

THE BIG BANG THEORY

"The House Guest Protocols"

Written by

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

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

SHELDON SHUFFLES DOWN THE HALLWAY INTO THE KITCHEN WHILE YAWNING AND TYING HIS ROBE. HE TAKES A GLASS FROM THE CABINET AND OPENS THE REFRIGERATOR AND TAKES OUT A CARTON OF MILK.

HE PAUSES, CRANES HIS NECK, AND LOOKS ON TOP OF THE REFRIGERATOR. HE SHRUGS AND TURNS TO THE KITCHEN ISLAND AND POURS MILK.

A CEREAL BOX ON TOP OF THE REFRIGERATOR FALLS OVER. SHELDON STRAIGHTENS UP. HE TURNS, STEPS TO THE REFRIGERATOR, AND LOOKS AT THE TOP.

ANGLE ON: SHELDON IS FACE TO FACE WITH A WHITE MOUSE. HE SCREAMS (NON-STOP) AND STUMBLES BACKWARD INTO THE CENTER OF THE LIVING ROOM.

LEONARD AND PENNY DASH OUT OF THE HALL INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

LEONARD

Sheldon, what is going on?

PENNY

Holly crap Sheldon, what happened?

SHELDON

In there. On the fridge. It's, it's

PENNY

What!

SHELDON

A mouse.

LEONARD

Oh, for crying out loud.

PENNY

A mouse? Sheldon, I grew up in Nebraska. It's just a mouse.

SHELDON

Just a mouse? It's cousin wiped out a
third of Europe. Just a mouse?

SHELDON MOVES TO HIS COMPUTER.

LEONARD

(TO SHELDON) What are you doing?

SHELDON

I'm looking for an exterminator.

LEONARD

It's three a.m., Sheldon.

SHELDON

Which would suggest I am searching for
an emergency exterminator. (A LOOK AT
LEONARD) Really, Leonard.

LEONARD SHAKES HIS HEAD AND LOOKS AT PENNY.

PENNY

(TO SHELDON) Sweetie, it's just a
mouse. You're from Texas. Surely you
had mice in Texas.

SHELDON

Yes. And we also had cats. What's your
point?

PENNY

I don't know. I don't have time for
this. I have to work in the morning.
We have to work in the morning.

SHELDON

Suit yourself. Sleep well knowing the
possible start of the next plague is
loose in the apartment.

THE MOUSE SCURRIES ACROSS THE FLOOR TOWARD PENNY. SHE SCREAMS
AND JUMPS UP INTO THE CHAIR.

LEONARD AND SHELDON LOOK AT HER IN CONFUSION.

SHE RAISES A FINGER TO EACH OF THEM.

PENNY

Not a word.

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

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

PENNY STANDS AT THE KITCHEN ISLAND DRESSED IN HER BUSINESS CLOTHES AND SIPS COFFEE. SHE CAN BE SEEN FROM THE LIVING ROOM.

LEONARD SITS IN THE BIG CHAIR NEXT THE COUCH IN THE LIVING ROOM, HIS KNEES TOGETHER. HE HOLDS HIS COFFEE MUG WITH BOTH HANDS, GLANCING DOWN AT IT, AND THEN BACK UP TO PENNY.

SHELDON BOUNCES DOWN THE HALLWAY AND AROUND THE CORNER INTO THE KITCHEN. HE STOPS AND LOOKS AT PENNY WITH A BRIGHT BIG SMILE ON HIS FACE.

SHELDON

Good morning, Penny.

SHE ONLY STARES AT HIM. SHELDON LOOKS AT LEONARD.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Good morning, Leonard.

LEONARD

Oh, no it's not. (SHAKING HIS HEAD)

SHELDON LOOKS BACK TO PENNY AND THEN DOWN TO TOP OF THE ISLAND.

SHELDON

I realize you must think I overreacted
this morning.

PENNY

Ya' think?

SHELDON

But you know how I feel about germs
and such.

PENNY

Sheldon, it was a mouse. Pasadena has
mice. Texas house mice. There are mice
everywhere.

SHELDON

But you see, rodents carry diseases,
and fleas bite the rodents, and...

PENNY HOLDS HER HANDS IN THE AIR.

PENNY

I don't want to hear it, Sheldon.

SHELDON

(TO LEONARD) A little help here.

(JERKING HIS HEAD TOWARD PENNY)

LEONARD

You're on your own on this one, buddy.

PENNY

I am exhausted, Sheldon. All because
you freaked out over a little mouse.

SHELDON

As I recall, you too...

PENNY HOLDS UP A FINGER TO SHELDON

PENNY

Leonard and I need more time at my
apartment.

SHELDON LOOKS AT LEONARD WHO ONLY SHRUGS. HE THEN LOOKS AT
THE FLOOR.

SHELDON

I see. Well, I'm sorry, but that just
isn't possible.

PENNY

Excuse me?

SHELDON

Per the addendum to the roommate
agreement...

PENNY

The roommate agreement is between you
and Leonard.

SHELDON

Au contraire, my dear, Penny. When you
and Leonard agreed to divide your time
between the two apartments, you signed
the addendum.

PENNY

I never signed any addendum.

SHELDON

(TO LEONARD) And to think it took you
so long to get her to marry you.

PENNY

Oh, God, I don't have time for this.

What did I sign?

SHELDON MOVES FROM THE KITCHEN TO HIS DESK. HE REACHES THE FILE CABINET AND PRODUCES A FOLDER AND OPENS IT.

SHELDON

(READING) Addendum to the Roommate

agreement signed (TO PENNY) by Penny,

(READING) section 2, paragraph 4.

Quote: Penny further agrees that,

until such time that Sheldon is more

comfortable being alone, the number of

days she and Leonard sleep here will

never decrease.

PENNY LETS OUT A GRUNT, STORMS ACROSS THE LIVING ROOM TO THE DOOR, GRABS HER PURSE AND OPENS THE DOOR. SHE STOPS AND TURNS AND STARES DOWN SHELDON.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

I emailed you the PDF.

PENNY

This isn't over, crazy man.

SHE LEAVES, SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HER.

SHELDON LOOKS AT LEONARD.

LEONARD

Sheldon, you in danger, boy.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. BERNADETTE'S CAR - DAY (DAY 1)
(Bernadette, Wolowitz)

BERNADETTE IS DRIVING. WOLOWITZ IS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT.

BERNADETTE

So I was thinking we need to start
planning the nursery.

WOLOWITZ

The guest bedroom? Sure. Do whatever
you want.

BERNADETTE

This is something we're going to do
together. And I was talking about your
room. The guest room isn't big enough.
Besides, that'll be the sitting room.

HE LOOKS AT HER WIDE MOUTHED. SHE GLANCES AT HIM.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

What?

WOLOWITZ

My room? Are you kidding.

BERNADETTE

(EXASPERATED) No, I'm not kidding.

WOLOWITZ

But it's *MY* room. I grew up in that room. All of my childhood memories are in that room. All my stuff is in that room. (BEAT) It's my Fortress of Solitude.

HE SUDDENLY GETS SERIOUS AND STRAIGHTENS UP.

WOLOWITZ (CONT'D)

(IN A DEEP VOICE) It's my Bat Cave.

BERNADETTE

Oh, my God, Howard. You said you were going to start taking things seriously. We have a baby coming for heaven's sake. Your child.

HE SMILES

WOLOWITZ

Who will enjoy growing up playing with my cool stuff.

BERNADETTE

Give it a rest. You won't even let me touch your stuff.

HE SMILES, PUTS HIS ARM ON THE SEAT BEHIND HER HEAD AND LEANS IN.

WOLOWITZ

(IN A SEXY VOICE) I let you touch my stuff all the time.

BERNADETTE

Get off me!

WOLOWITZ

Wait a minute. This isn't about the nursery at all. It's about...

BERNADETTE

(SCREAMING) Of course it's about the nursery!

HE COWERS AGAINST THE PASSENGER DOOR.

BERNADETTE (CONT'D)

I'm picking you up from work today and we're going to Everything Babies.

HE SIGHS AND PUTS HIS HEAD DOWN.

WOLOWITZ

Fine.

BERNADETTE

And quit moping. So help me, if Leonard tells me you moped around all day (BEAT). No desert.

WOLOWITZ

Awww.

CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA - DAY (DAY 1)
(Sheldon, Koothrappali, Wolowitz, Leonard)

KOOTHRAPALI, WOLOWITZ, AND LEONARD SIT AT THE TABLE AS SHELDON APPROACHES, PUTS HIS TRAY DOWN, AND SITS.

SHELDON

Good day, gentlemen.

KOOTHRAPALI

Hey, Sheldon, I know a guy who can
give you a good price on mouse traps.

THEY LAUGH. SHELDON GLARES AT LEONARD.

WOLOWITZ

(TO SHELDON) What do you think Penny
is going to do?

SHELDON UNFOLDS HIS NAPKIN AND PLACES IT IN HIS LAP.

SHELDON

There's nothing she can do. She signed
the addendum. It's ironclad.

LEONARD

I don't know, she's become pretty
industrious.

KOOTHRAPPALI

She's been hanging around us a long time.

SHELDON

Your inference that intelligence can be gained by the simple process of osmosis is preposterous.

KOOTHRAPPALI

That's not what I'm saying.

WOLOWITZ

Be careful Sheldon. You don't want her getting too comfortable. She'll make you get rid of your stuff.

THEY ALL LOOK AT HIM. HE LOWERS HIS HEAD.

LEONARD

Wait. What? What's going on?

WOLOWITZ

Bernie wants to turn my room into a nursery.

LEONARD

What about the guest room?

WOLOWITZ PUTS HIS HANDS UP AND SHRUGS.

WOLOWITZ

Apparently you need a whole room just to sit around in with a baby. Who knew?

SHELDON

Actually she is confusing the term
sitting room with living room.

KOOTHRAPALI

Oh no. What are you going to do?

WOLOWITZ

I don't know. I'll figure something
out. I can't just box up all my stuff
and shove it in storage.

SHELDON

Nope. Would never happen to me. Never
in a million years.

LEONARD

(TO SHELDON) Sheldon, you in danger,
boy.

SHELDON GIVES HIM A QUICK GLANCE.

KOOTHRAPALI'S PHONE CHIMES. HE PULLS IT OUT. LOOKS AT IT AND
GROANS.

WOLOWITZ

What's the matter?

KOOTHRAPALI

I met this girl on a creepy dating
site and she won't leave me alone.

LEONARD

Just tell her you're not interested.

WOLOWITZ LEANS OVER AND LOOKS AT KOOTHRAPALI'S PHONE. HIS
EYEBROWS SHOOT UP.

WOLOWITZ

I can see why he's having trouble
telling her no.

KOOTHRAPALI HOLDS HIS PHONE OUT SO LEONARD AND SHELDON CAN
SEE THE SCREEN. THEY BOTH LOOK.

LEONARD

Wow.

SHELDON

Oh, dear Lord. Another redhead? What
is it with you and redheads?

LEONARD

Wasn't Emily creepy enough?

SHELDON

Yes. She was.

KOOTHRAPALI

That's not the worst of it.

KOOTHRAPALI PULLS HIS PHONE BACK AND MANIPULATES IT. HE
SHOWS IT TO HOWARD WHO GRIMACES. HE SHOWS IT TO SHELDON AND
LEONARD. SHELDON LETS OUT A QUICK, SHARP SCREAM.

LEONARD

Oh. My. God.

SHELDON

A clown? You show me a clown? Are you
out of your mind.

WOLOWITZ

That's not just any clown. That looks
like a costume from that eighties
movie, "Killer Klowns From Outer
Space."

KOOTHRAPPALI

(SMILING) Yeah. She said it's her favorite.

LEONARD

You're smiling, so what's the problem.

KOOTHRAPPALI

I don't know. Maybe if I meet her. I'll decide then.

WOLOWITZ

Just send her a text and tell her you don't want to meet her and to leave you alone.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Dude. That is so rude. She wants to meet me tomorrow night at her clown club. Will someone go with me as back up?

SHELDON

A clown club? Count me out. I don't go near clowns since I was four and punched one in the face.

THE ALL LOOK AT SHELDON.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

He scared me.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Leonard?

LEONARD

Not a chance.

KOOTHRAPPALI LOOKS AT WOLOWITZ WITH PUPPY DOG EYES.

WOLOWITZ

Are you kidding? I've got my own crisis right now. I have to figure out how to save my stuff.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Come on, dude. What about all those years playing your (HE MAKES QUOTES WITH HIS FINGERS) wing man? I was with you when we met those Goth girls and you almost got a tatoo.

WOLOWITZ HANGS HIS HEAD DOWN. KOOTHRAPPALI'S FACE LIGHTS UP. HE GETS VERY SERIOUS.

KOOTHRAPPALI (CONT'D)

What about the time you made me go to your mom's house all alone and have dinner with her. Huh? And I got trapped. You owe me, dude. God rest her soul. But you owe me.

WOLOWITZ PICKS AT HIS FOOD WITH HIS FORK. HE GLANCES AT EACH OF THE GUYS IN TURN.

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. OFFICE - DAY (DAY 1)
(Penny, Tom)

PENNY STANDS IN FRONT OF A LARGE BOOK CASE AND LOOKS AT BOOKS. THERE IS A LARGE WOODEN DESK IN FRONT OF A WINDOW.

THE DOOR OPENS AND TOM WALKS INTO THE ROOM AND UP TO PENNY WITH HIS HAND OUT. PENNY TAKES HIS HAND.

TOM

Hello, I'm Thomas Moorland, Esquire.

PENNY

Penny. Thanks for meeting with me
Thomas.

TOM

Please, call me tom.

SHE SMILES.

PENNY

Okay. Tom.

TOM WALKS BEHIND HIS DESK AND SITS. HE MOTIONS PENNY TO A CHAIR AND SHE SITS.

TOM

My secretary gave me your message and
the PDF you sent. It appears you have
some sort of (confused) roommate
agreement problem?

SHE NODS.

PENNY

Yes. Mhmm.

SHE RUBS HER NECK.

TOM

Oh, I see. This is some sort of
dispute with your landlord.

SHE LAUGHS.

PENNY

Oh, God no.

HE TURNS PAGES OVER READING THEM. HE TURNS MORE PAGES. MORE
READING. HE STARTS TO TURN PAGES FASTER AND FASTER. UNTIL HE
FINALLY STOPS AND LOOKS UP WITH A PERPLEXED EXPRESSION.

TOM

So...

HE SHUFFLES AND READS MORE PAGES.

TOM (CONT'D)

This is a legal matter.

PENNY HOLDS HER HANDS OUT PALM UP. SHE ALTERNATELY RAISES AND
LOWERS THEM. SHE TILTS HER HEAD FROM SIDE TO SIDE.

PENNY

Well...sorta...kinda.

SHE NODS HER HEAD.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Yeah, no.

TOM

You realize I am a lawyer. I practice
law.

PENNY'S FACE CHANGES TO A FIERCE SCOWL. SHE POINTS HER FINGER AT HIM.

PENNY

Now, you listen here, buddy. I've got a good job. I make good money. I'll pay whatever you want.

SHE WAVES HER ARMS IN THE AIR. SHE STANDS AND SLAMS HER HANDS ONTO HIS DESK AND LEANS IN.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(DESPERATION) You've gotta help me, Tom. You have no idea what it's like. His constant ramblings. His stupid little facts.

SHE PUTS HER HANDS ON HER HIPS AND MIMICS SHELDON.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Sheldon. Here's an interesting fact. And you want to know something, Tom?

SHE PUTS HER HANDS ON HIS DESK AGAIN AND SLAPS THE DESK WITH EACH SYLLABLE.

PENNY (CONT'D)

The facts are never that freaking interesting!

SHE COLLAPSES INTO THE CHAIR EXHAUSTED.

TOM'S FACE IS FILLED WITH FEAR.

TOM

Well, I'm not sure whether to call the police for my own safety or yours. But I might have something for you.

SHE LEANS IN EXCITED.

PENNY

Whata ya got? Whata ya got?

TOM

In the addendum to the roommate agreement, section 2, paragraph 4 states: Penny further agrees that, until such time that Sheldon is more comfortable being alone, the number of days she and Leonard sleep here will never decrease.

SHE MAKES A ROLLING MOTION WITH HER HANDS.

PENNY

Yeah, yeah. Keep going.

TOM

Since the trouble seems to be his being alone, you just need to make him *not* alone.

PENNY

He already tried that. He went back in time.

TOM

Pardon?

PENNY

Never mind. He doesn't get along well with others.

TOM

Perhaps you could find the least
objectional person. Say, a temporary
house guest.

SHE STRAIGHTENS UP IN HER CHAIR.

PENNY

Can I do that?

TOM

The agreement doesn't state
specifically that you can't. I'm
surprised he missed it. He seems quite
intelligent.

SHE WAVES HIM OFF.

PENNY

Yeah, yeah, he's a freakin' genius.

SHE SITS QUIET. CONTEMPLATING. HER EYES GO WIDE.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Amy! Oh, my God. Amy!

SHE SMILES BIG AND MAKES A FIST IN TRIUMPH.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Red alert. Warp speed to the Cooper
Zone.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE