

# the **Big** **BANG** **THEORY**

"The Monopolar Expedition"

#222

Written by

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&  
Richard Rosenstock

Directed by

Mark Cendrowski

Production #3T7372

FINAL DRAFT  
April 6, 2009

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## Tentative Production Schedule [as of 4/3/09]

ALL LOCATIONS: WARNER BROS. **STAGE 25** UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

### **MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009**

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8:30 am - 9:30 am	ESU/Crew Call
9:30 am - 2:30 pm	Camera Block
9:30 am - TBD	Publicity on Set (E! Online, TV Guide) Cast Interviews - print only
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Publicity on Set (ET)/Cast Interviews, B-Roll
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Lunch
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Camera Block/Touch-ups
4:00 pm - TBD	Preshoot Scenes H, K, A

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009**

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11:30 am - 12:00 pm	ESU/Crew Call
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Camera Refresh
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Camera Run-Thru
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Hair/Make-up
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Dinner
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Load Audience/Warm-up
5:45 pm - 7:00 pm	Continue Hair/Make-up
6:55 pm - 7:00 pm	Cast Intros
7:00 pm - TBD	Shoot Show
TBD -	Pick-ups (as needed)

All Dates and Times Listed Are Subject to Change. This Does Not Constitute a "Work Call" For Any Date or Time

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## Cast

LEONARD ..... Johnny Galecki  
SHELDON ..... Jim Parsons  
PENNY ..... Kaley Cuoco  
WOLOWITZ ..... Simon Helberg  
KOOTHRAPPALI ..... Kunal Nayyar  
MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.) ..... Carol Ann Susi  
DR. KOOTHRAPPALI ..... Brian George  
MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI ..... Alice Amter

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## Cues and Effects

- P2 SFX: Computer chimes
- P7 SFX: Toilet flush
- P25 SFX: Operation buzz
- P25 SFX: Operation buzz
- P33 Lighting: Sheldon turns on a lamp

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Scientific and Unfamiliar Terms

ACT	SCENE	DAY/NIGHT					
I	Cold Open	N1	INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (1)				
			(Leonard, Sheldon)				
	A	N1	INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM/INT. LEONARD'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT (5)				
			(Leonard, Sheldon)				
			INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (6)				
				INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APT - CONTINUOUS (7)			
				(Leonard, Sheldon)			
	B	D2	INT. 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY (10)				
			(Leonard, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)				
				INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APT - CONTINUOUS (11)			
				(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)			
	C	D3	INT. 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY (16)				
(Sheldon, Penny)							
			INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APT - CONTINUOUS (18)				
			(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny)				
II	D	D4	INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY - THE NEXT DAY (22)				
			(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Extras)				
	E	D4	INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY WALK-IN FREEZER - MOMENTS LATER (23)				
			(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)				
	H	N4	INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (27)				
			(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Dr. Koothrappali, Mrs. Koothrappali, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.))				
				INT. 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS (31)			
				(Leonard, Penny, Mrs. Koothrappali (O.S.), Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.))			
	J	N4	INT. SHELDON'S BEDROOM - LATER (33)				
				(Leonard, Sheldon)			
K	D5	INT. 4 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR HALLWAY - MORNING (37)					
		(Leonard, Penny)					
			INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (39)				
			(Penny)				
Tag	D6	EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - DAY (40)					
		INT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS (40)					
		(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)					
			EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS (43)				
			(Sheldon (O.S.))				

COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

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

LEONARD IS WORKING AT A WHITE BOARD. HE'S DIAGRAMMING A SCHEMATIC FOR AN EXPERIMENT. SHELDON IS SITTING IN HIS SPOT READING A SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL. SHELDON PUTS THE MAGAZINE DOWN, PICKS UP HIS CUP OF TEA AND CROSSES TOWARD THE KITCHEN, STOPPING FOR A MOMENT TO LOOK AT LEONARD'S WORK.

SHELDON

(QUIETLY, RE: LEONARD'S WORK) Oh,  
boy.

SHELDON CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN WHERE HE MAKES HIMSELF A NEW CUP OF TEA.

LEONARD

What?

SHELDON

I can't comment without violating our agreement that I not criticize your work.

LEONARD

Then what was "oh boy"?

SHELDON

Great restraint on my part.

LEONARD

There's nothing wrong with the science  
here.

SHELDON

Perhaps you mean a different thing  
than I do when you say "science."

LEONARD STUDIES THE BOARD AND QUICKLY MAKES A SERIES OF  
CHANGES. SHELDON CROSSES BACK AND LOOKS AT THE BOARD.

LEONARD

Okay, how's that?

SHELDON

You actually had it right in the first  
place. Once again, you've fallen for  
one of my classic pranks. Gotcha.

AS LEONARD FIXES THE BOARD, SHELDON'S COMPUTER CHIMES.

SFX: COMPUTER CHIMES

SHELDON STOPS TO LOOK AT IT.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(RE: COMPUTER) Here's a peculiar  
e-mail. The president of the university  
wants me to meet him at his office  
tomorrow morning at eight a.m.

LEONARD

Why?

SHELDON

It doesn't say. It must be an  
emergency.

(MORE)



SHELDON (CONT'D)

Everyone at the university knows I eat  
breakfast at eight and move my bowels  
at eight twenty.

LEONARD

Thanks to your Facebook page, that is  
common knowledge. (THEN) I guess  
you'll find out what it is in the  
morning.

SHELDON

That's fourteen hours away. For the  
next eight hundred and forty minutes,  
I'm effectively one of Heisenberg's  
particles. I know where I am or I  
know how fast I'm going, but I can't  
know both! How am I supposed to carry  
on with this huge annoying thing  
hovering over my head?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

LEONARD

Yeah, I know the feeling.

LEONARD TURNS BACK TO THE BOARD, UNCAPS A MARKER AND STARTS  
TO WRITE.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

How'd the red cap get on the blue  
marker?

SHELDON

(LISTLESSLY) Gotcha. (THEN) Look at  
that. I'm so rattled, I can't even enjoy  
another of my classic pranks.

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM/INT. LEONARD'S  
BEDROOM/INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT  
NIGHT (NIGHT 1)  
(Leonard, Sheldon)

\*

SHELDON KNOCKS ON LEONARD'S DOOR.

SHELDON

(KNOCKS) Leonard. (KNOCKS) Leonard.

(KNOCKS) Leonard.

LEONARD OPENS THE DOOR IN HIS SLEEP CLOTHES.

LEONARD

Sheldon, it's two o'clock in the  
morning.

SHELDON

Why does everybody keep telling me  
what time it is?

LEONARD

Everybody?

SHELDON

You, the president of the university,  
his wife, their sullen teenage  
daughter. The entire family is  
fascinated by what time it is and  
whether people know it.

LEONARD

You went to President Seibert's house  
in the middle of the night?

LEONARD CROSSES INTO THE HALL. SHELDON FOLLOWS. \*

RESET TO: \*

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LEONARD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS \*  
(Leonard, Sheldon) \*

SHELDON \*

He didn't respond to my e-mail, his  
phone number is unlisted. Tell me  
what my other option was.

LEONARD

You could have waited till the  
morning. (OFF HIS LOOK) I know, look  
who I'm talking to.

LEONARD CROSSES INTO THE BATHROOM. \*

SHELDON \*

Do you remember the grant proposal I  
submitted to the National Science  
Foundation to detect slow-moving  
monopoles at the magnetic North Pole?

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Well, space opened up at the last  
minute on the N.S.F. Expedition to the  
Arctic Circle.

LEONARD (O.S.)

Wait a minute.

SFX: TOILET FLUSH

THE DOOR OPENS. LEONARD COMES OUT.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

He offered to send you to the North  
Pole?

SHELDON

Yes. In fact, he was quite  
enthusiastic. He said, "Frankly, if I  
could send you tonight, I would."

LEONARD CROSSES TO THE KITCHEN. SHELDON FOLLOWS.

RESET TO:

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

LEONARD HEATS A CUP OF WARM SOY MILK.

LEONARD

Okay. Do you want to go?

SHELDON

Of course not. I'm a theoretical  
physicist, a career I chose in no  
small part because it's indoors.

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(THEN) But, if I'm able to detect  
slow-moving magnetic monopoles there,  
I'll be the scientist who confirmed  
string theory. People will write  
books about me. Third graders will  
create macaroni-art dioramas depicting  
scenes from my life.

LEONARD

Sure. Maybe a tableau of me trying to  
pummel you to death.

SHELDON

Sarcasm?

LEONARD

Maybe.

SHELDON

I am on the horns of a dilemma. Can  
you imagine me, Sheldon Cooper, at the  
North Pole?

LEONARD

Easy-peasy. I'm doing it right now.

SHELDON

But I'm not good with cold, Leonard.  
How often have we had to leave a movie  
theater because I got a headache from  
drinking the Icee too fast? I can't  
go.

LEONARD

Then don't go.

SHELDON

How can you say that? The scientific opportunity of a lifetime presents itself and my best friend says don't go?

LEONARD

All right, go.

SHELDON

Listen to you. How can I possibly go?

LEONARD

Sheldon, what are the words I can say right now that will end this conversation and let me go back to sleep?

SHELDON

Odd. President Seibert posed the exact same question.

LEONARD

And how was it resolved?

SHELDON

It wasn't. His wife set their dogs on me and rendered the question moot.

AND WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT -  
THE NEXT DAY (DAY 2)  
(Leonard, Wolowitz, Koothrappali) / (Leonard, Sheldon,  
Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE COMING UP THE STAIRS.

WOLOWITZ

Just imagine. If he says yes, we'll  
have an entire summer without Sheldon.

KOOTHRAPPALI

We could play outside.

LEONARD

I could crack my knuckles in the  
living room and whistle.

WOLOWITZ

We could get through an entire meal  
without a lecture on "Ten Things You  
Didn't Know About Corn."

A BEAT.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Our dreams are very small, aren't  
they?

THEY ENTER THE APARTMENT.

RESET TO:



INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS  
(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

THEY ENTER. SHELDON IS SITTING IN HIS SPOT. HE IS LOOKING  
AT MAPS AND INFORMATION, ETC.

SHELDON

Good news, gentlemen. I have  
tentatively accepted--

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI CHEER AND GIVE EACH OTHER  
HIGH FIVES.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

--the invitation to join the arctic  
expedition.

WOLOWITZ/LEONARD/KOOTHRAPPALI

(SOMBERLY) We're gonna miss you,  
buddy. / Yeah, won't be the same  
without you. / Godspeed.

SHELDON

Thank you. But your display of  
sentiment and longing for me may be  
premature and unnecessary.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Oh, I don't like where this is going.

SHELDON

I would like to propose that the three  
of you accompany me.

WOLOWITZ

To the North Pole?

SHELDON

Yes.

KOOTHRAPALI

Is this just so we won't touch your  
stuff while you're away?

SHELDON

I'll admit that was a concern. But  
the fact is, I'll need a support team  
and the three of you are my first  
choice.

WOLOWITZ

Really?

SHELDON

Well, there are others who might be  
more qualified but the thought of  
interviewing them gave me a  
stomachache. Now I know I'm proposing  
an enormous undertaking, so why don't  
you take a few moments to discuss it?

SHELDON EXITS TO HIS ROOM.

WOLOWITZ

We're not really gonna go to the North  
Pole with him, are we?

SHELDON (O.S.)

I'm still within earshot. You may  
want to wait for my door to close.

A BEAT. WE HEAR SHELDON'S DOOR CLOSE.

WOLOWITZ

We're not really gonna go to the North Pole with him, are we?

LEONARD

Well, hang on, let's talk about it. This is a National Science Foundation expedition. I don't see how we can turn it down.

WOLOWITZ

Easy. Instead of saying, "no, we don't want to go on an N.S.F. expedition," say, "no, we don't want to spend three months stuck in a cabin in the Arctic Circle with an anal nutbag."

\*

KOOTHRAPALI

But if we were part of the team that confirmed string theory, we could drink for free in any bar in any college town with a university that has a strong science program.

\*

LEONARD

Howard, this is big science. You could be the engineer who builds the equipment that puts us on the cover of magazines.

WOLOWITZ

I could also be the engineer who  
builds the crossbow that kills  
Sheldon.

KOOTHRAPALI

You still might get on a magazine.

WOLOWITZ

So you guys are seriously considering  
this.

LEONARD

Yes.

WOLOWITZ

(TO KOOTHRAPALI) And you think you  
can put up with Sheldon?

KOOTHRAPALI

Well, I'm a Hindu. My religion  
teaches that if we suffer in this life  
we're rewarded in the next. Three  
months at the North Pole with Sheldon,  
and I'm reborn as a well-hung  
billionaire with wings!

SHELDON ENTERS FROM HIS BEDROOM.

SHELDON

Well, gentlemen, have you reached a  
decision?

LEONARD TAKES A MOMENT, THEN:

LEONARD

I'm in.

KOOTHRAPALI

Me, too.

THEY BOTH LOOK AT HOWARD.

WOLOWITZ

Oh, dammit. Peer pressure. Fine.

SHELDON

Excellent. Just an FYI, when we're  
deployed, protocol dictates that be  
phrased, "Fine, sir." But don't  
worry, there will be a briefing.

SHELDON CROSSES BACK TO HIS ROOM. THE GUYS LOOK AT EACH  
OTHER.

KOOTHRAPALI

I can feel my wings growing already.

AND WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT -  
THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)

(Sheldon, Penny) / (Leonard, Sheldon, Penny)

SHELDON'S AT PENNY'S DOOR.

SHELDON

(KNOCKS) Penny.

PENNY (O.S.)

Sheldon.

SHELDON

(KNOCKS) Penny.

PENNY (O.S.)

Sheldon.

SHELDON

(KNOCKS) Penny.

THE DOOR OPENS REVEALING PENNY.

PENNY

All right, I give up. What do you  
want?

\*

SHELDON

I need access to the Cheesecake  
Factory's walk-in freezer.

PENNY

Sheldon, I told you, the hamburger  
meat is fresh and stored at a safe  
temperature.

SHELDON

No. This is to train for a three-  
month expedition to the magnetic North  
Pole.

PENNY

What?

SHELDON

I don't know how that sentence could  
possibly confuse you, but to  
elaborate, I'm going to the Arctic  
Circle with Leonard, Wolowitz and  
Koothrappali.

PENNY

You're all going?

SHELDON

Yes.

PENNY

(CONSIDERS FOR A BEAT, THEN) Excuse  
me.

PENNY CROSSES PAST SHELDON TOWARD THE GUYS' APARTMENT.

SHELDON

Is that a yes or a no on the freezer?

(THEN, TO HIMSELF) The woman has the  
attention span of a gnat.

PENNY CROSSES INTO THE APARTMENT.

RESET TO:

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

AROUND THE ROOM IS ASSORTED GEAR: A PARKA, THERMALS, ETC.  
PENNY ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY SHELDON, AS LEONARD EMERGES FROM  
HIS ROOM.

PENNY

Hey, Leonard. Sheldon says you're  
going to the North Pole.

LEONARD

Yeah. Pretty cool, huh?

PENNY

Yeah. I'm just a little surprised you  
didn't tell me.

LEONARD

Well, it all happened kind of fast.  
We had to get physicals and thermal  
underwear and study up on, you know,  
snow and stuff. Sorry, I was gonna  
tell you.



PENNY

Hey, no, you don't have to apologize.  
There's no reason you have to tell me.  
I just was... surprised.

SHELDON

Yes, yes, you were busy, you were  
surprised, all very fascinating. Now  
where do we stand on the freezer?

PENNY

(TO LEONARD) Is he serious?

LEONARD

It actually would help.

PENNY

(TO SHELDON) All right, I'll see what  
I can do. (THEN, TO LEONARD) Wow,  
three months in the North Pole. That  
is... awesome.

LEONARD

Yeah.

PENNY

Should I get your mail or forward it  
to you?

LEONARD

No, we're going to have the post  
office hold it.

SHELDON

I'm sorry, but at what point do you  
put this "see what you can do" plan  
into action?

PENNY

Just a warning, Sheldon: The freezer  
locks from the outside.

PENNY EXITS.

LEONARD

Did she seem upset to you?

SHELDON

No. Did she seem upset to you?

LEONARD

No.

SHELDON

Oh good, I got it right. (THEN,  
TENTATIVELY) And... are you upset?

LEONARD

A little.

SHELDON

(HAPPILY) Ooh, I'm two for two.

LEONARD

I know she's not my girlfriend or  
anything, but wouldn't you think she'd  
feel a little bad that I'm going to be  
gone for the whole summer?

SHELDON

That feels like a bonus question. I'm  
going to stop here while I'm ahead,  
but I've had a great time.

SHELDON CROSSES INTO HIS BEDROOM. ON LEONARD'S REACTION, WE:

END OF ACT ONE

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

SCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 4)  
(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Extras)

THE GUYS ENTER, WEARING FULL ARCTIC GEAR -- GIANT PARKAS, SNOW SUITS, HEAVY BOOTS, GOGGLES, ETC. THEY CARRY SOME LARGE BOXES AND TOOL KITS. EVERYONE ELSE IN THE PLACE IS DRESSED FOR A WARM SUMMER DAY. PENNY APPROACHES.

PENNY

For god's sake, didn't I tell you to  
go in the back door?

LEONARD

We couldn't open it with our mittens.

PENNY

Well, get going. We have to do this  
before my manager wakes up.

THE GUYS CROSS OFF. PENNY TURNS TO A NEARBY CUSTOMER.

PENNY (CONT'D)

The kids with their clothes these  
days. Who can keep track?

AND WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY FREEZER - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 4)  
(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

THE INSIDE OF A LARGE WALK-IN FREEZER, RINGED WITH BOXES.  
THE GUYS ARE THERE AND UNPACKING THEIR BOXES AND TOOL KITS.

SHELDON

All right, the purpose of this drill  
is to acclimate us to the use of tools  
in extreme temperatures such as we  
will face in the Arctic Circle.

KOOTHRAPALI

Where are your tools?

SHELDON

(POINTING AT HIS HEAD) Right here.

(THEN) All right, team, open your  
practice kits.

DURING THE FOLLOWING, LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPALI OPEN  
BOXES AND TAKE OUT THE ITEM SHELDON DESCRIBES:



THEY EACH BEGIN WORKING ON THEIR PROJECTS.

SFX: OPERATION BUZZ

WOLOWITZ

Oh, dammit. I killed my patient.

LEONARD

I can't push any of the buttons with  
my gloves. (TAKES THE GLOVE OFF,  
THEN) Sonofabitch.

LEONARD PUTS THE GLOVE BACK ON. KOOTHRAPPALI OPENS THE PAINT  
BOTTLE WITH HIS MOUTH.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Oh, I think I swallowed some paint.

SHELDON

Adversity is to be expected.  
Continue.

SFX: OPERATION BUZZ

WOLOWITZ

Oh boy, am I gonna get sued.

LEONARD

I can't do this.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Me, either.

SHELDON

Gentlemen, use your imagination.  
Innovate. Did Han Solo let Luke  
Skywalker freeze to death on the ice  
planet of Hoth? No.

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

He cut open a tauntaun and used its  
internal body heat to warm him up.

A BEAT. WOLOWITZ TURNS TO LEONARD.

WOLOWITZ

You heard the man. Hold him down and  
I'll cut him open.

LEONARD

(TO WOLOWITZ) Hang on. (THEN, TO  
SHELDON) I know I don't possess the  
"toolbox" of leadership, but I don't  
understand why we can't assemble the  
equipment inside the hut and then take  
it outside.

SHELDON

(CONSIDERS, THEN) I hadn't thought of  
that. I guess we're done here.

AND AS SHELDON STARTS TO EXIT, WE:

CUT TO:



SCENE H

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT/INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY -  
NIGHT (NIGHT 4)

(Leonard, Sheldon, Penny, Wolowitz, Koothrappali, Dr.  
Koothrappali, Mrs. Koothrappali, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.) /  
(Leonard, Penny, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.), Mrs. Koothrappali  
(O.S.))

KOOTHRAPPALI IS TALKING TO HIS PARENTS ON HIS LAPTOP. LEONARD  
AND WOLOWITZ ARE IN THE KITCHEN.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Mummy, Daddy, I have some great news.

DR. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

You finally met a girl?

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

Is she Indian?

ANGLE ON: SHELDON HANDING OUT CUPS OF HOT CHOCOLATE, EACH  
WITH A STICK OF BUTTER, TO LEONARD AND WOLOWITZ.

SHELDON

Here, drink slash eat this.

LEONARD

What is it?

SHELDON

Hot chocolate with a stick of butter.

WOLOWITZ

Why?

SHELDON

Because in the frigid temperatures in  
the Arctic, we need to consume at  
least five thousand calories a day  
just to maintain our body weight.

LEONARD

Sheldon, you know I can't eat butter.  
I'm lactose intolerant.

SHELDON

Way ahead of you. That's an I Can't  
Believe It's Not Butter Stick.

\*

HE AND WOLOWITZ DRINK AS WE ANGLE ON: KOOTHRAPPALI ON THE  
COUCH, TALKING TO HIS LAPTOP.

KOOTHRAPPALI

But Mummy, all the other guys are  
going to the North Pole.

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

I don't care what the "other guys" are  
doing. If the "other guys" jumped in  
the Bay of Bengal and tried to swim to  
Sri Lanka, would you follow them?

KOOTHRAPPALI

If you were standing behind me  
nagging, I might.

\*

\*

DR. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

Don't talk back to your mother. This  
trip is much too dangerous, Rajesh.

KOOTHRAPPALI

No, it's not. Howard, tell them.

HOWARD SITS DOWN ON THE COUCH NEXT TO RAJ.

WOLOWITZ

(TO THE COMPUTER) Dr. and Mrs.

Koothrappali, namaste. I understand your concern, but if it'll make you feel any better, my mother's fine with me going and this is a woman who kept a safety rail on my bed until I was seventeen.

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

So she has no problem with her son being eaten by a walrus?

SHELDON JOINS THEM AS WOLOWITZ TAKES OUT HIS CELL PHONE AND DIALS.

SHELDON

That's very unlikely, Mrs. Koothrappali. If Raj dies, it'll be from frostbite, gangrene, acute sunburn or being ripped to shreds by a fifteen-hundred pound polar bear.

WOLOWITZ

(INTO PHONE) Ma, I'm putting you on speakerphone with Raj's parents. Can you tell them that you're okay with me going to the Arctic?

MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

Arctic? I thought you said Arkansas!

WOLOWITZ

I didn't say that! You never listen  
to me!

MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

He doesn't tell me anything! He lives  
a secret life because he's ashamed!

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

This is who you're travelling with?

DR. KOOTHRAPPALI (ON LAPTOP)

A boy who dishonors his mother?

WOLOWITZ

I don't dishonor my mother. Ma, tell  
them I don't dishonor you.

MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

He doesn't dishonor me. He just runs  
halfway around the world so he can  
have sex with loose Eskimo women.

WOLOWITZ

Oh, that part she heard.

THE THREE-WAY ARGUMENT CONTINUES AS PENNY LEANS IN.

PENNY

Hey, Leonard. Can I talk to you for a  
minute?

LEONARD

Sure, but let's do it out here.

Little quieter.

THEY STEP INTO THE HALLWAY.

RESET TO:

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

(Leonard, Penny, Mrs. Wolowitz (O.S.), Mrs. Koothrappali  
(O.S.))

LEONARD

What's up?

PENNY

I got you a little going away present.

SHE HANDS LEONARD A SMALL PACKAGE AND HE OPENS IT. IT'S A  
SNUGGY.

LEONARD

Oh, a blanket.

PENNY

Not just a blanket. Look, it has  
sleeves so you can be all snoodled up  
and still do your science stuff.

LEONARD

Wow, cool.

PENNY

I don't know, maybe it looks a little  
dorky.

LEONARD

That's all right. Have you met the  
people I'm going with?

\*

\*

\*

\*

PENNY

I'm gonna miss you. \*

PENNY GIVES HIM A HUG THAT LASTS A LITTLE TOO LONG, THEN  
CROSSES BACK INTO HER APARTMENT. LEONARD TAKES THIS IN FOR A  
MOMENT AND CROSSES BACK INTO HIS APARTMENT WHERE WE HEAR:

MRS. KOOTHRAPPALI (O.S.)

I told you no. Why don't you believe  
me?

MRS. WOLOWITZ (O.S.)

'Cause it doesn't make sense to me.  
How can it be that in the entire  
country of India, there isn't one  
Outback Steakhouse?

AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE J

INT. SHELDON'S BEDROOM - LATER (NIGHT 4)  
(Sheldon, Leonard)

SHELDON IS IN BED. LEONARD ENTERS.

LEONARD

Sheldon. Sheldon?

SHELDON

(WAKING UP) I want a cookie, Meemaw!

LEONARD

Sheldon, it's me.

SHELDON

Oh. How disappointing. I was about  
to have a cookie.

LEONARD

Listen, I don't know if I can go on  
the expedition.

SHELDON TURNS ON A LAMP.

\*

SHELDON

What?

LEONARD

I don't think I can go to the North  
Pole.

SHELDON

Okay. Leonard, I know you're concerned about disappointing me, but I want you to take comfort from the knowledge that my expectations of you are very low.

LEONARD

Yeah, that is comforting.

SHELDON

Comforting is part of leadership. Not a part I care for but such is my burden.

LEONARD

Terrific. It's just that I don't think Penny wants me to go.

SHELDON

Assuming that's a valid reason not to go -- which it isn't -- how do you know this? Did she say it?

LEONARD

Not exactly. But she said she'd miss me and she gave me this.

HE HOLDS UP THE SNUGGY.

SHELDON

What is it?

LEONARD

It's a blanket with sleeves.



SHELDON

Oh, that's clever. Let me see if I understand this correctly. Her missing you is an emotional state you find desirable?

LEONARD

Yeah, obviously.

SHELDON

All right. Well, given that missing you is predicated on you leaving, logic dictates you must leave.

LEONARD

Yeah, okay, but I'm gonna be gone for three months. What if she doesn't miss me that long and meets somebody else?

SHELDON

She does have a short attention span coupled with bosoms, subcutaneous fat and a pelvic structure that potential breeding partners find appealing.

\*

LEONARD

Exactly. So I can't go.

SHELDON

Leonard, you may be right. It appears that Penny secretly wants you in her life in a very intimate and carnal fashion.

LEONARD

You really think so?

SHELDON

Of course not. Even in my sleep-deprived state, I was able to pull off another one of my classic pranks.

Bazinga!

AND WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY/INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 5)  
(Leonard, Penny) / (Penny)

LEONARD KNOCKS. PENNY ANSWERS THE DOOR IN HER SLEEP CLOTHES.

PENNY

Leonard, what time is it?

LEONARD

Seven a.m. Sorry it's early, but we're  
leaving soon and I needed to talk to you.

PENNY

Okay.

LEONARD

What did you mean when you said you're  
going to miss me?

PENNY

I don't know. You'll be gone and...  
I'll notice.

LEONARD

Oh. Okay, (HOLDING UP THE SNUGGY)  
what about this? What does this mean?

PENNY

Wine, a credit card and late-night  
television are a bad combination?

LEONARD

All right, fine. What about that  
really long hug? What did that mean?

PENNY

That wasn't a long hug.

LEONARD

It was at least five Mississippis. A  
standard hug is two Mississippis tops.

PENNY

Leonard, I don't know what to tell  
you. It was just a hug.

LEONARD

Okay, thanks. I'm glad we cleared  
that up. I guess I'll see you.

PENNY

Yeah, have a nice trip.

LEONARD

Thank you. Bye.

PENNY

Bye.

SHE CLOSSES THE DOOR. WE STAY ON HIS SIDE. LEONARD TURNS AND  
SADLY WALKS BACK TO HIS APARTMENT.

RESET TO:

The Big Bang Theory #222  
April 6, 2009

"The Monopolar Expedition"  
FINAL DRAFT

39.  
(II/K)

INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS  
(Penny)

PENNY

(TO HERSELF) It was six Mississippis. \*

PENNY HEADS FOR HER BEDROOM, AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED/INT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - DAY (DAY 6)

A SMALL, SHED, TINY AGAINST A VAST WHITE WASTELAND AND IN THE MIDST OF HORRIBLE, FRIGID WEATHER.

CUT TO:

INT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS  
(Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Koothrappali)

THIS IS A PRIMITIVE CORRUGATED STEEL HUT BUILT BY THE MILITARY TWENTY YEARS AGO. WELL-WORN MILITARY-ISSUE FURNITURE IS ARRANGED TO VAGUELY SUGGEST THE GUYS' LIVING ROOM. WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE STOWING EQUIPMENT AS SHELDON CHECKS IT AGAINST A MANIFEST. LEONARD PREPARES FOOD IN THE KITCHEN AREA.

LEONARD

(LOOKING IN THE FRIDGE) Oh, damn.

WOLOWITZ

What?

LEONARD

We're out of ice.

SHELDON

All right, men, we begin initial assembly and deployment of the testing equipment starting tomorrow at 0700 hours, but until then, you are all off duty.

\*

\*

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

I suggest you keep the horseplay to a minimum as medical help is eighteen hours away by dogsled.

KOOTHRAPALI

(SOTTO TO WOLOWITZ) Do you remember the episode of "Star Trek: The Original Series" where the shuttle crash-landed on a planet and Spock was in charge?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

WOLOWITZ

(SOTTO TO KOOTHRAPALI) Sure.

\*

KOOTHRAPALI

(SOTTO TO WOLOWITZ) It didn't go well, did it?

\*  
\*  
\*

WOLOWITZ

\*

(SOTTO TO KOOTHRAPALI) Uh-uh.

\*

LEONARD

Hey, guys, can I just say something? How 'bout we take a moment and think about where we are right now? This is literally the top of the world. Only a handful of people in all of human history have ever seen what we're going to see.

\*

KOOTHRAPALI

He's right.

WOLOWITZ

Yeah, wow.

SHELDON

It is remarkable.

A BEAT, THEN:

KOOTHRAPALI

I'll set up the DVD player.

WOLOWITZ

What do you think? "Ice Station  
Zebra" or "John Carpenter's The  
Thing"?

\*

KOOTHRAPALI

I say double feature.

LEONARD

Who's ready for reconstituted Thai  
food?

SHELDON

Did you bring the dehydrated low-  
sodium soy sauce?

LEONARD

Check.

SHELDON

Freeze-dried spicy mustard?

LEONARD

Check.

SHELDON

Flash-frozen brown rice, not white?



LEONARD

Oh, um, sorry.

SHELDON

Not to worry. I hid it. (HOLDING UP  
FLASH-FROZEN RICE) Bazinga!

SHELDON TAKES HIS FOOD AND CROSSES TO THE COUCH AND NOTICES  
WHERE WOLOWITZ IS SITTING.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

You're in my spot.

WOLOWITZ SLIDES OVER. SHELDON SITS DOWN.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARCTIC CIRCLE SHED - CONTINUOUS  
(Sheldon (O.S.))

SHELDON (O.S.)

Leonard's right. This is gonna be  
great.

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW