

Series 1 | Episode 07 – The Dumpling Paradox

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Scene 1 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Sheldon fiddles with Xbox cables on the back of the television while Howard shows off his cell phone to Leonard and Rajesh.)

Howard: Watch this, it's really cool. (into phone) Call Leonard Hofstadter.

Cell phone: Did you say, call Helen Boxleitner?

Howard: (into phone) No. Call ... Leonard ... Hofstadter.

Cell phone: Did you say, call Temple Beth Sader?

Howard: (into phone) No!

Leonard: Here, I-le-let me try. (into phone) Call McFlono McFloonyloo.

(Leonard and Rajesh chuckle at his stunt.)

Cell phone: Calling Rajesh Koothrappali.

(Rajesh's cell phone rings and he looks at Howard, stunned.)

Rajesh: (checking his phone) Oh! That's very impressive. And a little racist.

Sheldon: If we're all through playing mock the flawed technology, can we get on with Halo night? (checking watch) We were supposed to start at eight. It is now eight-oh-six.

Leonard: So? We'll start now.

Sheldon: Yes, first we have to decide if those lost six minutes will be coming out of game time, bathroom time, or the pizza break.

Rajesh: We can split it two, two, and two.

Howard: If we're having anchovies on the pizza we can't take it out of bathroom time.

(Someone knocks at door.)

Sheldon: Oh, what fresh hell is this?

(Leonard opens the door.)

Leonard: Hey Penny, come on in.

Penny: Hey guys.

Howard: See a Penny, pick her up, and all the day you'll have good luck.

Penny: (to Howard) No you won't. (to Leonard) Can I hide out here for a while?

Leonard: Sure. What's going on?

Penny: Well, there's this girl I know from back in Nebraska, Christy. Well, anyway, she called me up and she's like, "Hey, how's California?" And I'm like "Awesome!" 'Cause, you know, it's not Nebraska, and the next thing I know she's invited herself out here to stay with me.

Sheldon: (waving Xbox controller) eight-oh-eight.

Penny: Anyway, she got here today and she's just been in my apartment yakkety-yakking about every guy she's slept with in Omaha--which is basically every guy in Omaha--and washing the sluttiest collection of underwear you have ever seen in my bathroom sink.

Howard: Is she doing it one thong at a time or does she just throw it all in? Like some sort of erotic bouillabaisse.

Penny: (to Leonard) He really needs to dial it down.

Leonard: So, if you don't like this Christy why are you letting her stay?

Penny: Well, she was engaged to my cousin while she was sleeping with my brother so she's kind of family.

Sheldon: Yeah, I apologize for my earlier outburst. Who needs Halo when we can be regaled with the delightfully folksy tale of the whore of Omaha?

Leonard: Oh, I don't think she's a whore.

Penny: No-yeah. she's definitely a whore. I mean, she has absolutely no standards. This one time, she was at ... where's Howard?

Howard: (from hallway outside) Bonjour mademoiselle, I understand you are new in town.

Sheldon: Oh good grief.

[Series Title Sequence]

Scene 2 - Hallway, Outside Penny's Apartment

(Romantic music plays from inside Penny's apartment. Leonard, Penny, Rajesh, and Sheldon stand, staring at Penny's apartment door.)

Penny: Ugh! I cannot believe Christy let Howard into my apartment.

Sheldon: And I cannot believe people pay for horoscopes but on a more serious note it's eight-thirteen and we're still not playing Halo.

Leonard: Okay, fine! We'll just play one on one until he gets back.

Sheldon: One-on-one? We don't play one-on-one. We play teams, not one-on-one. (scoffing) One-on-one.

Leonard: Well the only way we can play teams at this point is if we cut Raj in half.

Rajesh: Oh sure, cut the foreigner in half. There's a billion more where he came from.

Penny: Hey, if you guys need a fourth, I'll play.

Leonard: Great idea!

Sheldon: (aghast) Uh, nooo. The wheel was a great idea. Relativity was a great idea. This is a notion, and a rather suck-y one at that.

Penny: (surprised) Why?

Sheldon: Why? Oh-ho-ho, Penny-Penny-Penny.

Penny: Oh-ho-ho, what-what-what?

Sheldon: This is a complex battle simulation with a steep learning curve. There are myriad weapons, vehicles, and strategies to master not to mention an extremely intricate back-story.

(Penny picks up a controller and begins playing.)

Penny: Oh cool! Whose head did I just blow off?

Sheldon: Mine.

Penny: Okay, I got this. Lock and load boys!

Leonard: (to Sheldon) It's the only way we can play teams.

Sheldon: Yes, but whoever's her partner will be hamstrung by her lack of experience and not to mention that fact that sh-

Penny: Hah-ha! There goes your head again!

Sheldon: Okay, this isn't at all good sportsmanship to shoot somebody who's just re-spawned. You need to give them a chance to--(Penny shoots his character again)--Now come on!

(Time advances slightly, the four vigorously play the game.)

Sheldon: Raj! Raj, she's got me cornered! Cover me!

Penny: Cover this, suckers! Hah-ha!

Leonard: Penny, you are on fire!

Penny: (pointing at TV) Yeah, so is Sheldon.

Sheldon: Okay! That's it! I don't know how but she is cheating. No-one can be that attractive and be this skilled at a video game.

(Sheldon begins to walk away.)

Penny: Wait, wait! Sheldon, come back, you forgot something.

Sheldon: What?

Penny: This plasma grenade. (pressing a button on the controller) Hah! Look! It's raining you!

Sheldon: You laugh now. You just wait until you need tech support!

(Sheldon leaves to his bedroom.)

Penny: Gosh, he's kind of a sore loser, isn't he?

Leonard: Well, to be fair he is also a rather unpleasant winner.

Penny: Well, it's been fun.

Leonard: You know Penny, we make such a good team maybe we could enter a couple of Halo tournaments some time.

Penny: (shrugging) Or we could just have a life.

Leonard: I guess for you that's an option.

Penny: Good night, Leonard.

Leonard: Good night.

Penny: As usual, nice talking to you Raj.

(Penny exits the apartment.)

Rajesh: What do you suppose she meant by that?

Leonard: She's an enigma, Raj.

Sheldon: (returning) And another thing, there is a certain ethic to the game, Penny, a well estab-

Leonard: She's gone, Sheldon.

Sheldon: Well she could have said goodbye.

(Penny suddenly re-enters the apartment.)

Penny: Okay, I have a problem-

Sheldon: It's called carpal tunnel syndrome and quite frankly you deserve it.

Leonard: What's wrong?

Penny: Well, um ... Howard and Christy are kind of hooking up in my bedroom.

Leonard: Are you sure?

Penny: Look, I grew up on a farm, okay? From what I heard they're either having sex or Howard's caught in a milking machine. Do you mind if I stay here tonight?

Leonard: No--take the couch. Or my bed, I just got new pillows ... hypo-allergenic.

Penny: The couch is good.

Sheldon: Hold that thought. Leonard, a moment.

(Sheldon and Leonard walk away to hold a private discussion.)

Leonard: Let me guess, you have a problem with this.

Sheldon: Where do I begin?

Leonard: It's up to you. Crazy person's choice.

Sheldon: Well first, we don't have house guests. Frankly, if I could afford the rent I'd ask you to leave.

Leonard: Your friendship means a lot to me as well. What else?

Sheldon: Well ... our earthquake supplies. We have a two-day, two-man kit.

Leonard: So?

Sheldon: So, if there's an earthquake and the three of us are trapped here we could be out of food by tomorrow afternoon.

Leonard: I'm sorry, are you suggesting that if we let Penny stay we might succumb to cannibalism?

Sheldon: No-one ever thinks it will happen until it does.

(Leonard re-approaches Penny.)

Leonard: Penny, if you promise not to chew the flesh off our bones while we sleep you can stay.

Penny: (disbelief) What?

Sheldon: He's engaging in reductio ad absurdum. It's the logical fallacy of extending someone's argument to ridiculous proportions and then criticizing the result ... (facing Leonard) ... and I do not appreciate it.

Leonard: I'll get you a blanket and a pillow.

Sheldon: Okay, well since I'm obviously being ignored here ... let's go over the morning schedule. I use the bathroom from seven to seven-twenty. Plan your ablutions and bodily functions accordingly.

Penny: How am I supposed to plan my bodily functions?

Sheldon: I suggest no liquids after eleven PM.

Leonard: Here you go.

Penny: Thanks Leonard.

(Penny begins to place her pillows on the left side of the couch.)

Sheldon: Hmm-hmm, wrong!

Penny: I'm listening.

Sheldon: Your head goes on the other end.

Penny: Why?

Sheldon: It's culturally universal. A bed, even a temporary bed, is always oriented with the headboard away from the door. It serves the ancient imperative of protecting oneself against marauders.

Penny: I'll risk it.

Sheldon: Hmm!

Penny: Anything else I should know?

Sheldon: Yes. (pointing) If you use my toothbrush I'll jump out that window. Please don't come to my funeral. Have a good night.

(Sheldon quickly leaves.)

Leonard: Sorry about that.

Penny: That's okay.

Leonard: FYI, his toothbrush is the red one in the Plexiglas case under the UV light.

Penny: (chuckling) Got it.

Leonard: Well ... sleep tight.

Penny: Thanks!

(Leonard begins to leave, then pauses.)

Leonard: Funny expression ... "sleep tight." It refers to the early construction of beds which featured a mattress suspended on interlocking ropes which would occasionally ... (Penny turns and looks at him wearily) ... sleep tight.

(Penny turns off the light, lays down, and prepares to sleep. Suddenly, Rajesh is seen in the now dark kitchen, eating a sandwich. He is shocked that no one noticed his presence. He slowly stalks out of the apartment. As he closes the door, Penny hears the noise and becomes nervous--switching her pillows to the right side of the couch.)

Scene 3 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Carrying his morning breakfast, Sheldon walks into the living room where Penny still sleeps. Realizing that she sleeps in his spot he awkwardly attempts to angle himself on the edge of the cushion near her head. Leonard enters.)

Leonard: What are you doing?

(Sheldon quickly moves away, approaching Leonard.)

Sheldon: Every Saturday since we have lived in this apartment, I have awakened at six-fifteen, poured myself a bowl of cereal, added a quarter cup of 2% milk, sat on this end of this couch, turned on BBC America, and watched Doctor Who.

Leonard: Penny's still sleeping.

Sheldon: Every Saturday since we have lived in this apartment, I have awakened at six-fifteen, poured myself a bowl of cereal-

Leonard: I know-I know! Look, you have a TV in your room. Why don't you just have breakfast in bed?

Sheldon: Because I am neither an invalid nor a woman celebrating Mother's Day.

Penny: (waking) Ugh, what time is it?

Leonard: Almost six-thirty.

Penny: I slept all day?

Leonard: Oh, no--it's 6:30 in the morning.

Penny: (grimacing) What the hell is your problem?

Sheldon: Okay, this cereal has lost all its molecular integrity. I now have a bowl of shredded wheat paste.

(Howard enters wearing a purple bathrobe.)

Howard: Hola, nerdmgos!

Penny: Why do you people hate sleep? (noticing Howard's attire) Are you wearing my robe?

Howard: Oh ... yeah sorry. I'll have it cleaned.

Penny: That's okay. Keep it. Where's Christy?

Howard: In the shower. Oh by the way--where did you get that luffa mitt? Yours reaches places that mine just ... won't.

Penny: (disgusted) You ... you used my luffa?

Howard: More precisely, we used your luffa. (to Leonard and Sheldon) I exfoliated her brains out!

Penny: You can keep that too.

Howard: Ah, well then we'll probably need to talk about your stuffed bear collection.

Christy: (in distance) Howard?

Howard: In here my lady.

(Christy enters.)

Christy: Hmm. There's my little engine that could.

Howard: Chicka-chicka-chicka-chika-chicka ...

(Christy and Howard kiss.)

Sheldon: Well there's one beloved children's book I'll never read again.

Christy: (turning to Leonard) Hi, Christy.

Leonard: Leonard.

Sheldon: I'm Sheldon.

Christy: Right, you're Howard's entourage.

(Leonard and Sheldon look at one another in dismay.)

Penny: So Christy, what are your plans?

Christy: Oh, well, Howard said he'd take me shopping in Beverley Hills.

Penny: Yeah-no, I meant plans to find some place to live. You know, other than with me. Not that I don't love having you, but it-it's a little crowded.

Leonard: Penny, you're always welcome to stay with us.

Sheldon: Oh, terrific! Now we're running a cute little B&B.

Howard: Let me offer a little outside the box thinking here, why doesn't Christy stay with me?

Leonard: For one thing you live with your mother.

Howard: I do not--my mother lives with me.

Sheldon: Well then it's all settled, Christy will stay with Howard, Penny can go back to her apartment, and I'll watch the last 24 minutes of "Doctor Who." Although at this point it's more like "Doctor Why Bother."

Leonard: Sheldon you just can't dictate-

Sheldon: No more talking! Everybody go!

Howard: So, what do you say? You want to repair at a Castle Wolowitz?

Christy: What is that, like a Mexican deli?

Howard: I'm sorry, I should have mentioned this earlier. My last name is Wolowitz.

Christy: Oh! That's so cool! (looking at Penny) My first Jew!

Sheldon: I imagine there aren't many kosher corn huskers.

Christy: But you're still taking me shopping, right?

Howard: Anything you want.

Christy: Okay! I'll go pack my stuff.

(Christy leaves to Penny's apartment.)

Howard: When they perfect human cloning I'm going to order twelve of those.

Leonard: Howard, can't you see she's using you?

Howard: Who cares! Last night she pulled off her blouse and I wept!

Penny: Look, Howard, I know her, okay? She'll have sex with anyone as long as they keep buying her things.

Howard: Really?

Penny: Yeah.

Howard: Yay! If you'll excuse me, I have some Bar Mitzvah bonds to cash.

Scene 4 - Chinese Restaurant

(Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon sit while perusing menus.)

Sheldon: (irritated) I'm sorry, we cannot do this without Wolowitz.

Leonard: We can't order Chinese food without Wolowitz?

Sheldon: Let me walk you through it. Our standard is--the steamed dumpling appetizer, General Tso's chicken, beef with broccoli, shrimp with lobster sauce, and vegetable lo-main. Do you see the problem?

Leonard: I see a problem.

Sheldon: Our entire order is predicated on four dumplings and four entrees divided amongst four people.

(Sheldon holds his hand out to Howard's fourth, empty seat at the table.)

Leonard: So, we'll just order three entrees.

Sheldon: Fine. What do you want to eliminate and who gets the extra dumpling?

Rajesh: We could cut it into thirds.

Sheldon: Then it is no longer a dumpling. Once you cut it open it is at best a very small open faced sandwich.

Waiter: Hi fellows. Oh, where's your annoying little friend who thinks he speaks Mandarin?

Sheldon: He's putting his needs ahead of the collective good. (pointing toward waiter) Where he comes from that's punishable by death.

Waiter: I come from Sacramento.

Leonard: Can we get an order of dumplings but with three instead of four.

Waiter: No substitutions.

Leonard: This isn't a substitution, it's a reduction.

Waiter: Okay. No reductions.

Leonard: Fine. Bring us three orders of dumplings. That's twelve, we'll each have four.

Rajesh: That works-

Sheldon: No, if we fill up on dumplings we'll need to eliminate another entree.

Waiter: No eliminations.

Leonard: If we have extra we'll just take the leftovers home.

Sheldon: And divide it how? I'm telling you we cannot do this without Wolowitz.

Leonard: Wolowitz is with his new girlfriend. If you had let me invite Penny then you would have had your fourth.

Sheldon: Have you seen Penny eat Chinese food? She uses a fork and she double dips her egg rolls.

Leonard: We don't order egg rolls.

Sheldon: Exactly! But we'd have to if she was here.

Rajesh: Can we please make a decision? Not only are there children starving in India there's an Indian starving right here.

Leonard: Here's an idea--why don't we just go out for Indian food.

Sheldon: No.

Rajesh: Ugh.

Waiter: You are nice boys. Tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to bring you the four dumplings. When I'm walking over to the table, maybe I get bumped? One of the dumplings falls to the floor, no-one has to know.

Sheldon: I'll know.

(Mumbling to himself in Mandarin, the waiter leaves.)

Rajesh: How about soup?

Leonard: Yeah, we can always divide soup.

Sheldon: What about the won-tons?

Scene 5 - Hallway, Outside Penny's Door

(Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon wait for Penny to answer the door. Penny opens the door wearing a snazzy "night-out" outfit.)

Penny: Oh! Hey guys, what's up?

Sheldon: It's Halo night.

Penny: Yeah, okay ... so?

Leonard: Well with Wolowitz spending all of his time with your friend Christy-

Penny: She's not my friend. Friends do not get their friend's care bears all sweaty.

Leonard: Right. Anyway, with Wolowitz occupied elsewhere we had something we wanted to ask you. Sheldon?

Sheldon: Yes ... (clearing throat) ... Penny. We would very much appreciate it if you would be the fourth member of our Halo team. I don't think I need to tell you what an honor this is.

Penny: Oh, that's so sweet but I'm going out dancing with a girlfriend.

Sheldon: You can't go out--it's Halo night.

Penny: Well, for Penny it's dancing night.

Sheldon: You go dancing every Wednesday?

Penny: No.

Sheldon: Then it's not dancing night.

Penny: Look, why don't I play with you guys tomorrow?

Sheldon: Tonight is Halo night! (to Leonard and Rajesh) It's like talking to a wall.

Penny: (agitated) Alright now Sheldon, you and I are about to have a problem.

(Sheldon shifts uncomfortably.)

Leonard: Sheldon? Remember, we role-played this.

Sheldon: Yes, but you didn't portray her as completely irrational.

Penny: Alright fellows, I've got to go but good luck.

(They watch Penny exit down the stairs.)

Leonard: Maybe we should have asked if we could go dancing with her and her girlfriend.

Sheldon: Okay, assuming we could dance--which we can't--there are three of us and two of them.

Leonard: So?

Sheldon: It's the Chinese restaurant all over again. I assure you that cutting a dumpling in thirds is child's play compared with three men each attempting to dance with 67% of a woman.

Leonard: Argh! For God's sake! Sheldon, you are driving me crazy.

Sheldon: Your anger's not with me, sir, but with basic mathematics.

Leonard: No, I'm pretty sure my anger's with you.

Rajesh: What's happening to us? We're falling apart!

(Sheldon suddenly dials a number on his cell phone.)

Leonard: Who are you calling?

Sheldon: The only man who can restore any semblance of balance to our universe.

Cell Phone Speaker: (Howard) Hi, this is Howard Wolowitz.

Cell Phone Speaker: (Christy) And this is Christy Van Derbell.

Cell Phone Speaker: (Howard) We can't get to the phone right now because we're having sex.

Cell Phone Speaker: (Christy) You're not going to put that on your message are you?

Cell Phone Speaker: (Howard) No, I'm just kidding, I'll re-record it.

(The answering machine "leave message" sound plays.)

Scene 6 - Howard's House, Exterior

(Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon approach the front door.)

Leonard: Sheldon, think this through. You're going to ask Howard to choose between sex and Halo.

Sheldon: No, I'm going to ask him to choose between sex and Halo 3. As far as I know, sex has not been upgraded to include high-def graphics and enhanced weapon systems.

Leonard: You're right. All sex has is nudity, orgasms, and human contact.

Sheldon: My point.

Christy: (inside house) I'm just saying you can take the damned plastic off the couch once in a while!

Mrs. Wolowitz: (inside house) Why?! So you and Howard can hump on it?!

Howard: (inside house) Ladies, ladies ... I'm sure there's a middle ground.

Christy and Mrs. Wolowitz: (inside house) Shut up Howard!

Howard: (inside house) You girl's talk. I'm going to take my scooter out for a little spin.

Christy: (inside house) You happy? You drove your own son out of the house!

Mrs. Wolowitz: (inside house) Why don't you stop butting in where you don't belong!

(Howard comes through the front door and is surprised to see the other men. He wears his scooter helmet.)

Howard: Hey. What are you guys doing here?

Sheldon: (enthusiastic) It's Halo night.

Mrs. Wolowitz: (inside house) He's not a man! He's a putz! And don't you take that tone with me you gold digger.

Christy: (inside house) What did you call me?

Mrs. Wolowitz: (inside house) You heard me, and I'll tell you something else, you're barking up the wrong tree cause as long as you're around Howard is out of the will.

Christy: (inside house) You know what? I've got better offers! I'm out of here!

Mrs. Wolowitz: That's right, go back to Babylon you whore!

Howard: So Halo night, huh?

(The men begin to walk away.)

Rajesh: (to Sheldon) I thought she was the whore of Omaha?

Sheldon: Shh!

Scene 7 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Howard, Leonard, Rajesh, and Sheldon play Halo.)

Howard: Sheldon, you got him in your sights! Fire! He's charging his plasma rifle!

Sheldon: I can't shoot now, I'm cloaking.

Leonard: Now, Raj! Kill Sheldon!

Rajesh: I can't see him!

Sheldon: That's why they call it cloaking, dead man.

Leonard: Start throwing grenades!

Rajesh: I'm all out!

(Penny and three other pretty women enter the apartment.)

Penny: Hi guys, my friends and I got tired of dancing so we came over to have sex with you.

Leonard: That will do, Raj, straight for the tank!

Sheldon: We said no tanks!

Rajesh: There are no rules in hell!

Howard: Son of a bitch! Med-pack! I need a med-pack!

Penny: (to women) Told ya'!

(The women leave the apartment.)

Leonard: (to Rajes) There's a sniper. Use your rocket launcher.

Rajesh: All I've got is a needler and I'm all out of ammo!

Sheldon: And now you're out of life!

(Leonard pauses the game momentarily.)

Sheldon: Why did you hit pause?

Leonard: (confused) I thought I ... heard ... something.

Rajesh: What?

Leonard: No, never mind. Sorry, go.

(Leonard un-pauses the game and the men begin playing once more.)

[End Credits Roll]