

Series 1 | Episode 08 – The Grasshopper Experiment

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Scene 1 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Sheldon piflers through the contents of his wallet.)

Sheldon: Damn you, Walletnook.com!

Leonard: Problem?

Sheldon: The online description was completely misleading. They said eight slots plus removable ID. To any rational person that would mean room for nine cards but they don't tell you the removable ID takes up one slot. It's a nightmare.

Leonard: Okay-now, do you really need the honorary Justice League of America membership card?

Sheldon: It's been in every wallet I've owned since I was five.

Leonard: Why?

Sheldon: It says keep this on your person at all times. It's right here under Batman's signature.

(Someone knocks at the door. Howard and Rajesh enter after Leonard answers. Rajesh holds a laptop, his parents are displayed from their webcam in India.)

Rajesh: (to parents) This is Leonard and Sheldon's apartment.

Howard: Guess whose parents just got broadband.

Rajesh: Leonard, may I present ... live from New Delhi ... Doctor and Mrs. V.M. Koothrappali.

Leonard: Hi!

Dr. Koothrappali: Lift up the camera. I'm looking at his crotch.

Rajesh: Sorry papa.

Dr. Koothrappali: Oh, that's much better. Hi!

Leonard: Hi!

Rajesh: And over here is Sheldon.

Sheldon: Hi.

Rajesh: He lives with Leonard.

Mrs. Koothrappali: Oh, that's nice. Like Haroun and Tanveer.

Rajesh: No-no, not like Haroun and Tanveer.

Mrs. Koothrappali: Such sweet young men. They just adopted the cutest little Punjabi baby.

Leonard: We're not like Haroun and Tanveer!

Dr. Koothrappali: So are you boys academics like our son?

Leonard and Sheldon: Yes.

Dr. Koothrappali: And your parents are comfortable with your limited earning potential?

Leonard: Not at all.

Sheldon: Yes.

Rajesh: Papa, please don't start.

Dr. Koothrappali: God, it's just a question! (to wife) He's so sensitive.

Rajesh: Okay, that's my life-that's my friends-good to see you-say goodbye.

Dr. and Mrs. Koothrappali: Bye!

(Rajesh starts to close the laptop.)

Dr. Koothrappali: Wait! Wait! Before you go we have good news. Put the computer down and gather your friends.

Rajesh: What is it-

(Rajesh sits down with the laptop, the others don't yet gather around him.)

Dr. Koothrappali: Friends!

(The others gather around.)

Howard: Just me or does web chatting with your clothes on seem a little pointless?

Mrs. Koothrappali: Rajesh, do you remember Lalita Gupta?

Rajesh: The little fat girl that used to kick me in the samosas and call me untouchable?

Mrs. Koothrappali: Yes. Well, now she's a dental student at USC so we gave her your contact information.

Rajesh: (agitated) Why did you do that?!

Dr. Koothrappali: You're 26 years old Rajesh. We want grandchildren.

Rajesh: But Papa, I'm not suppos-

Mrs. Koothrappali: Lalita's parents approve the match.

Dr. Koothrappali: If you decide on a spring wedding we can avoid monsoon season.

Rajesh: (dismay) Spring wedding?

Mrs. Koothrappali: It's up to you dear. We don't want to meddle.

Rajesh: If you don't want to meddle then why are you meddling?

Sheldon: If I may, your parents probably don't consider this meddling. While arranged marriages are no longer the norm Indian parents continue to have a greater than average involvement in their children's lives.

Rajesh: Why are you telling me about my own culture?

Sheldon: You seemed confused.

Rajesh: Sorry, mommy-papa, but with all due respect I really can't go through-

Mrs. Koothrappali: (excited) Sorry darling, we have to go! Doogie Howser is on. (to someone off-screen) Grandma! It's Doogie time! Bye-bye!

Dr. Koothrappali: Bye bye.

Rajesh: (stunned) I don't believe it.

Howard: Neither do I. Doogie Howser's been off the air for like twenty years.

Leonard: Actually, I read somewhere that it's one of the most popular programs in India.

Sheldon: It might speak to a cultural aspiration to have one's children enter the medical profession.

Leonard: I bet you're right.

Howard: I bet they love Scrubs.

Sheldon: What's not to love?

Rajesh: Excuse me! Hello?! My parents are trying to marry me off to a total stranger! What am I going to do?

Sheldon: I suggest you go through with it.

Rajesh: What?

Sheldon: Romantic love as the basis for marriage has only existed since the nineteenth century. Up until then arranged marriages were the norm and it served society quite well.

Howard: It's the entire premise of Fiddler on the Roof.

Leonard: I'm not a big fan of musicals, but I love that show.

Howard: Me too. Of course, it speaks to me culturally.

Sheldon: Understandable, but there's a universality to that story which transcends ethnicity.

Howard: Let's not forget it's got some really catchy tunes.

(Howard, Leonard, and Sheldon descend into mumbled chatter about the musical.)

Rajesh: (glum) Okay, I know what I'm going to do.

Leonard: What?

Rajesh: Find new friends!

(Rajesh grabs his laptop and leaves the apartment.)

Howard: So who wants to rent Fiddler?

Sheldon: No need, we have the special edition.

Leonard: Well, maybe we are like Haroun and Tanveer.

[Series Title Sequence]

Scene 2 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Sheldon talks on the telephone while Howard and Leonard sit in the background texting to one another via their cell phones. They chuckle periodically.)

Sheldon: (on phone) This is Dr Sheldon Cooper. Yeah, I need to cancel my membership to the Planetarium Yeah, well I'm sorry too, but there's just no room for you in my wallet. Yeah, I understand but it was between you and the Museum of Natural History and frankly you don't have dinosaurs Well I'll miss you too, bye-bye. (hanging up) Okay, I know you're texting about me and I'd really like you to stop.

(Rajesh enters the apartment.)

Rajesh: Oh dear! I am rightly and truly screwed.

Leonard: Hey, I thought you were finding new friends.

Rajesh: I've got some feelers out. In the meantime listen to this.

Lalita: (via Rajesh's phone) Hi Rajesh, this is Lalita Gupta. Your mother gave my mother your phone number to give to me. So I'm calling you and uh ... call me back. Bye.

Rajesh: Can you believe how pushy she is?

Leonard: So, don't call her.

Rajesh: If I don't call her, I won't hear the end of it from my parents.

Leonard: So call her.

Rajesh: How can I call her, you know I can't talk to women.

Leonard: I'm done, anybody else?

Howard: Give me the phone.

Rajesh: Why?

Howard: Just give it to me.

(Howard dials the phone.)

Rajesh: What are you doing?

Howard: Don't worry, you'll thank me. (with exaggerated Indian accent) Hello Lalita! Raj Koothrappali. Yes, it is good to talk to you too. So, what are you wearing? Oh, not important! Ah, so anyhow, when would you like to meet? Friday works for me! And I call you with the time and place but in the meantime, keep it real babe.

(Howard hangs up the phone.)

Howard: (to Rajesh) You may now thank me.

Rajesh: For what, making me sound like a Simpsons character?

Howard: Fine, next time make your own date.

Rajesh: I didn't want to make this one.

Leonard: Look on the bright side--she might turn out to be a nice, beautiful girl.

Rajesh: Great, then we'll get married, I won't be able to talk to her and we'll spend the rest of our lives in total silence.

Howard: Worked for my parents.

(Penny enters the apartment.)

Penny: Hi guys.

Leonard: Oh, hey.

Penny: I need some guinea pigs.

Sheldon: Okay. There's a lab animal supply company in Reseda you could try. But if your research is going to have human applications may I suggest white mice instead? Their brain chemistry is far closer to ours.

Penny: I swear to God, Sheldon, one day I'm going to get the hang of talking to you.

Leonard: His mom's been saying that for years. What's up?

Penny: Well, I finally convinced the restaurant to give me a bar tending shift so I need to practice making drinks.

Leonard: Oh, great. Well the key to acquiring proficiency in any task is repetition.

Sheldon: With certain obvious exceptions. (to a puzzled Leonard) Suicide, for example.

Penny: So Leonard, how about it?

Leonard: Look Penny, we'd love to help you but Raj is going through some stuff right now. Besides, he doesn't drink, so

(Rajesh scurries over to Leonard and whispers in his ear.)

Leonard: Really? (to Penny) Um ... Raj is going through some stuff right now and he'd like to take up drinking.

Scene 3 - Penny's Apartment

(The men sit around Penny's kitchen bar as she mixes drinks.)

Penny: (offering drink) Okay, here you go, Leonard. One tequila sunrise.

Leonard: Thank you. (pointing at drink) This drink is a wonderful example of how liquids with different specific gravities interact in a cylindrical container. Thank you.

Penny: Okay Raj, what'll it be?

(Rajesh whispers to Leonard.)

Leonard: (to Penny) Whatever you recommend.

Penny: Uh-how about a Grasshopper? I make a mean Grasshopper. (Rajesh nods) Okay? Good, coming up! Sheldon, what are you going to have?

Sheldon: I'll have a diet coke.

Penny: Okay, can you please order a cocktail? I need to practice mixing drinks.

Sheldon: Fine. I'll have a virgin Cuba Libre.

Penny: That's, um ... rum and coke without the rum.

Sheldon: Yes.

Penny: So, coke.

Sheldon: Yes. And would you make it diet?

Penny: There's a can in the fridge.

Sheldon: A Cuba Libre traditionally comes in a tall glass with a lime wedge.

Penny: Then swim to Cuba.

Sheldon: Bartenders are supposed to have people skills.

Penny: (offering drink) Okay! Raj, here you go. Alright, who's next?

Howard: I'd like to try a slippery nipple.

Penny: Okay, you're cut off. Anybody need a refill?

Rajesh: (to a shocked Penny) Where did my life go, Penny? One day I'm a carefree bachelor and the next I'm married and driving a minivan to pee-wee cricket matches in suburban New Delhi.

Penny: (shocked) Are you talking to me?

Rajesh: Is there another Penny here? I had such plans. I had dreams. I was going to be the Indira Gandhi of particle astrophysics, but with a penis of course.

Leonard: It's amazing.

Rajesh: Ever since I was a little boy my father wanted me to be a gynecologist like him. How can I be a gynecologist, I can barely look a woman in the eye? You know what, I'm not going to let my parents control my future any longer! It's time for a showdown. Somebody give me a computer with a web cam.

Penny: Okay, sweetie? I think that's the Grasshopper talking.

Rajesh: And it's about to tell my parents that I'm not riding an elephant down the aisle with Lalita Gupta.

Penny: Okay, calm-calm down. No one can make you get married. Why don't you just meet this girl, see what happens?

Rajesh: Haven't you been listening to me? I cannot talk to women!

Leonard: Um, Raj.

Howard: No-no, let's see how long it takes him.

Penny: Um, Raj, honey. You say you can't talk to women but you've been talking to me.

Sheldon: And now we'll never know.

Rajesh: You're right. I ...I am-I am talking to you. Hello Penny! How are you?

Penny: (shaking Rajesh's hand) I'm fine.

Rajesh: Okay, now I just need to make sure I have a Lalita before I meet the Grasshopper. It's a sweet green miracle.

Penny: Okay, if you're going to drink on this date just promise me you won't overdo it.

Rajesh: Overdo what? Happiness? Freedom? This warm glow inside of me that promises everything is going to be all honkey-donkey?

Penny: Yeah, that. Why don't you bring her to my restaurant when I'm tending the bar so I can keep an eye on you?

Rajesh: (grinning) Okay.

Leonard: Wait a minute, what's the plan here? Let's say he meets her, he likes her, they get married. What's he going to do? Stay drunk for the rest of his life?

Howard: Worked for my parents.

Scene 4 - Bar at The Cheesecake Factory

(Lalita and Rajesh sit at a table. Rajesh sips a Grasshoper while Lalita looks on with boredom. Penny serves Leonard and Howard at the bar.)

Rajesh: (giddy) Can't believe I'm sitting here next to little Lalita Gupta.

Lalita: Well, you are!

Rajesh: Little Lalita. That's kind of fun to say. Little Lalita-little Lalita-little Lalita, You should try it.

Lalita: Oh, it's okay.

Rajesh: (loudly) You have lost so much weight! That must have been difficult for you because you were so, so fat! Do you remember?

Lalita: Yes, I do.

Rajesh: Of course you do. Who could forget being that fat?

Lalita: (uncomfortable) Well, I've been trying.

Rajesh: So you're a dental student? Mmm--are you aware that dentists have an extremely high suicide rate? Not as high as say, air traffic controllers, but then there are far more dentists than air traffic controllers so in pure numbers you're still winning.

Lalita: Yay me!

Leonard: (to Penny) You have a drink that'll make him less obnoxious?

Penny: Drinks do not work that way.

Howard: I'd say he was doing fine, look at her! Last girl my mom set me up with had a moustache and a vestigial tail.

(Sheldon enters the bar.)

Sheldon: Sorry, I'm late.

Leonard: What happened?

Sheldon: Nothing. I just really didn't want to come. (to Penny) Virgin diet Cuba Libre, please.

Penny: Okay.

Sheldon: (snarky) In a tall glass with a lime wedge.

Penny: Oh, I'll wedge it right in there.

Sheldon: So, how's Koothrappali do-oh my Lord.

Leonard: What?

Sheldon: That's Princess Panchali.

Leonard: I'm pretty sure her name's Lalita.

Sheldon: No-no, Princess Panchali from The Monkey and the Princess.

Howard: Oh, yeah. I tried to watch that online but they wanted a credit card.

Sheldon: (firmly) It's a children's story.

Howard: (shaking head) Oh no it isn't.

Sheldon: When I was a little boy and got sick, which was most of the time, my mother would read it to me. It's about an Indian princess who befriends a monkey who was mocked by all the other monkeys because he was different. For some reason I related to it quite strongly.

Penny: (raising hand) I know the reason.

Leonard: We all know the reason. Sheldon, what are you getting at?

Sheldon: That woman looks exactly like the pictures of Princess Panchali in the book. How often does one see a beloved fictional character come to life?

Howard: Every year at Comic Con. Every day at Disneyland, you can hire Snow White to come to your house. Course they prefer it if you have a kid.

(Lalita and Rajesh approach the others.)

Rajesh: Hey guys! This is Lalita Gupta. Lalita this is Leonard and Sheldon and Howard and Penny. Isn't it great? She isn't fat anymore!

Sheldon: (to Lalita) Forgive me your highness for I am but a monkey and it is in my nature to climb. I did not mean to gaze upon you as you comb your hair.

Lalita: (perplexed) I'm sorry?

Sheldon: You are the living embodiment of the beautiful Princess Panchali.

Lalita: Oh, no kidding? Who is that?

Sheldon: A beloved character from an Indian folk tale.

Lalita: Oh! Us Indian or come-to-our-casino Indian?

Sheldon: You Indian.

Lalita: Oh.

Sheldon: The resemblance is remarkable. I can practically smell the lotus blossoms woven into your ebony hair.

Lalita: (flattered) Well thanks. I imagine you smell very nice too.

Sheldon: I shower twice a day and wash my hands as often as I can.

Lalita: Really? So do I!

Rajesh: B-b-but you're a dentist. He's nuts.

Lalita: Don't be insulting, Rajesh. So Sheldon, tell me more about this princess you say I look like.

Sheldon: It was said that the Gods fashioned her eyes out of the stars and that roses were ashamed to bloom in the presence of her ruby lips.

Lalita: Oh my.

Rajesh: (angrily) Back off Sheldon.

Sheldon: What?

Rajesh: If you do not stop hitting on my lady you will feel the full extent of my wrath.

Sheldon: I'm not hitting on her.

Lalita: And I am not your lady.

Howard: And you have no wrath.

Rajesh: You are my lady! Our parents said so! We are for all intents and purposes one hundred percent hooked up.

Lalita: Okay, let's get something straight here! The only reason I came tonight was to get my parents off my case. Certainly don't need to be getting this old world crap from you.

Sheldon: That's exactly the kind of spirit with which Princess Panchali led the monkeys to freedom.

Rajesh: Oh, screw Princess Panchali!

Lalita: Hey, you can't talk to me like that.

Rajesh: But you're not Princess Panchali.

Sheldon: Luckily for you, she could have you beheaded.

Lalita: Sheldon, are you hungry?

Sheldon: I could eat.

Lalita: Let's go.

(Lalita takes Sheldon by the arm and leads him to a table.)

Rajesh: What just happened?

Leonard: Beats the hell out of me.

Howard: I'll tell you what just happened. I just learned how to pick up Indian chicks.

Scene 5 - Leonard and Sheldon's Apartment

(Leonard paces back and forth while Rajesh speaks with his parents via web cam.)

Mrs. Koothrappali: What are we supposed to say to Lalita's parents?

Dr. Koothrappali: I play golf with her father. I won't be able to look at him!

Rajesh: Maybe you should keep your eye on the ball, Papa.

Dr. Koothrappali: Oh, now you're a funny man? This is not funny, Mr. Funny Man!

Leonard: Doctor and Mrs. Koothrappali, in all fairness, it wasn't entirely Raj's fault.

Dr. Koothrappali: This is a family matter Sheldon.

Leonard: No, I'm Leonard.

Dr. Koothrappali: Oh sorry, you all look alike to us.

Rajesh: But he's right, Papa, listen to him!

(Sheldon enters the apartment.)

Rajesh: (pointing) You! You are the one who ruined everything!

Mrs. Koothrappali: Who is it? We can't see.

Dr. Koothrappali: Turn us! Turn us!

(Rajesh aims the laptop toward Sheldon.)

Rajesh: Go ahead. Tell my parents why they won't have any grandchildren.

Sheldon: How would I know? Do you have a low sperm count?

Rajesh: This has nothing to do with my sperm count.

Mrs. Koothrappali: You are wearing the boxers that we sent you, aren't you Rajesh?

Rajesh: Yes Mommy.

Mrs. Koothrappali: Because you know what happens to the samosas when you wear the tighty-whities.

Rajesh: Can we please stop talking about my testicles? Sheldon, tell them what you did!

Sheldon: What did I do?

Leonard: You left with his date. Friends don't do that to each other.

Sheldon: (realization) Oh. Alright, noted. (to Rajesh) Sorry.

Rajesh: Sorry? That's all you can say is sorry?

Leonard: Take it, Raj. It's more than I've ever gotten.

Sheldon: And may I point out, she wouldn't have asked me to go with her if you hadn't been drunk and boring.

Dr. Koothrappali: Drunk?-

Sheldon: (leaning toward laptop screen) And boring! Her words.

Dr. Koothrappali: I knew it! He moves to America and becomes an alcoholic.

Rajesh: I'm not an alcoholic.

Dr. Koothrappali: Then why were you drunk?

Rajesh: Just this one time, Papa. I swear.

Dr. Koothrappali: Are you in denial? Do we have to come over and do an intervention?

Mrs. Koothrappali: Don't embarrass him in front of his friends!

Dr. Koothrappali: Alright. Carry us outside. We want to talk to you in private.

Rajesh: But Papa, please-

Dr. Koothrappali: Now, Rajesh!

(Rajesh grasps his laptop and rises from his seat.)

Rajesh: I have to go.

Dr. Koothrappali: Now listen to me-

Rajesh: Please wait until I get into the hall!

(Rajesh exits the apartment.)

Sheldon: Okay, well good night.

Leonard: Hold on. What happened with you and Lalita?

Sheldon: We ate. She lectured me on the link between gum disease and heart attacks, nothing I didn't already know, and I came home.

Leonard: So you're not going to see her again?

Sheldon: Why would I see her again? I already have a dentist.

(Sheldon leaves to his bedroom. Leonard stands in thought for several seconds.)

Leonard: (to self) I wonder who's going to tell his parents they're not having grandchildren.

Scene 6 - Bar at The Cheesecake Factory

(Sheldon plays a keyboard and sings to an audience of bar patrons. Leonard and Penny watch from the bar. Sheldon momentarily stops singing and drinks from a soda resting on the keyboard.)

Leonard: I don't believe it! What's gotten into him?

Penny: (holding a bottle of rum) Oh, maybe a couple of virgin Cuba Libres that turned out to be kind of slutty.

Leonard: You didn't?

Penny: (gleefully) Hey! You do your experiments, I do mine.

(They laugh as Sheldon continues to sing and play in the background.)

[End Credits Roll]