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Scene 1 - The Cheesecake Factory

(Howard, Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon sit at a table. Atop the table are a couple of seasoning shakers and assorted condiments arrayed in battle lines.)

Sheldon: (moving salt shakers) Alright. I'm moving my infantry division ... augmented by a battalion of orcs from Lord of the Rings. We flank the Tennessee Volunteers and the North once again wins the Battle of Gettysburg.

Howard: Not so fast! Remember the South still has two infantry divisions, plus ... (holding up a ketchup and hot pepper bottle) ... Superman and Godzilla.

Leonard: No-no-no-no! Orcs are magic, Superman is vulnerable to magic. Not to mention, you already lost Godzilla to the Illinois cavalry and Hulk.

Rajesh: (to Howard) Why don't you just have Robert E. Lee charge the line with Shiva and Ganesh.

Penny: (approaching table) Hi, you guys ready to order?

Howard: Hang on, honey. Shiva and Ganesh? The Hindu Gods against the entire Union army?

Leonard: And orcs.

Penny: I'll be back.

Rajesh: Excuse me. Ganesh is the remover of obstacles and Shiva is the destroyer. When the smoke clears, Abraham Lincoln will be speaking Hindi and drinking mint juleps.

Penny: (approaching again) Alright, my boss says you to either have to order or leave and never come back.

Howard: What do you recommend for someone who worked up a man-sized appetite from a morning of weight training and cardio funk?

Penny: A shower.

Howard: I'll take the heart smart platter.

Penny: Alright, thank you, and Sheldon?

Sheldon: We don't eat here. I don't know what's good.

Penny: Well, it's all good.

Sheldon: Statistically unlikely.

Leonard: Just get a hamburger. You like hamburgers.

Sheldon: I like the hamburgers where we usually have hamburgers. You can't make the assumption that I'll like the hamburgers here.

Leonard: (to Sheldon) I'm sorry. (to Penny) Give him a hamburger.

Penny: Uh, which one? The Classic Burger, the Ranch House Burger, the Barbecue Burger, or the Kobe burger?

Sheldon: Can't we just go to Big Boy? They only have one burger. The Big Boy.

Penny: The Barbecue Burger is like the Big Boy.

Sheldon: Excuse me. In a world that already includes a Big Boy, why would I settle for something like a Big Boy?

Penny: (agitated) Because you are not at Big Boy!

Sheldon: Fine, I'll have the Barbecue Burger.

Leonard: Make it two.

Sheldon: Waitresses don't yell at you at Big Boy.

Leslie: (entering the restaurant) Hey Leonard. Hi guys.

Leonard: Hey Leslie.

Leslie: I didn't know you ate here.

Sheldon: We don't. This is a disturbing aberration.

Leonard: Leslie, this is Penny. She lives across the hall from Sheldon and me.

Howard: And walks in quiet beauty like the night.

Penny: Howard, I've asked you not to do that.

Leonard: Leslie and I do research together at the University.

Penny: Oh! Wow, a girl scientist.

Leslie: Yep, come for the breasts, stay for the brains. So, I'm glad I ran into you. The physics department string quartet needs a new cellist.

Leonard: What happened to Elliot Wong?

Leslie: He switched over to high energy radiation research, had a little mishap, and now the other guys are uncomfortable sitting next to him. So, are you in?

Leonard: Yeah, sure, why not.

Leslie: Great, we rehearse on Tuesdays at your place.

Leonard: Why at my place?

Leslie: Yeah, Department of Energy said our regular space is kind of a hot zone. Nice meeting you.

Penny: (as Leslie leaves) Yeah, you too. Leonard! I didn't know you played the cello.

Leonard: Yeah. My parents felt that naming me Leonard and putting me in advanced placement classes wasn't getting me beaten up enough.

Howard: (to Penny) If you're into music I happen to be a human beat box.

Penny: Really?

(Howard immediately bursts into an embarrassing rendition of a human beat box, nodding toward Penny when he finishes, as if impressed with himself.)

Penny: I'm actually not that into music. So hey, your friend's really cute. Anything going on with you two?

Leonard: (snobbishly) Leslie? No, no. What are you kidding?

Sheldon: He asked her out once. It was an embarrassing failure.

Leonard: (embarrassed) Thank you Sheldon.

Sheldon: Oh, I'm sorry. Was that supposed to be a secret?

Penny: Oh. That's too bad. You guys would make a cute couple.

(Penny leaves, touching Leonard briefly on the arm as she goes. The men sit in silence for several seconds.)

Rajesh: Oh dear.

Howard: What's the matter?

Rajesh: She didn't take my order.

Howard: How can she take your order when you're too neurotic to talk to her?

Rajesh: (upset) Nevertheless, this will be reflected in her tip.

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

(Leonard and Sheldon make way up the stairs. Leonard wrings his hands as they talk.)

Leonard: What did Penny mean, "You'd make a cute couple?"

Sheldon: Well I assume she meant that the two of you together would constitute a couple, that others might consider cute. An alternate, and somewhat less likely interpretation, is that you could manufacture one. As in, "Oh look! Leonard and Leslie made Mr. and Mrs. Goldfarb. Aren't they adorable?"

Leonard: If Penny didn't know that Leslie had already turned me down then that would unambiguously mean that she, Penny, thought that I should ask her, Leslie, out. Indicating that she, Penny, had no interest in me asking her, Penny, out, but because she did know that I had asked Leslie out and that she, Leslie, had turned me down then she, Penny, could be offering consolation. (feigning to be Penny) "That's too bad, you would have made a cute couple." But while thinking, "Good! Leonard remains available."

Sheldon: You're a lucky man, Leonard.

Leonard: How so?

Sheldon: You're talking to one of the three men in the Western hemisphere capable of following that train of thought.

Leonard: Well, what do you think?

Sheldon: I said I could follow it, I didn't say I cared.

[Series Title Sequence]

Scene 3 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Leonard plays a cello while Leslie and two other violinists practice alongside.)

Leslie: I admire your fingering.

Leonard: Thank you.

Leslie: Maybe some time you can try that on my instrument.

(Leonard looks up from his sheet music, perplexed. Leslie nods and smiles brightly. Time advances to the end of the practice session. The extra violinists begin to leave.)

Leslie: Goodnight guys. Good job.

Male violinist: Thanks.

Female violinist: See you next week.

(Leslie closes the door behind them as they leave.)

Leonard: That was fun, Leslie. Thanks for including me.

Leslie: You're welcome. If you're up for it we could practice that middle section again.

Leonard: Uh, sure, why not.

(They begin playing again, several seconds pass as they do.)

Leslie: Just so we're clear, you understand that me hanging back to practice with you is a pretext for letting you know that I'm sexually available.

(Leonard fumbles his bow and knocks over his sheet music stand as he attempts to recover it.)

Leonard: (stunned) Really?

Leslie: Yeah, I'm good to go.

Leonard: I thought you weren't interested in me.

Leslie: That was before I saw you handling that beautiful piece of wood between your legs.

Leonard: You mean my cello?

Leslie: No, I mean the obvious crude double entendre. I'm seducing you.

Leonard: No kidding?

Leslie: What can I say? I'm a passionate and impulsive woman. So how about it?

Leonard: Gee, uh ...

Leslie: Is it the waitress?

Leonard: Penny? What about her?

Leslie: Well, I thought I saw your pupils dilate when you looked at her which, unless you're a heroin addict, points to sexual attraction.

Leonard: Well, I did have a poppy seed bagel for breakfast which could give a positive urine test for opiates but certainly not dilate my pupils, so I guess there's no point in bringing it up.

Leslie: You and the waitress then?

Leonard: No. No, there's nothing going on between Penny and me.

Leslie: So, you're open to a sexual relationship?

Leonard: (nodding) Yeah. Yeah, I guess I am.

Leslie: (smiling) Good.

Leonard: (smiling) Yeah it is ... it is good. (suddenly perplexed) Did you want to start now?

Leslie: Why don't we finish the section first.

Leonard: Okay, a little musical foreplay. Terrific!

(The duo begin again, playing normally for several seconds. Soon, the pace quickens until the section is played through as rapidly as they can manage. They stare at each other intently, holding their breath as they play.)

Leonard: I'm a good-I'm good to go.

Leslie: Me too.

(Leonard casts the cello down and Leslie follows him as they speed walk to the bedroom.)

Scene 4 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment Building, Stairwell

(Sheldon crosses the hall, approaching Penny's door with a sense of great urgency. He knocks rapidly, forgoing his traditional knock-knock-knock "Penny!")

Penny: (opens door and steps forward) Oh, hey Sheldon. What's going on?

Sheldon: (gravely) I need your opinion on a matter of semiotics.

Penny: I'm sorry?

Sheldon: Semiotics. The study of signs and symbols. It's a branch of philosophy related to linguistics.

Penny: (gently) Okay. Sweetie? I know you think you're explaining yourself but you're really not.

Sheldon: (alarmed) Just come with me.

(Time advances slightly and the pair stand outside Leonard's bedroom door. A tie hangs from the doorknob and music plays from inside the bedroom.)

Sheldon: Well?

Penny: (shrugging) Well what?

Sheldon: What does it mean?

Penny: Oh come on, you went to college.

Sheldon: Yes, but I was eleven.

Penny: Alright, look. A tie on the doorknob usually means someone doesn't want to be disturbed, because they're, you know ... (wags head back and forth) ...getting busy.

Sheldon: So you're saying Leonard has a girl in there.

Penny: Well, either that or he's lost his tie rack and gotten really into Bryan Adams.

Leslie: (from inside bedroom) Oh Leonard, you magnificent beast!

Penny: (suddenly anxious) We really shouldn't be standing here.

(Penny and Sheldon leave to the living room.)

Sheldon: This is very awkward.

Penny: Oh, come on. You know, Leonard's had girls over before. Right?

Sheldon: Oh, yes, but there's usually planning, courtship, advance notice. Last time I was able to book a cruise to the Arctic to see a solar eclipse.

Penny: Wait, you had to leave the state because your roommate was having sex?

Sheldon: I didn't have to, the dates just happened to coincide.

Penny: So, do you know who's in there?

Sheldon: Well, there's Leonard. (notices a violin case) And he's either with Leslie Winkle or a 1930's gangster.

Penny: Hmph. (nodding) Good for him. (to self) Good for Leonard. (to Sheldon) Okay, night.

(Penny walks toward the front door.)

Sheldon: No-no-wait, hold on.

Penny: What's the matter?

Sheldon: (sincerely confused) I don't know what the protocol is here. Do I stay? Do I leave? Do I wait to greet them with a refreshing beverage?

Penny: Gee Sheldon, you're asking the wrong girl. I'm usually on the *other* side of the tie.

(Sheldon stands in continued bewilderment as Penny leaves. He sits on his spot at the couch and fiddles nervously. After a moment, he digs his cell phone from his pocket and dials a number.)

Sheldon: (via phone) Hi, Leonard? It's me ... Sheldon In the living room. I just, I wanted you to know I saw the tie. Message received You're welcome. You carry on. G-G-Give my best to Leslie.

(He hangs up the phone and proceeds to nervously fidget, utterly uncertain what he should do next.)

Scene 5 - Leonard's Bedroom

(Leonard wakes in his bed, rubbing his eyes. He puts his glasses on and notices Leslie in bed next to him, and begins to grin broadly. The scene quickly shifts to the living room where Sheldon sleeps on the couch using Leslie's violin case as a pillow.)

Sheldon: (talking in sleep) Big boy!

(Sheldon stirs from his sleep and rises from the couch and moves toward the kitchen. As he passes his whiteboard he realizes that something is wrong.)

Sheldon: (to self) Someone touched my board. (now studying the board) Oh God! My board! (panicky) Leonard! Leonard!

Leonard: (rushing into the room) Hey, what's the matter?

Sheldon: (pointing) My equations, someone's tampered with my equations.

Leonard: Are you sure?

Sheldon: Of course I'm sure! Look at the beta-function of quantum chromodynamics! The sign's been changed!

Leonard: Oh yeah, but doesn't that fix the problem you've been having?

Sheldon: Are you insane? Are you out of your mind? Are you--hey look! That fixes the problem I've been having.

Leslie: (entering the room) You're welcome.

Sheldon: (disbelief) You did this?

Leslie: Yeah. I noticed it when I got up to get a glass of water so I fixed it. Now you can show that quarks are asymptotically free at high energies. Pretty cool, huh?

Sheldon: (indignant) Cool?

Leslie: (to Leonard) Listen, I got to hit the lab. Thanks for a great night.

Leonard: Thank you. I'll see you at work.

Sheldon: Hold on-hold on!

Leslie: What?

Sheldon: Who told you, "You could touch my board?"

Leslie: No one.

Sheldon: I don't come into your house and touch your board.

Leslie: There are no incorrect equations on my board.

Sheldon: (shaking head) Oh, that is so ... so ...

Leslie: I'm sorry, I've got to run. If you come up with an adjective, text me.

(Leslie leaves the apartment. Sheldon stares at his whiteboard for a long moment.)

Sheldon: Inconsiderate! That is the adjective ... (pulling out his cell phone) ... inconsiderate.

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

(Leonard exits into the hallway from his apartment as Penny comes up the stairs carrying laundry.)

Leonard: (to Sheldon still inside the apartment) You can stare at your board all day, Sheldon. She's still going to be right.

Sheldon: I'm not staring, I'm mulling.

Penny: Oh, hey Leonard.

Leonard: Oh, hi.

Penny: So ... how's it going?

Leonard: Pretty good.

Penny: Just pretty good? I'd think you were doing very good.

Leonard: Pretty, very, there is really no objective scale for delineating variations of good. Why do you ask?

Penny: Well, a little bird told me that you and Leslie hooked up last night.

Leonard: (angrily) Sheldon!

Sheldon: I'm coming.

Penny: So? Is it serious? Do you like her?

Leonard: W-I don't th-th-that's really two different questions. Uh, I'm not-Sheldon, we have to go!

Sheldon: (leaving apartment) Boy, you're wound awfully tight for a man who just had sexual intercourse.

Penny: Alright well, I'll talk to you later, but I am so happy for you Leonard.

Leonard: (glum) Thank you. What did she mean she's happy for me? Is she happy because I'm seeing someone or is she happy because she thinks that I'm happy? (starting down stairs) Because anyone who cared for someone would want them to be happy. Even if the reason for their happiness made the first person unhappy. You know, because the second person, though happy, is now romantically unavailable to the first person.

Sheldon: Do you realize I may have to share a Nobel Prize with your booty call?

Leonard: You know what? I'm being ridiculous. But who cares what Penny thinks. Leslie is a terrific girl. She's attractive. We like each other. She's extremely intelligent.

Sheldon: She's not that intelligent.

Leonard: She fixed your equation.

Sheldon: She got lucky.

Leonard: You don't believe in luck.

Sheldon: I don't have to believe in it for her to be lucky.

Leonard: Regardless, I have a chance at a real relationship with Leslie. I'm not going to pass that up for some hypothetical future happiness with a woman who may or may not want me to be happy with a woman who is currently making me happy.

Sheldon: Leonard?

Leonard: Yeah.

Sheldon: I still don't care.

Scene 7 - Leslie's Lab at Caltech

(Leslie peels a banana and places it into a tall container that coughs an icy smoke. Leonard enters the lab.)

Leonard: (grinning) Hey, Leslie.

Leslie: Careful Leonard, liquid nitrogen. 320 degrees below zero.

Leonard: Burr!

(Leslie extracts the banana from the container and smashes it the table with a hammer.)

Leonard: Why are you smashing a flash frozen banana?

Leslie: Because I've got a bowl of Cheerios and I couldn't find a knife.

Leonard: So anyway. (hugging Leslie) Hello.

Leslie: Uh, what are you doing?

Leonard: Extending the intimacy. Hey, do you want to slip over to the radiation lab and share a decontamination shower?

Leslie: Okay, uh ... what exactly do you think is going on between us?

Leonard: (stepping back) I'm not sure but I think I'm about to discover how the banana felt.

Leslie: Listen, Leonard, neither of us are neuroscientists but we both understand the biochemistry of sex. I mean, dopamine in our brains is released across synapses causing pleasure. You stick electrodes in a rat's brain, give him an orgasm button, he'll push that thing until he starves to death.

Leonard: Who wouldn't?

Leslie: Well, the only difference between us and the rat is that you can't stick an electrode in our hypothalamus. That's where you come in.

Leonard: Yeah well, I'm just glad to be a part of it. So what happens now?

Leslie: (eating cereal) Well, I don't know about your sex drive but I'm probably good till New Years.

Leonard: (troubled) Oh. Okay. Thank you.

Leslie: Thank you!

Leonard: (begins to leave) Want to make plans for New Years?

Leslie: Whoa, Leonard please, you're smothering me.

Leonard: Sorry.

(Leonard exits the lab into the adjoining hallway. Howard and Rajesh see him and dash up to meet him.)

Howard: Hey look! It's Doctor Stud!

Leonard: Doctor what?

Howard: (smirking) The blogosphere is a-buzzin' with news of you and Leslie Winkle making eina-kleina-bang-bang-music.

Leonard: How did it get on the internet?

Howard: I put it there.

Leonard: Well, how did you know about it?

Rajesh: A little bird told us. Apparently you are a magnificent beast.

Leonard: (immodest) Well, that part's true.

Scene 8 - The Cheesecake Factory

(Leonard and Sheldon sit at a table eating burgers.)

Sheldon: You know, I think I may have misjudged this restaurant?

Leonard: No kidding.

Sheldon: I won't go out on a limb but I think we may be looking at my new Tuesday hamburger.

Leonard: Your old Tuesday hamburger will be so broken hearted.

Sheldon: Way ahead of you. I was thinking of moving Big Boy to Thursdays and just dropping Soup Plantation.

Leonard: Really?

Sheldon: Yeah. The name always confused me anyway, Soup Plantation. You can't grow soup.

Penny: (approaching table) So, how's everything.

Sheldon: (mouth full) Terrific. You'll be happy to know that I plan to come here every Tuesday night for the foreseeable future.

Penny: Really? Oh yay!

Sheldon: Who do I speak to about permanently reserving this table?

Penny: Um, I don't know. A psychiatrist? (to Leonard) So hey! how are things with you and Leslie?

Leonard: Oh-uh, to be honest, I don't think it's going to work out.

Penny: Oh. Oh that's too bad. Well hey, don't worry. I'm sure there is someone out there who is just right for you.

(Penny walks away, gently brushing Leonard on the shoulder as she goes.)

Leonard: W-what did she mean by that?! W-was that just a generic platitude or was that a subtle bid for attention?

Sheldon: You know why this hamburger surpasses the Big Boy? This is a single-decker hamburger whereas the Big Boy is a double-decker. This has a much more satisfying meat-to-bun-to-condiment ratio.

Leonard: (agitated) Are you even listening to me?

Sheldon: Of course I'm listening. Blah-blah, hopeless Penny delusion, blah-blah-blah.

Leonard: Okay then. You know, you can grow the ingredients for soup.

(Sheldon contemplates Leonard's suggestion and slightly nods to himself.)

[End Credits Roll]