

Season 1 | Episode 02 – The Big Bran Hypothesis

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Scene 1 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Howard, Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon gather around take-out Chinese.)

Leonard: Here you go. Pad Thai, no peanuts.

Howard: But does it have peanut oil?

Leonard: I'm not sure. Everyone keep an eye on Howard in case he starts to swell up.

Sheldon: Since it's not bee season you can have my epinephrine.

Rajesh: Are there any chopsticks?

Sheldon: You don't need chopsticks, this is Thai food.

Leonard: Here we go.

Sheldon: Thailand has had the fork since the latter half of the nineteenth century. Interestingly they don't actually put the fork in their mouth. They use it to put the food on a spoon which then goes into their mouth.

Leonard: Ask him for a napkin, I dare you.

(Someone knocks at the door.)

Leonard: I'll get it.

Howard: (panicky) Do I look puffy? I feel puffy.

(Leonard opens to the door to discover Penny.)

Penny: Hey Leonard.

Leonard: Oh, hi Penny.

Penny: Am I interrupting.

Leonard: No.

(Leonard steps into the hallway, half closing the door behind him.)

Sheldon: You're not swelling, Howard.

Howard: No, no, look at my fingers! They're like Vienna sausages!

Penny: Sounds like you have company.

Leonard: They're not going anywhere.

(Leonard closes the door completely and steps into the hall.)

Leonard: So, you're coming home from work. That's great, how was work?

Penny: Well, you know, it's the Cheesecake Factory. People order cheesecake and I bring it to them.

Leonard: So, you kind of act as like a carbohydrate delivery system.

Penny: Yeah. Call it whatever you want I get minimum wage. Yeah. Anyways, I was wondering if you could help me out with something--

Leonard: Yes.

Penny: I'm kind of having--Oh. Okay, great. I'm having some furniture delivered tomorrow and I may not be here, so ... Oh!

(Howard, Rajesh, and Sheldon open the door and step towards the couple in the hall.)

Penny: He ... hello!

Howard: (says something to Penny in Russian)

Penny: I'm sorry?

Howard: Haven't you ever been told how beautiful you are in flawless Russian?

Penny: No, I haven't--

Howard: Get used to it.

Penny: Yeah. I probably won't, but.... Hey Sheldon.

Sheldon: Hi.

Penny: Hey Raj!

Rajesh: (nods awkwardly in acknowledgement)

Penny: Still not talking to me, huh?

Sheldon: Don't take it personally. It's his pathology, he can't talk to women.

Howard: He can't talk to attractive women, or in your case a cheese-cake-scented-goddess!

Leonard: So, there's going to be some furniture delivered?

Penny: Yeah, yeah, if it gets here and I'm not here tomorrow could you just sign for it and have them put it in my apartment.

Leonard: Yeah, no problem.

Penny: Great, here's my spare key. Thank you.

Leonard: Penny, wait.

Penny: Yeah?

Leonard: Um ... if you don't have any other plans do you want to join us? For Thai food and a Superman movie marathon?

Penny: A marathon? Wow, how many Superman movies are there?

Sheldon: (in disbelief) You're kidding, right?

Penny: Yeah, I do like the one where Lois Lane falls from the helicopter and Superman swooshes down and catches her. Which one was that?

Men in unison: One.

Sheldon: You realize that scene was rife with scientific inaccuracy.

Penny: Yes, I know, men can't fly.

Sheldon: No, no, let's assume that they can. Lois Lane is falling, accelerating at an initial rate of 32 feet per second, per second. Superman swoops down to save her by reaching out two arms of steel. Miss Lane, who is now travelling at approximately 120 miles per hour, hits them, and is immediately sliced into three equal pieces.

Leonard: Unless, Superman matches her speed and decelerates.

Sheldon: In what space, sir? In what space? She's two feet above the ground. Frankly, if he really loved her, he'd let her hit the pavement. It'd be a more merciful death.

Leonard: Excuse me! Your entire argument is predicated on the assumption that Superman's flight is a feat of strength.

Sheldon: Are you listening to yourself? It is well established that Superman's flight is a feat of strength. It is an extension of his ability to leap tall buildings. An ability he derives from Earth's yellow Sun.

Howard: Yeah, and you don't have a problem with that? How does he fly at night?

Sheldon: A combination of the moon's solar reflection and the energy storage capacity of Kryptonian skin cells.

Penny: I'm just going to go wash up.

Leonard: (pointing to apartment) I have twenty-six hundred comic books in there. I challenge you to find a single reference to "Kryptonian skin cells."

Sheldon: Challenge accepted.

(Sheldon quickly moves to the apartment door and jangles the door handle several times.)

Sheldon: We're locked out.

Rajesh: Also, the pretty girl left.

[Opening Title Sequence]

Scene 2 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment Building, Foyer

(Leonard signs a clipboard for a delivery man. A large furniture box rests against the wall behind him. Sheldon lingers in the background.)

Leonard: Okay. Her apartment's on the fourth floor but the elevator's broken so you're going to have to ... (delivery man exits the building) ... oh, you're just going to be done. Okay, cool. Thanks. I guess we'll just bring it up ourselves.

Sheldon: I hardly think so.

Leonard: Why not?

Sheldon: Well, we don't have a dolly, or lifting belts, or any measurable upper body strength.

Leonard: We don't need strength, we're physicists. We are the intellectual descendents of Archimedes. Give me a fulcrum and a lever and I can move the Earth. (grasps the furniture box) It's just a matter... (the package falls on top of him) I don't have this! I don't have this! I don't have this!

Sheldon: (pushing the box back to the wall) Archimedes would be so proud.

(The pair back away from the box weighing their options.)

Leonard: Do you have any ideas?

Sheldon: Yes, but they all involve a green lantern and a power ring.

(Time advances slightly and the two men lower the furniture box against the first flight of stairs.)

Leonard: Easy ... easy ... (furniture box slips roughly onto the stairs) Okay! Now we've got an inclined plane. The force required to lift is reduced by the sine of the angle of the stairs, call it thirty degrees, so about half.

Sheldon: (corrective tone) Exactly half.

Leonard: (childishly) Exactly half. Let's push. (the pair grab the base of the box) Okay! See, it's moving, this is easy. All in the math.

Sheldon: What's your formula for the corner?

Leonard: What? Oh ... okay ... (climbing stairs) ... uh ... okay, yeah, no problem. Just come up here and help me pull and turn.

(Sheldon releases his hold on the box and starts up the stairs. The box slides to the bottom removing any progress.)

Sheldon: Ah, gravity. Thou art a heartless bitch.

(Time advances slightly and the pair have moved the box up the first flight of stairs. They push it across the floor to the next flight.)

Sheldon: You do understand that our efforts here will in no way increase the odds of you having sexual congress with this woman?

Leonard: Men do things for women without expecting sex.

Sheldon: Yeah, those would be men who just had sex.

Leonard: I'm doing this to be a good neighbor. In any case, there's no way it could lower the odds.

(Time advances slightly and the men now struggle with the box up the next flight of stairs. Sheldon pushes from the bottom while Leonard guides and pulls from the top.)

Leonard: Almost there. Almost there. Almost there.

(Leonard reaches the top of the stairs and releases his grip on the box. It begins to slip down the flight onto Sheldon.)

Sheldon: No we're not! No we're not! No we're not!

(Time advances slightly. Leonard and Sheldon lower the furniture box flat onto the floor of Penny's apartment.)

Sheldon: Watch your fingers. Watch your fingers. Ow God! My fingers!

Leonard: You okay?

Sheldon: (tending fingers) No, it hur--great Caesar's ghost, look at this place.

(The apartment is messy and in great disarray.)

Leonard: So Penny's a little messy.

Sheldon: A little messy? The Mandelbrot set of complex numbers is a little messy. This is chaos! Excuse me ... (picking up a tray of dinnerware from couch) ... explain to me an organizational system where a tray of flatware on a couch is valid? And I'm just inferring that this is a couch because the evidence suggests the coffee table's having a tiny garage sale.

Leonard: Did it ever occur to you that not everyone has the compulsive need to sort, organize, and label the entire world around them?

Sheldon: (shaking head) No.

Leonard: Well, they don't. Hard as it may be for you to believe most people don't sort their breakfast cereal numerically by fiber content.

Sheldon: Excuse me, but I think we've both found that helpful at times.

Leonard: Come on, we should go.

Sheldon: (picking up items) Hang on.

Leonard: What are you doing?

Sheldon: I'm straightening up.

Leonard: Sheldon, this is not your home.

Sheldon: This is not anyone's home. This is a swirling vortex of entropy!

Leonard: When the transvestite lived here you didn't care how he kept the place.

Sheldon: Because it was immaculate, I mean! You open that man's closet it was left to right, evening gowns, cocktail dresses, then his police uniforms.

Leonard: What were you doing in his closet?

Sheldon: I helped him run some cable for a webcam.

(Penny enters the apartment.)

Penny: Hey guys.

Leonard: Oh, hey Penny. This just arrived--we just brought this up--just now.

Penny: Great! Was it hard getting up the stairs?

Sheldon: (eyes wide) phhh!

Leonard: No.

Sheldon: (to Leonard) No?

Leonard: (to Sheldon) No.

Sheldon: (to Penny) Naaaw.

Leonard: Well, we'll get out of your hair.

Penny: Okay, great. Thank you again

(Penny haphazardly tosses her jacket toward the couch. Sheldon cranes his head anxiously.)

Sheldon: Penny ... (clears throat) ... I just want you to know that, you don't have to live like this. I'm here for you.

Penny: (to Leonard) What's he talking about?

Leonard: It's a joke.

Penny: I don't get it.

Leonard: Yeah, he didn't tell it right.

Scene 3 - Leonard's Bedroom

(Leonard lays in his bed and wakes from sleep in the middle of the night. He puts on his glasses and looks at his alarm clock--2:16 a.m.)

Leonard: Sheldon?

(Leonard walks into the darkened apartment living room bearing a green glowing toy light-saber.)

Leonard: Sheldon? Hello?

(Leonard sees the front door ajar and flicks off the light-saber. It hums slightly as it's light dims.)

Scene 4 - Penny's Apartment

(Penny sleeps in her bed, the bedroom door ajar. Sheldon stalks about her living room, arranging and straightening objects as he moves in the dark. Leonard walks into the apartment.)

Leonard: (whispering loudly) Sheldon!

Sheldon: (whispering) Shhh-shh-sh! Penny's sleeping.

Leonard: (whispering) Are you insane? You can't just break in a woman's apartment in the middle of the night and clean!

Sheldon: (whispering) I had no choice. I couldn't sleep knowing that just outside my bedroom was our living room, and just outside our living room was that hallway, and immediately adjacent to that hallway was ... this.

Leonard: (whispering) Do you realize that if Penny wakes up, there is no reasonable explanation as to why we're here?

Sheldon: (whispering) I just gave you a reasonable explanation.

Leonard: (whispering) No-no! You gave me an explanation. It's reasonableness will be determined by a jury of your peers!

Sheldon: (whispering) Don't be ridiculous. I have no peers.

Leonard: (whispering loudly) Sheldon, we have to get out of here.

(Penny snores and both men pause.)

Sheldon: (whispering) You might want to speak in a lower register.

Leonard: (whispering) What?

Sheldon: (whispering) Evolution has made women sensitive to high pitched noises while they sleep, so that they'll be roused by a crying baby. If you want to avoid waking her, speak in a lower register.

Leonard: (whispering loudly) That's ridiculous.

(Penny snores and both men pause again.)

Sheldon: (whispering) No. (speaking in a plain but deep voice) That's ridiculous.

Leonard: (deep voice) Fine. I accept your premise now please, let's go.

Sheldon: (deep voice) I am not leaving until I'm done.

Leonard: (cringes against the wall) Oh!

Sheldon: (deep voice) If you have time to lean, you have time to clean.

Leonard: (deep voice) Oh, what the hell. Humph!

(Leonard helps to clean Penny's apartment.)

Scene 5 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Sheldon enters his apartment kitchen in the light of the morning, singing as he walks. Leonard leans against the kitchen counter appearing tired and contemplative.)

Sheldon: (chipper) Morning.

Leonard: (without enthusiasm) Morning.

Sheldon: I have to say, I slept splendidly. Granted not long but just deeply, and well.

Leonard: I'm not surprised. A well known folk cure for insomnia is to break into your neighbor's apartment and clean.

Sheldon: Sarcasm?

Leonard: You think?

Sheldon: Granted, my methods may have been somewhat unorthodox, but ... I think the end result will be a measurable enhancement of Penny's quality of life.

Leonard: You know what, you've convinced me. Maybe tonight we should sneak in and shampoo her carpet.

Sheldon: You don't think that crosses a line?

Leonard: Yes! For God's sake, Sheldon, do I have to hold up a sarcasm sign every time I open my mouth.

Sheldon: (seriously) You have a sarcasm sign?

Leonard: No, I do not have a sarcasm sign.

Sheldon: You want some cereal. I feel so good today I'm going to choose from the low fiber end of the shelf. Hello, Honey Puffs.

(Sheldon grabs a box of Honey Puffs from a row of sorted cereal boxes atop the refrigerator.)

Penny: (in distance) Son of a Bitch!

Leonard: Penny's up.

Penny: (in distance) You sick geeky bastards!

Leonard: (genuine surprise) How did she know it was us?

Sheldon: I may have left a suggested organizational schematic for her bedroom closet.

Penny: (in distance) Leonard!

Leonard: (stressed) God, this is going to be bad.

Sheldon: Goodbye, Honey Puffs. Hello, Big Bran.

(Sheldon puts the Honey Puffs back in place and grasps the last cereal box in the assorted row. Penny barges angrily through the front door.)

Penny: You came into my apartment last night when I was sleeping?!

Leonard: (pleading) Yes, but, only to clean--

Sheldon: Really more to organize. You're not actually dirty, per se.

Penny: (exasperated) Give me back my key.

Leonard: I'm very, very sorry.

Penny: Do you understand how creepy this is?!

Leonard: Oh, yes. We discussed it at length last night.

Penny: In my apartment, while I was sleeping!--

Sheldon: And snoring. And that's probably just a sinus infection, but it could be sleep apnea. You might want to see an otolaryngologist. (pause uncomfortably) The throat doctor.

Penny: And what kind of doctor removes shoes from asses?

Sheldon: Depending on the depth, that's either a ... proctologist or a general surgeon.

(Leonard holds up a quickly scribbled sign over Penny's shoulder. It reads, "SARCASM")

Sheldon: Oh!

Penny: (cringing) God!

Leonard: Okay, look. No, Penny, I think what you're feeling is perfectly valid, and maybe a little bit later today when you're feeling a little less, for lack of a better word, violated, maybe we could talk about this some more--

Penny: Stay away from me.

Leonard: Sure, that's another way to go.

Sheldon: Penny! Penny! Hold on. Just to clarify because there will be a discussion when you leave. Is your objection solely to our presence in the apartment while you were sleeping, or do you also object to the imposition of a new organizational paradigm?

(Penny glares in disgust and disbelief. After a moment she leaves for her apartment.)

Sheldon: Well that was a little non-responsive.

Leonard: You are going to march yourself over there right now and apologize.

(Sheldon laughs.)

Leonard: What's funny?

Sheldon: That wasn't sarcasm?

Leonard: (pointing at the door) No!

Sheldon: Woo-boy! You are all over the place this morning.

(Sheldon marches out through the hall and knocks on Penny's door.)

Sheldon: (to self) I have a masters and two PhDs. I should not have to do this.

(Penny opens the door.)

Penny: What?!

Sheldon: I am truly sorry for what happened last night. I take full responsibility. And I hope that it won't color your opinion of Leonard, who is not only a wonderful guy but, also I hear, a gentle and thorough lover.

(Leonard crumbles in embarrassment in the background while Penny slams the door in Sheldon's face. Sheldon ambles back to his apartment.)

Sheldon: I did what I could.

Scene 6 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment Building, Stairwell

(Rajesh and Penny cross paths on the stair well.)

Penny: Hey Raj.

(Rajesh eyes her nervously as she passes.)

Penny: Hey, listen. I don't know if you heard about what happened last night with Leonard and Sheldon, but I'm really upset about it. I mean they just, they let themselves into my place and then they cleaned it. Can you even believe that? How weird is it?

Rajesh: (internally as Penny chatters) *Oh! She's standing very close to me. Oh my, she does smell good. What is that? Vanilla?*

Penny: You know? Where I come from? Someone comes into your house at night, you shoot. Okay? And you don't shoot to wound. I mean, alright, my sister shot her husband but it was an accident. They were drunk. What was I saying?

Rajesh: (internally as Penny chatters) *She's so chatty! Maybe my parents are right. Maybe I'd be better off with an Indian girl. We'd have the same cultural background and my wife would sing to my children the same lullabies my mother sang to me.*

Penny: It's obvious that they meant well, but I'm just ... (sighs) ... I'm having a really rough time. Like I said, I broke up with my boyfriend and it's just freaking me out.

Rajesh: (internally, sings an Indian lullaby to himself)

Penny: I mean, just because most of the men I've known in my life happen to be jerks doesn't mean I should just assume Leonard and Sheldon are ... right?

Rajesh: (internally) *She asked me a question. I should probably nod.*

Penny: (as Rajesh nods) That's exactly what I thought. Thank you for listening. You're a doll.

(Penny hugs Rajesh.)

Rajesh: (internally to self) *Uh-oh ... turn your pelvis.*

(Rajesh shifts his hips away from hers.)

Scene 7 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Howard dances frantically on a video "dancing" game in Leonard and Sheldon's apartment. Leonard and Sheldon behind him.)

Howard: (stepping of dance pad) Phew! Grab a napkin, homey. You just got served.

Leonard: It's fine. You win.

Howard: (to Sheldon) What's his problem?

Sheldon: His imaginary girlfriend broke up with him.

Howard: Been there!

(Rajesh enters the apartment.)

Rajesh: Hello. Sorry I'm late, but I was in the hallway chatting up Penny.

Howard: Really, you? Rajesh Koothrappali ... spoke to Penny?

Rajesh: Actually, I was less the chatter than the chattee.

Leonard: What did she say? Is she still mad at me?

Rajesh: Well, she was upset at first but probably because her sister shot somebody. Then there was something about you and ... (smiling) then she hugged me.

Howard: (disbelief) She hugged you? How did she hug you?

(Rajesh hugs Howard and Howard lets him without returning the embrace. Leonard and Sheldon look on incredulously.)

Howard: (lowered voice) Is that her perfume I smell?

Rajesh: (excited) Intoxicating, isn't it?

(Howard begins to tenderly embrace Rajesh, closing his eyes and pretending that Rajesh is Penny.)

Scene 8 - Penny's Apartment, Exterior

(Leonard approaches the door to Penny's apartment, a note in hand. He attempts to slip the note under the door and Penny opens the door.)

Penny: Hi.

Leonard: Oh.

Penny: What's going on?

Leonard: Uh ... here's the thing. (reading from note.) Penny. Just as Oppenheimer came to regret his contributions to the first atomic bomb, so too I regret my participation in what was, at the very least, an error in judgment. (glances at Penny) The hallmark of the great human experiment is the willingness to recognize one's mistakes. Some mistakes, such as Madame Curie's discovery of Radium, turned out to have great scientific potential even though she would later die a slow, painful death from radiation poisoning. Another example, from the field of Ebola research--

Penny: (grasping his arm) Leonard.

Leonard: Yeah?

Penny: (hugging him) We're okay.

(Penny kisses his cheek and closes the door. Leonard walks back to his apartment, drunk in the moment and looking over his shoulder at her apartment. He clumsily walks into his own door.)

Scene 9 - Penny's Apartment

(Sheldon sits over the opened furniture box while Leonard reads a manual over his shoulder. Penny, Rajesh, and Howard linger near the kitchen.)

Leonard: Six, two-inch dowels.

Sheldon: (sorting pieces) Check.

Leonard: One package, Phillips-head screws.

Sheldon: Check.

Penny: (walking to the box) Guys, seriously. I grew up on a farm. Okay, I rebuilt a tractor engine when I was like twelve. I think I can put together a cheap Swedish media center.

Leonard: No, please. We insist. It's the least we can do considering.

Sheldon: Considering what? How great this place looks?

Howard: (studying furniture diagram) Oh boy, I was afraid of this.

Leonard: What?

Howard: These instructions are a pictographic representation of the least imaginative way to assemble these components. This right here is why Sweden has no space program.

Penny: Well, uh, it looked pretty good in the store.

Leonard: It is an inefficient design. For example, Penny has a flat screen TV which means all the space behind it is wasted.

Sheldon: We could put her stereo back there.

Leonard: And control it how?

Sheldon: Run an infra-red repeater. Photocell here (pointing), emitter here (pointing again), easy-peasy.

(Rajesh whispers into Howard's ear.)

Howard: Good point, how you going to cool it?

Penny: Hey guys, I got this.

Sheldon: (finger in air) Hang on Penny. How about fans, here and here?

Leonard: Also inefficient and might be loud.

Howard: How about liquid coolant? Maybe a little aquarium pump here, run some quarter inch PVC.

Penny: Guys, this is actually really simple.

Howard: (condescending) Hold on, honey. Men at work. The PVC comes down here, maybe a little corrugated sheet metal as a radiator here.

Leonard: Oh, really, show me where we put a drip tray, a sluice, and an overflow reservoir?

Sheldon: And if water is involved we're going to have to ground the crap out of the thing.

Penny: Guys, it's hot in here. I think I'll just take off all my clothes.

(The men continue to focus on the diagram.)

Leonard: Oh, I've got it. What about, if we replace panels A, B, and F, and crossbar H with aircraft grade aluminum.

Sheldon: Right, then the entire thing's one big heat sink.

Howard: (quickly) Perfect! Leonard, why don't you and Sheldon go down to the junk yard and pick up about six square meters of scrap aluminum. Raj and I will run down to my lab and get the oxy-acetylene torch.

Leonard: Meet back here in an hour?

Howard: Done.

Leonard: Got it.

(The men exit the apartment in unison.)

Penny: (to self) Okay, this place does look pretty good.

[End Credits Roll]