

Spec script

The Big Bang Theory

The Heir Failure (5th season)

COLD OPENING 1

INT. STAIRWAY TO LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - EVENING (DAY
1)

(Leonard, Sheldon)

LEONARD AND SHELDON COME UP THE STAIRS.

LEONARD

I saw Stephanie today.

SHELDON

Is there any chance of her getting back together with you?

LEONARD

..she did ask if I am still staying in an apartment with you. So..No.

SHELDON

Then I must say that my stairway conversation interest rating for this is probably among the lowest.

LEONARD

She had a kid with her, about 4 years old.

SHELDON

That is not going to improve the things at all. We will have to change the subject.

LEONARD

It was about 5 years ago, that she was, for some definitions of the word, my girlfriend. The child could be mine. But I suppose she would have told me..

SHELDON

I withdraw my objection to our conversation. It is appropriate for you

to point it out, as there is nothing in the roommate agreement to deal with accidental offspring. Given the number of encounters, it never seemed necessary. I could not get you to sign that you abstain from sex?

LEONARD

No!

SHELDON

Well, I suppose you paying alimony is acceptable, and maybe visits of the child once every 3 months, if you wish to be more active in the relationship, I get at least 3 days warning in advance and you pay for a special insurance to cover any damages.

LEONARD

Sheldon, we are talking about a child here, entitled to not only a paragraph in an agreement, but to love and .. Oh never mind.

SHELDON

I don't. I never get involved in emotional display too much, as it only distracts from my basic function, which is to reason about the universe. And I don't hold with all the messy bodily fluids.

LEONARD

Actually having offspring is one of nature's primary drives, or we would have died out a long time ago.

SHELDON

Trusting the creation of one's hair to the highly indeterminate process of a successful fusion of randomly segregated genes contributed from each parent is very dissatisfying.

Really it should not be expected of people to just accept any combination as offspring. My mother and father produced me and my sister. What if they could have had two great children?

LEONARD

Yes, Lizzy is really beautiful, isn't she? ..

Well, what are you going to do? Your mother wouldn't be very pleased about a petri dish grandchild carried out by a surrogate mother?

SHELDON

Hmm. I have not given it much thought yet. I suppose my contribution must be intellectual. But I should have had the Nobel prize by now...

COLD OPENING 2

INT. STAIRWAY LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - EVENING (DAY 1)
(Howard, Bernadette, Raj, Penny)

HOWARD AND BERNADETTE AND RAJ CARRY PLASTIC BAGS WITH FOOD UP THE STAIRS.

BERNADETTE

Actually for one of my first all self-made meals it is not so bad. I have a lot of experience mixing things, mostly in petri dishes, though. But I found Beakers, bottles and spatulas are very handy in cooking too.

(HOWARD AND RAJ LOOK PANIKY)

HOWARD

I don't know if that was a good idea..

RAJ

(Nodding) Ahm.

BERNADETTE

But it is Friday, and I made Asian Noodles with sauce. Friday is Asian Food Day.

HOWARD

Tai Food Day. But that is not entirely the point. It is Takeout Tai food day from the Tai Takeout.

BERNADETTE

Are you saying my food is not as good as at a stupid takeout?

HOWARD

(To Raj) Help me here.

RAJ

(Smelling at the bag, nodding) Aha.

HOWARD

No! I meant that Sheldon is going to have a fit about noticing ANY difference in his usual food, however good it might be.

BERNADETTE

Might be?

RAJ

(mimicking Sheldon's facial expressions and whining)

THEY ARE ARRIVING IN FRONT OF PENNIES APPARTMENT.

HOWARD

(mimicking Sheldons voice) (knock) Penny.
(knock) Penny (knock) Penny.

PENNY

Hi, Howard, Bernadette, Raj.

HOWARD

How did you know it wasn't Sheldon?

PENNY

The knocks and "Penny"s where not
equidistant.

HOWARD

Oh. He trained you well, hasn't he?
Listen, Bernadette made Asian Food for
all of us ...

PENNY

(Going through Sheldon's facial
expressions as Raj did before) Oh, no.

BERNADETTE

I am starting to really feel insulted
here.

PENNY

We need a plausible explanation. Or a
diversion.

RAJ

(Mimicking Ghostbusters, humming the
title music)

HOWARD

We watch Ghostbusters?

RAJ

(Shaking his head, trying again,
pointing at the food, making his fingers
crawl like an insect)

OTHERS

Good Idea!

BERNADETTE

Oh, really! He just needs to grow up!

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

AKT 1

SCENE A

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - EVENING (DAY1)
(Howard, Bernadette, Penny, Raj, Sheldon, Leonard)

KNOCKING. SHELDON OPENS THE DOOR, EVERYONE FILES IN, ALL CHATTY
TO DISTRACT SHELDON, PUTTING THE FOOD ON THE TABLE. SHELDON
SMELL SOMETHING ODD. EVERYBODY HOLDS THEIR BREATH, AND SOON
SHELDON STARTS WITH HIS FACIAL TICKS.

CUT TO

SHELDON LOOKS QUITE CONTENTED.

SHELDON

It was actually very thoughtful of you.
I always suspected there was something
wrong with the tangerine chicken.

KNOCKS AT THE DOOR, LEONARD GOES TO OPEN IT.

AMY

I brought sweet dumplings for desert for
our Tai dinner.

SHELDON

From our usual Tai Takeout? But wasn't
animal pest control working there?

AMY

Certainly not. I always check the kitchen before I take out food.

PANIKY LOOKS ALL AROUND.

HOWARD

Maybe they went next door.

THEY SETTLE DOWN, TASTING THE FOOD WITH SHARPLY DECAYING ENTUSIASM. BERNADETTE IS MIFFLED, SHELDON GOES THROUGH HIS TICKS AND GETS CLOSE TO AN OUTBURST.

HOWARD

So, ...(they motion for him to go on) We have till the end of this week to turn in our application for the multi-field IA Programming competition.

OTHERS, EXCEPT FOR SHELDON

Ah, Oh.

PENNY

What is it?

LEONARD

An IA is a program that displays intelligence while interacting with its environment, usually in a restricted area. In our case it is supposed to understand questions it is asked, and create appropriate answers.

PENNY

You can make an intelligent program?

SHELDON

Accepting Turing's „polite convention“, that “if a machine acts as intelligently as a human being, then it is as intelligent as a human being“, and the

"Dartmouth proposal", that "Every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it.", yes is a valid hypothesis.

PENNY

And people would do that?

SHELDON

Do you never pay attention to what happens around you? I would like to point out Joseph Weizenbaum's Eliza Program of as early as 1966. It was famous for its rather cursory emulation of a dialog with a psychotherapist using the non directive methods of client oriented therapy by Carl Rogers.

HOWARD

It basically repeated the questions put by the patient, or answered with freely associated unrelated subjects.

PENNY

That's a lot like talking to Sheldon then.

LEONARD

Oh, come on, it would be fun. We could really be good, too, with all our expertise put together.

SHELDON

While I can see the advantage of having a neurobiologist helping with the design of the neural network, having an engineer will be useless. It is questionable if we need a second

physicist, especially an experimental one. And Raj?

RAJ

(whispers into Howards ear)

HOWARD

He says: the robot Endhiran is the most badass Robot in the history of Robots in movies. As for me, the subject speaks to me culturally. Need I remind you of the Golem, the first artificial agent mentioned in the history of literature?

SHELDON

While that is irrelevant, it is also not correct. The first mention of the Golem dates to 1580 Prague, Greek myths make mention of intelligent robots much before that. In Homer's Iliad, Hephaestus manufactured mechanical servants. In Apollonius Rhodius' Argonautica, written about 200BC, there is mention of Talos 1, an invulnerable man of bronze.

LEONARD

Well we would have to make it able to learn, to react right in social situations, etc..

SHELDON

Hmm, like teaching a child. Maybe it is an interesting idea. We will meet tomorrow morning at 8:30 after my bowel movements.

Still, I can't eat this, it is worse than spoilt tangerine rat.

SCENE B

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APPARTMENT - MORNING, (DAY 2)
(Sheldon, Leonard, Howard, Raj, Penny, Amy, Bernadette)

AROUND THE TABLE.

SHELDON

At first we need to discuss the basic
setup of the AI.

PENNY

Is it a boy robot or a girl robot?

SHELDON

Clearly it's sex does not matter.
However in analogy to humans, it should
obviously be male, being less distracted
by hormones and not prone to erratic
behavior.

PENNY

Are we talking about the sex mostly
thinking with the lower body parts?
(looks at Howard)

HOWARD

I agree. It should be one sexy broad!

BERNADETTE

Howard! I vote for a male.

SHELDON

Vote? We don't vote. We make the right
decisions based on the available facts.

PENNY

Who is for girl? Who is for a boy?

RAJ, PENNY AND LEONARD RAISE THEIR HANDS FOR GIRL, HOWARD AFTER
A SIDEWAYS LOOK AT BERNADETTE DOES NOT DARE. BERNADETTE, HOWARD
VOTE FOR BOY.

PENNY

Sheldon, how do you vote?

SHELDON

As I said, a decision should not be made by voting, but by facts, ..

PENNY

Ok, it's girl then.

SHELDON

..I vote for a boy.

PENNY

OK, a boy. How will it look like?

SHELDON

Look? Oh, dear. We will have to explain all over again. The task is to design an intelligent agent..

AMY

Seeing a pictorial icon of a concept aids people in imagining it and building a positive relationship towards it. It should also be appealing to human standards. The look of a child would be fitting.

SHELDON

Hmm.. Maybe 11, when I started studying.. I was tall for my age, thin, with short black hair,..I will have my mother send a picture.

LEONARD

Penny can design a look. She has very good taste.

SHELDON

Her taste seems to fail her at times.
She did pick you, however temporary that
might be.

All right then. We now have covered the
least important thing first.

PENNY

Will it be as obnoxious as Sheldon?

HOWARD

Good point, Penny. How about emotions?

SHELDON

It will most certainly stand above
those, as any future evolution of humans
would.

AMY

Emotions, as Heuristics, enable faster
decisions, making it possible to cut
down on possible paths based on
intuitive and speedy evaluation of
available alternatives.

SHELDON

Maybe it has some small, neglectable
value in humans who are not experienced
to fast thinking.

EVERYBODY BUT SHELDON RAISES THEIR HAND TO VOTE FOR EMOTIONS.

SCENE C

INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY - AFTERNOON (DAY 2)
(Howard, Bernadette, Stephen, Raj)

HOWARD AND BERNADETTE COME UP THE STAIRWAY. SHELDON OPENS THE
DOOR. STEPHEN COMES RUNNING UP, RUNS AROUND LEONARD, WHO CLEARLY
ENJOYS IT.

STEPHENS DAD

Stephen, come down.

STEPHEN RUNS DOWNSTAIRS AGAIN, WITH LEONARD AND BERNADETTE SMILING AFTER HIM. PENNY NOTICES.

SHELDON

You know there are several studies showing that man only look at children lovingly when they are ready for being a parent.

BERNADETTE (TO HOWARD)

Maybe it would be a good idea to think about having kids while we are still young. Since you agreed to stay home, and take care..

HOWARD

Ahmm. Yes, but maybe we should talk about that again.. As a man..

SHELDON

Now, Howard. I am sure your work would not suffer from your staying away, and therefore you would be the logical choice. But in an unrelated matter, would you agree to leave any offspring always at home when you come here?

RAJ COMES UP BRINGING HIS DOG, ALL SMILING.

HOWARD

What are you smiling at?

HOWARD (TRANSLATING RAJS MESSAGE IN HIS EAR)

There was this really cute kid coming down the stairs. And Raj thinks about having one too. I think you need a woman for that.

RAJ WISPERING IN HIS EAR AGAIN.

HOWARD

You want to adopt one? Yes, adopt a woman. It would solve some of your problems.

RAJS SMILING STOPS WHEN THE DOG, BEING JEALOUS, BITES HIM.

SCENE D

INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT, AFTERNOON (DAY 2)

(Howard, Penny, later Leonard)

PENNY IS DRAWING ON A FLIPCHART, PUTTING CLOTHES ON STICK FIGURES, BEARING SOME RESEMBLANCE TO SHELDON. HOWARD OCCASIONALLY DRAWS A NEW STICK FIGURE WHEN SHE IS DONE, OR ADDS THIS OR THAT PIECE OF CLOTHING TO A DRAWING.

HOWARD

(mimicking Sheldon) All the others are doctors in their fields, Howard. Expertise in programming does not really count Howard, every child can do that. Why don't you go help Penny with the icon design, Howard. (Noticing Penny's annoyed look) Not that I don't enjoy working with a beautiful woman.

PENNY

You have become nearly bearable since you have been with Bernadette, too.

HOWARD

Can I talk to you as a friend for a moment? It's this having children business. What do you think?

PENNY

Well. I'm a bit prejudiced here. In Nebraska we have them for showing off cute little cowboy outfits, and to have somebody to clean out the smaller sheds. I really don't see a point in having any around here.

HOWARD

I want kids eventually. You know, be there for them, and not make off when they are 11. But staying home with them was not exactly what I had in mind.

PENNY

You mean more like live in the same house and watch the others do the work?

BERNADETTE STICKS HER HEAD IN THE DOOR. HOWARD IS SO ENGROSSED IN THE CONVERSATION HE DOES NOT NOTICE.

HOWARD

No! I would help. I could take them to a ball game. I would wear a helmet, so that would be OK. But Bernadette does not really like children, and she does not want to stay home either.

PENNY

You could take turns, and get some extra help.

HOWARD

Off course! My mother. She could take care of our kids.

BERNADETTE

No she couldn't!

BERNADETTE BANGS THE DOOR BEHIND HER. ALMOST IMEDEATELY IT IS OPENED AGAIN BY LEONARD.

LEONARD

(mimicking Sheldon) There is really no point in your staying on the brain project, Leonard. You can go and help Penny and Howard, Leonard.

FADE OUT.

AKT 2

SCENE E

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APPARTMENT - FRIDAY EVENING, SOME
DAYS LATER

THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. ON ROUTE TO IT, LEONARD GETS A PHONE CALL.

LEONARD

Hello? Oh, hello. (very softly, so he won't be heard) Oh, yes. Well. Ahm. Yes, tomorrow morning? OK. I will call you later.

HE OPENS THE DOOR, AND THE OTHERS FILE IN. SHELDON COMES IN FROM HIS BEDROOM, CARRIING HIS LAPTOP, TALKING SOFTLY TO IT.

SHELDON

We have gathered for each team to present the status of development. As the core element is the learning/thinking engine, I will demonstrate first.

SHELDON

(to AI) Based on the map of the apartment you received, where in the layout of this room would you like to be habitually positioned?

AI (SOUNDS A LOT LIKE SHELDON)

On the rightmost seat of the couch.

SHELDON

Explain.

AI

In the winter, that spot is close enough to the radiator to be warm, yet not so close as to be hot. In the summer, it is directly in the path of a cross breeze

created by opening 2 windows. It faces the television at an angle that is in neither direct, thus discouraging conversation, nor so far wide as to create parallax distortion..

SHELDON

(interrupting) He could go on, but I think he's made his point.

PENNY

(excitedly) We think it should look like this:

(ON THE SCREEN THE IMAGE OF A CHILD IS DISPLAYED, SHOWING SOME SHELDONLIKE FEATURES, WEARING HOWARDLIKE CLOTHES, JUMPING UP AND DOWN EXCITEDLY)

SHELDON

(to AI) There is an animated, very rough drawing of a small child, with bright unpractical clothes, jumping up and down in a ridiculous waste of energy. Based on the fact that none of the properties fit the object it has to represent, what should be done?

AI

It will have to be redone.

LIGHT IS YELLOW. SHELDON MOTIONS FOR AMY TO SPEAK.

AMY

We have devised an algorithm to categorize people's reactions to situations, so it can learn from them.

BERNADETTE

We use a light to show how it evaluates: Red means dislike, and green a positive reaction.

SHELDON

Interesting concept. But basically not really very important. (light is yellow, changing to orange as Amy types)

SHELDON (CONT.)

Now, we will hold a training session for it, though I am not really sure all of you are qualified. You can either ask it how it would act in a given situation, or you can explain the correct response, using "Input" as a trigger word.

PENNY

I suggest we talk about what we should have for dinner today. There is this new Kebab Place..

LEONARD

Kebab sounds nice. Input: "We show support and affection by agreeing to offers."

SHELDON

I suggest, as it is Friday, we should have Takeout from the Tai Restaurant, which as we have vouchsafed, does not have any sanitary problems, and certainly will be very careful after the inspection by the authorities.

LEONARD

Yes, but they won't let us back in after they found out it was you who insisted they be checked out.

SHELDON

Then annoyingly but obviously, we need to check out other Tai Food places.
Input: We base decisions solely on facts

and their evaluation! (to ia) discuss a fixed food plan vs one based on a day to day decision.

AI

A regular dietary regimen has the following advantages: balance of food types, low decision time, stable quality of food, ..

PENNY

Let's vote. (to AI) input: voting is an important democratic concept to ensure satisfaction of the majority versus servicing the neuroses of a single person. (all hands but Sheldon's are raised)
We will call for Tai for you Sheldon, on our way out.

SHELDON

Input: Abandoning a member of a group is not nice.

PENNY

Input: The always preclude oneself of group activities one the pretense of knowing better what to do is very rude.

EVERYBODY FILES OUT THE DOOR.

LEONARD

I'll catch up with you a bit later..

PENNY IS WORRIED.

FADE OUT.

SCENE F

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

(Sheldon, Howard, Amy, Bernadette)

EVERYBODY IS SEATED AROUND A DOUBLE TABLE SEATING 8. ON THE TABLE NEXT TO SHELDON IS HIS LAPTOP WITH ITS BACK TO US.

KRIPKY

I hear you are awso entewing the AI competition. Wou are awawe of the total and utte usewessness of that entepwise?

AI

For a scientist it seems illogical to evaluate ones opponent merely by prejudice. As I am observing exactly that, I can only assume you to be an insecure individual, inept in daily life tasks.

KRIPKY

We awe all insecuwe and inept in dailwy life tasks, that's why we aw theoretical scientiwsts.

AI

I cannot evaluate the truth of that statement, not being subject to the limitations of being human, but even if it were true, it would be wise not to show incompetence so vividly.

Kripsy LEAVES. LESLIE WALKS BY, SPOTS THEM, AND COMES OVER.

LESLIE WINKLE

Hello fellow scientists and Sheldon. I heard that you changed to the computer science department so as to leave real scientists to do the work here.

AI

Programming an ai using all ones knowledge and abilities can be considered passing on ones best

properties to the next generation, and
is therefore very valuable work.

LESLIE

You mean you made an electronic baby?
That sounds stupid even for you..

SHELDON

Stupid? You are.. your are..

AI

Inaccurate.

LESLIE WINKLE

(To Amy) I would go to a sperm bank and
select a tall, strong, beautiful man as
a sperm-donor. No need to waste time on
a, in your case moderately, smart guy.
Intelligence is passed on along the
female line anyway.

AI

I am glad you are not planning to enter
the contest. I would hate to meet your
creations.

FADE OUT.

SCENE G

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APPARTEMENT - NEXT MORNING

(Howard, Sheldon, Penny, Bernadette, Amy, Howard, Raj)

LEONARD IS PASSED OUT ON THE COUCH, DISCHEVELED. THE DRAWING OF
THE AI ON THE FLIPCHART HAS GONE FROM THE FIRST DRAWING, TO A
VERY SHELDONLIKE FIGURE, TO THE FINAL DRAWING OF A YOUNG
ADOLESCENT BOY.

PENNY

Well there is hope. It claimed its spot
yesterday, but then offered it to me. It
lectured Sheldon on not being rude.

LEONARD

And when we tried to change from vintage game night, it supported us. Even though we still ended up playing Tetris, because we could not think of anything else.

HOWARD

It does not lecture quite as often anymore.

BERNADETTE

You know, I am sorry about how things went about our children discussion.. But if your mother is trying to find out my fertile phases one more time, it's a divorce.

PENNY

I know it sounds ridiculous, but you are not going out with somebody else? You were out a lot lately ...

LEONARD

Stephanie asked me twice to babysit since her babysitter found the keys to her drug cabinet and is still in detox. And don't worry, I am all healed. I don't think I need another child near me for quite a while.

AMY

I think I might stick with Sheldon. He incorporates a genius and some interesting childlike features.

SHELDON COMES SHUFFLING INTO THE ROOM, PUTTING A DARK LAPTOP ON HIS DESK.

SHELDON

I am afraid I have to announce that the IA did not survive the many conflicting ideas we gave it. It deleted itself.

LEONARD

Sheldon, that is from a Star Trek OS episode. It could not have done that.

SHELDON

Well it did.

TAG

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - EVENING SAME DAY
(Howard (off), Leonard, Sheldon)

LEONARD IS ON THE PHONE.

LEONARD

What did you do?

HOWARD

I managed to restore the program for the most part. I put it on the university mainframe, so he can't delete it again. It's now internet based, so it can follow him.

SHELDON (OFF)

(Typing sounds, then:) What do you mean, I can't do that? I just did.(..) You cant just delete is, because you think it is impolite! No, I don't want your advice on how to do it better!

And stop calling me Shelly!

END