KOOTHRAPALI
(SOTTO TO WOLOWITZ) It didn't go well, did it?

WOLOWITZ
(SOTTO TO KOOTHRAPALI) Uh-uh.

LEONARD
Hey, guys, can I just say something? How 'bout we take a moment and think about where we are right now? This is literally the top of the world. Only a handful of people in all of human history have ever seen what we're going to see.

KOOTHRAPALI
He's right.
WOLOWITZ

Yeah, wow.

SHELDON

It is remarkable.

A BEAT, THEN:

KOOTHRAPPALI

I'll set up the DVD player.

WOLOWITZ

What do you think? "Ice Station Zebra" or "John Carpenter's The Thing"?

KOOTHRAPPALI

I say double feature.

LEONARD

Who's ready for reconstituted Thai food?

SHELDON

Did you bring the dehydrated low-sodium soy sauce?

LEONARD

Check.

SHELDON

Freeze-dried spicy mustard?

LEONARD

Check.

SHELDON

Flash-frozen brown rice, not white?
LEONARD

Oh, um, sorry.

SHELDON

Not to worry. I hid it. (HOLDING UP FLASH-FROZEN RICE) Bazinga!

SHELDON TAKES HIS FOOD AND CROSSES TO THE COUCH AND NOTICES WHERE WOLOWITZ IS SITTING.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

You're in my spot.

WOLOWITZ SLIDES OVER. SHELDON SITS DOWN.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS
(Sheldon (O.S.))

SHELDON (O.S.)

Leonard's right. This is gonna be great.

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW