

Big Bang Theory
"The Batman Dynamic"
by
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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - DAY

LEONARD, SHELDON, WOLOWITZ, AND KOOTHRAPPALI SIT ON THE SOFA. ON THE COFFEE TABLE ARE NEAT PILES OF COMIC BOOKS, DVD'S, AND FRESH THAI TAKEOUT. THE TV IS ON.

VOICE FROM TV (V.O.)

What are you?!?!

LEONARD/ SHELDON/ WOLOWITZ/
KOOTHRAPPALI
(SIMULTANEOUSLY)

"I'm Batman".

KOOTHRAPPALI

We're gonna have to divvy up the
quotable lines.

LEONARD

If there's a better way to spend a
Saturday than an all-day Batman movie
marathon, I'd like to hear it.

THE BOYS THINK, AND THEN ALL SHRUG.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

SHELDON

As a young boy I dreamed of taking up
the mantle of the bat.

LEONARD

Yeah, I used to ride up and down the block on my big wheel with cardboard bat-wings taped to the side.

WOLOWITZ

One time I climbed up to the roof of the house to patrol for danger. There was a family of raccoons up there. I don't want to talk about it.

SHELDON

Well, unlike your clumsy and amateurish attempts, I was quite serious about my goal.

LEONARD

Oh yeah?

SHELDON

Yes. By age 8 I had synthesized a rather powerful knockout gas in my parents' bathroom. By age 9 I had excavated a significant cave under the northwest corner of our house.

KOOTHRAPALI

Seriously?

SHELDON

Why would I joke about excavation? Why would anyone joke about it for that matter? Well, I imagine prospectors have their share of in-jokes.

WOLOWITZ

So why'd you give up the Bat-training?

SHELDON

I was quite set to embark on a life of training, sacrifice, and righteous vigilante justice. That was, until a mob of my classmates chased me through the playground and group-wedgied me to a flagpole using my own cape. I was rendered immobile for the remainder of the school day, and unable to successfully complete a bowel movement for 3 weeks.

THE BOYS ALL SILENTLY STARE AT SHELDON. SHELDON CONTINUES TO WATCH THE TV.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

"I'm Batman."

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

LEONARD, SHELDON, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE STILL SITTING ON THE SOFA. ON THE COFFEE TABLE ARE MESSY PILES OF COMICS, EMPTY DVD CASES, AND DECIMATED TAKEOUT.

KOOTHRAPPALI
(IN BAD CHRISTIAN BALE VOICE)

"I'm Batman!"

WOLOWITZ

No, more like my Aunt Edna. Think "2 packs a day".

KOOTHRAPPALI
(IN A DEEPER VOICE)

"I'm Batmaan!"

WOLOWITZ

Better.

SHELDON

No, please, continue nattering. You're both much more interesting than the epic battle for Gotham City's soul.

(THEN) Sarcasm.

PENNY ENTERS WEARING A WHITE MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORM.

PENNY

Hey boys!

LEONARD

How was your Taekwondo class?

PENNY

Amazing! You know how people break boards with their hands?

LEONARD

Yeah!?

PENNY

Well, I got to set up the boards for the instructor to break. But now those boards know who's side I'm on...

WOLOWITZ

That is so hot.

PENNY

I know.

WOLOWITZ

So why did you start taking this class, other than to recreate one of my junior high fantasies?

PENNY

I was gonna either take a pilates class or this primal scream acting workshop. This seemed like both for the price of one. Plus, you know, kicking.

SHELDON

Would you all please be quiet? I'm attempting to absorb the greatest portrayal of the Joker ever committed to film.

PENNY

Oh hey, is this the one with George Clooney? That's my favorite.

THE BOYS ALL COLLECTIVELY GASP.

SHELDON

No, that would be 1997's cinematic abomination, "Batman & Robin".

LEONARD

We skipped that one, so we're watching "The Dark Knight" twice.

PENNY

I'd watch George Clooney twice. Am I right fellas?

PENNY LOOKS AROUND FOR AGREEMENT. KOOTHRAPPALI NODS.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Raj knows what I'm talking about.

SHELDON

Do you mind? I'm trying to enjoy the film.

LEONARD

You're just jealous that Penny could beat you up. And beat up boards.

PENNY

Boards eventually. Sheldon yes.

SHELDON

Well I apologize if I've never devoted myself to learning martial combat. I guess I've been too busy studying the effects of supersolids on Bose-Einstein condensates.

SHELDON LOOKS AROUND FOR AGREEMENT. KOOTHRAPPALI NODS.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Raj knows what I'm talking about. At least on a superficial level.

WOLOWITZ

Wait, Sheldon, are you saying you never took martial arts?

SHELDON

I am afraid I did not.

WOLOWITZ

But taking, then dropping out of, martial arts lessons is a right of passage for every geeky young boy.

LEONARD

Yeah, like your first charlie horse, or the day you realize Ewoks are stupid.

WOLOWITZ

How did you ever expect to become
Batman if you never learned to fight?

SHELDON

I suppose I spent so much time honing
my razor-sharp intellect that I never
got around to it. Plus, it's difficult
to learn martial arts when you spent
the entire 4th grade bow-legged.

PENNY

Wait, Sheldon wanted to be Batman?

LEONARD

Surprised?

PENNY

(THINKS) Naw.

SHELDON

To tell the honest truth, I've never
even struck another person in my
lifetime.

PENNY

Take it from me; it's the best.

WOLOWITZ

Sooo hot.

SHELDON

Hmm... you know what, you may be right
Penny.

PENNY

Really?

SHELDON

I'm as shocked as you are. As a boy I chose intellect over physique in my quest to become a real-life Dark Knight Detective. But as an adult I've already attained the level of intellectual giant.

SHELDON STANDS

Penny, tomorrow night I will be accompanying you to your Taekwondo class. Or should I say, our Taekwondo class.

PENNY

That's not hot.

SHELDON

After all, Taekwondo is merely elementary physics. The application of force, the redirection of inertia... I should be breaking boards with my head by next week. (THINKS) On second thought, best not to endanger my cranium... I should be breaking boards with my opponents' heads by next week!

PENNY

Suddenly I need a shower.

PENNY CROSSES OUT.

SHELDON

(CALLING AFTER PENNY) What time will I
expect you to pick me up for class?

SHELDON CROSSES OUT.

WOLOWITZ

You guys know what this means, right?

KOOTHRAPPALI

That Penny and Sheldon will ultimately
destroy each other in a poorly-dubbed
battle for honor?

WOLOWITZ

No, it means that we get a Sheldon-
free night. Which means that we can
finally play...

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ,
KOOTHRAPPALI

RISK!!!

KOOTHRAPPALI

We can actually take a turn without
Sheldon lecturing us on how Mongolia
is the 2nd largest land-locked country
in the world... after Kazakhstan.

LEONARD

Yeah, and we can eat snacks that don't
have to be historically accurate to
the Napoleonic Era!

KOOTHRAPALI

Risk with anachronistic snacks?! I'm
in!

A BEAT.

WOLOWITZ

Are you guys realizing how none of us
thought to go to a club, or outdoors?

THE BOYS PONDER FOR A MOMENT. THEN:

LEONARD/ WOLOWITZ/
KOOTHRAPALI

Anachronistic snacks!

AND ON THE BOYS EXCITEMENT, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. TAEKWON-DO STUDIO - THE FOLLOWING EVENING

A SMALL UPSTAIRS TAE KWON DO SCHOOL. FOAM MATS ON THE FLOOR, AND AN IKEA TROPHY CASE IN THE CORNER. A DOZEN RANDOM STUDENTS (SOCCER MOMS, PRE-TEENS, AN ELDERLY COUPLE) STRETCH AND WARM UP.

PENNY ENTERS FROM THE STAIRCASE.

PENNY

(CALLING DOWNSTAIRS) Sheldon, would you please change into something else?

SHELDON (O.S.)

I told you Penny, I'm taking this very seriously.

SHELDON ENTERS FROM THE STAIRCASE WEARING A WHITE UNIFORM WITH A FLOOR-LENGTH BLACK CAPE OVER TOP.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

If I am to resume my vigilante training, it won't do me any good to train without a cape. When I add it later I'd be liable to trip.

PENNY

Yeah, and then you'd look ridiculous.

THE OTHER STUDENTS BEGIN TO NOTICE SHELDON'S WARDROBE.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Sheldon, I thought this whole
"training to be Batman" idea was just
a kid thing.

SHELDON

Penny Penny Penny... for the average
person the idea of training to the
peak of physical and mental perfection
is indeed a fantasy. I, on the other
hand, am already halfway there, so why
not keep going?

PENNY

Well, given how you look the word
"mental" does spring to mind...

MASTER FRANK CROSSES OVER TO GREET THEM. HE IS IN HIS MID-
40'S AND WEARS A BLACK UNIFORM.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Aw geez, that's Master Frank, he runs
the school. Try not to be... Sheldon.

MASTER FRANK

Hello Penny. (EYES SHELDON) Who's your
vampire?

SHELDON

(SOLEMN) I am Dr. Sheldon Cooper, PhD.
I have come to study at your feet, so
that I may hone my body into a shadowy
spectre of justice.

MASTER FRANK

(SIGHS) Will you be paying with check,
Visa, or Mastercard?

SHELDON

(OMINOUS) Visa Debit.

MASTER FRANK

(TO HIMSELF) There's always one. (TO
THE CLASS) Alright class, let's begin.

MASTER FRANK TAKES HIS PLACE AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM. THE
CLASS LINES UP IN FRONT OF HIM.

MASTER FRANK (CONT'D)

Hello Class.

THE ENTIRE CLASS BOWS TO MASTER FRANK, WHO BOWS IN RETURN.
SHELDON STOICALLY BOWS.

ENTIRE CLASS

Hello Master Frank.

MASTER FRANK TURNS TO A PICTURE OF AN ELDERLY ASIAN MAN ON
THE WALL AND BOWS. THE CLASS BOWS AS WELL. SHELDON REMAINS
STANDING.

SHELDON

Excuse me, what are you all doing?

PENNY

That's Master Frank's teacher from
Korea, Master Lee.

MASTER FRANK

It's customary to bow to a photograph
of your instructor's Master.

SHELDON

But I can't bow to a picture of a man
I've never met. How do I know if he's
worthy of my respect? Perhaps if you
had an 8x10 glossy of Niels Bohr...

PENNY SLINKS TO THE BACK OF THE CLASS.

PENNY

(TO ANOTHER STUDENT) That guy just
followed me in off the street...

MASTER FRANK

Dr. Cooper, please bow so that class
can begin.

SHELDON

I can't in good conscience. This is
precisely how fascist societies take
root. Have none of you ever read 1984?
Next thing you know we'll be calling
that kindly old Asian man in the
photograph 'Big Brother' and engaging
in precisely two minutes of hate per
day!

PENNY

(TO HERSELF) I'm feeling the hate
already...

AND ON PENNY'S EMBARRASSMENT, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - LATER

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ, AND KOOTHRAPPALI SIT IN THE LIVING ROOM. A RISK BOARD IS SET ON THE TABLE AND THEIR GAME IS UNDERWAY.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Guys, we've been playing almost 3 hours without a single history lesson on the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

WOLOWITZ

I know! Plus check this out.

WOLOWITZ SLIDES DOWN THE COUCH AND SITS IN SHELDON'S USUAL SPOT.

WOLOWITZ (CONT'D)

Sheldon's right; the lighting is better here.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Hey, we should order dinner from that new Chinese place on 3rd.

LEONARD

But it's Monday, Sheldon always orders Indian on Mon... (GETS IT) Ah!

KOOTHRAPPALI

Suck it Sheldon!

LEONARD

To celebrate, I'm going to roll all my dice... and I'm not even going to roll them individually!

LEONARD EXCITEDLY AND REPEATEDLY ROLLS ALL 3 DICE AT ONCE.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

And now that my dice are warmed up I am going to attack... Howard, in Venezuela.

WOLOWITZ

What? But I thought we had an alliance!

LEONARD

We did, but that gets trumped by my earlier, secret alliance with Raj.

KOOTHRAPALI

Booya!

WOLOWITZ

What, but this sucks! You guys suck!

LEONARD AND WOLOWITZ BOTH ROLL DICE. LEONARD CHEERS, AND WOLOWITZ GRUMBLES.

WOLOWITZ (CONT'D)

That's 5 armies I just lost!

LEONARD

Don't hate the player; hate the game of world domination.

(MORE)

LEONARD (CONT'D)

Alright, I'll storm your capital and execute your generals later. First I'm gonna check the restaurant's website.

LEONARD CROSSES TO HIS LAPTOP. WOLOWITZ LEANS IN TO KOOTHRAPPALI.

WOLOWITZ

I want revenge.

KOOTHRAPPALI

I'm listening.

WOLOWITZ

I'm going to call a different restaurant. Rather than Chinese, we'll be eating the cheesiest pizza this side of Wisconsin.

KOOTHRAPPALI

But Leonard's lactose intolerance...
Biological Warfare. I like it.

WOLOWITZ

Precisely comrade. Leonard will rue the day he ever shook his dice at me.

LEONARD CROSSES BACK TO THE GAME AND SITS DOWN.

WOLOWITZ (CONT'D)

Leonard old buddy, what can I get you?

LEONARD

The garlic shrimp looks great.

WOLOWITZ

Oh, it will be. It will be...

WOLOWITZ CROSSES TO THE PHONE.

LEONARD

What's his deal?

KOOTHRAPALI

I could tell you... for a price.

LEONARD

Howard, what's going on?

WOLOWITZ

(INTO PHONE) Hi, Vinnie's Pizza? How much cheese can you legally sell me?

LEONARD CROSSES TO THE PHONE AND WRESTLES IT OUT OF WOLOWITZ'S HANDS.

LEONARD

(TO WOLOWITZ) Give me that! (INTO THE PHONE) Wrong number.

LEONARD HANGS UP.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

Are you that mad about me taking Venezuela?

WOLOWITZ

I had a whole South American strategy, and now it's ruined! I denounce you as a traitor!

LEONARD

Oh yeah, well let's see you back that up without Raj.

WOLOWITZ

I don't need that turncoat!

KOOTHRAPALI

Hey, that turncoat is right here!

KOOTHRAPALI CROSSES TO THE TWO OF THEM. LEONARD AWKWARDLY SHOVES WOLOWITZ.

LEONARD

Sore loser!

WOLOWITZ SPASTICALLY HITS LEONARD.

WOLOWITZ

Judas!

THE TWO STARTS HITTING EACH OTHER, AND ARE SOON WRESTLING ON THE FLOOR.

KOOTHRAPALI

Stop leaving me out of everything!

AS KOOTHRAPALI DIVES IN, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE D

INT. TAEKWON-DO STUDIO - LATER

THE ENTIRE CLASS SITS CROSS-LEGGED ON THE FLOOR LOOKING IMPATIENT, WHILE SHELDON SPEAKS TO MASTER FRANK. PENNY HIDES HER FACE IN HER HANDS.

MASTER FRANK

(TO SHELDON) This is a 2000 year old technique! I am not going to adjust it for a "vector differential"!

SHELDON

I'm just saying that by observing Newton's Second Law of physics, you could split your opponent's head like a watermelon.

MASTER FRANK

Dr. Cooper, are you aware of how many ways I could crush your head right now?

SHELDON

Of course I am; that's why I'm allowing you to teach me.

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(TO PENNY) He may possess ancient wisdom, but not much common sense.

MASTER FRANK

Alright class, we're going to put this behind us, and move on to the sparring. Penny, you've been doing quite well in class - with one notable exception...

MASTER FRANK GLARES AT SHELDON.

SHELDON

Why are you looking at me? I thought Penny was the one who erred.

MASTER FRANK

Penny, would you like to spar with one of your classmates?

PENNY

Really? Yeah, I'd love to.

SHELDON'S HAND SHOOTS UP.

MASTER FRANK

Yes, Sheldon.

SHELDON

Master Frank, I realize this is my first class, but I would like to spar as well. Between my 187 IQ and my relatively short time table, I would prefer the accelerated learning pace.

PENNY

(TO SHELDON) I'm never telling you about anything cool ever again.

MASTER FRANK

Sheldon, I can't... you know, actually watching you get beat up might make this all worthwhile. Penny, Sheldon, to the floor please.

PENNY AND SHELDON WALK INTO THE CENTRE OF THE CIRCLE. PENNY BOWS TO SHELDON. SHELDON STANDS.

PENNY

You're supposed to bow. Or are you not sure if you respect me enough?

SHELDON

Well, I've never seen you fight.

MASTER FRANK

Dr. Cooper!

SHELDON

Very well. But consider this bow purely speculative.

SHELDON BOWS.

MASTER FRANK

Ready... fight!

PENNY KICKS CLUMSILY AT SHELDON. SHELDON JERKILY AVOIDS IT.

SHELDON

You forget, my entire adolescence was spent avoiding larger children. As well as smaller dogs.

PENNY TAKES ANOTHER SWING, WHICH SHELDON NIMBLY DUCKS.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Evidently being a certified genius does provide an advantage to martial arts. If only being a Cheesecake Factory waitress did as well.

PENNY SWINGS HARDER. SHELDON DARTS OUT OF THE WAY.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

This rush of adrenaline is unreal. I am invincible! I am the Bat-

JUST THEN, SHELDON TRIPS ON HIS CAPE. HE STEADIES HIMSELF, STUMBLES BACK TOWARD PENNY, AND:

ANGLE ON: SHELDON'S POV

PENNY PUNCHES SHELDON SQUARE IN THE FACE. A LOUD "THWACK" IS HEARD.

ANGLE ON: A BLACK SCREEN.

PENNY (O.S.)

(COLDLY) Did I win?

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE E

FADE IN:

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CAFETERIA - THE NEXT DAY

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI SILENTLY EAT LUNCH. THEY EACH LOOK MILDLY BEATEN UP (A LIGHT BRUISE, SOME BAND-AIDS).

KOOTHRAPPALI

(RUEFULLY) Mondays.

LEONARD

We were fine until the hair-pulling started.

WOLOWITZ

(SNIPPY) I figured since we'd abandoned diplomacy that Jerry Springer rules were in effect.

THE THREE BOYS EYE EACH OTHER WITH CONTEMPT.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Well, at least we look like the most badass physicists in here.

SHELDON ENTERS WITH A LUNCHTRAY AND SITS. HE WEARS A LARGE BANDAGE ON HIS NOSE.

LEONARD

Sheldon, are you okay?

KOOTHRAPPALI

Dude, what happened?

SHELDON

Nothing. I walked into a door.

LEONARD

Is this why you told me to leave
without you this morning?

SHELDON

Yes. I took a taxi to work. The sticky
floors were almost as terrifying as
Penny-

WOLOWITZ

Penny did this to you?

KOOTHRAPPALI

You got beat up by a girl? Sheldon got
beat up by a girl!

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ, AND KOOTHRAPPALI ALL LAUGH.

SHELDON

(MEEKLY) Yes I did. There was
absolutely no physical contest.

WOLOWITZ

Wait, Sheldon, are you just going to
sit there and take this?

SHELDON

I don't know. Should I take it?

KOOTHRAPPALI

Uh, sure.

SHELDON

If you'll excuse me, I'm feeling uncomfortable in a space this crowded. I'm going to eat my lunch in my office.

SHELDON STANDS AND CROSSES OUT OF THE CAFETERIA.

WOLOWITZ

Wow. It's like the anti-Sheldon.

KOOTHRAPALI

Never mind Sheldon - are we going to finish this Risk game tonight or what?

LEONARD

I don't know. Howard, will you leave my hair alone?

WOLOWITZ

You can keep your hair. I want Asia.

LEONARD

Alright, tonight after work. Howard, will you be doing your usual wrist exercises to warm up for dice-rolling?

WOLOWITZ

(THINKS, THEN) Hey, not funny!

AS THEY EXIT, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE H

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - LATER

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ, AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM, RESUMING THEIR RISK GAME.

LEONARD

Just so you know Howard, I've hidden all the cheese in the apartment.

WOLOWITZ

Just so you know Leonard, I'll be spanking you in your own home.

LEONARD

I already know too much about the spanking you do in my home.

WOLOWITZ

One time!

KOOTHRAPPALI

(TO HIMSELF) I'm so glad I skipped the after-work Ultimate Frisbee League for this.

SHELDON CROSSES OUT OF THE HALLWAY, STILL WEARING HIS NOSE BANDAGE.

SHELDON

(BARELY AUDIBLE) Hello.

LEONARD

What was that, Sheldon?

SHELDON

I'm sorry! I'll be quiet!

LEONARD

It's okay Sheldon, we're just playing Risk.

KOOTHRAPALI

Yes, and we're using... house rules.

SHELDON

(UNCOMFORTABLE) Well, that will make the game more... carefree.

SHELDON FIXES HIMSELF A BOWL OF CEREAL.

PENNY ENTERS.

PENNY

Hey guys. Sheldon, how's your nose-

SHELDON SCURRIES TO THE BEDROOM, ABANDONING HIS CEREAL.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Guys, is Sheldon okay? I'm starting to feel really bad about last night.

WOLOWITZ

Yeah, we were worried at first too, but we're kind of liking the new Sheldon.

LEONARD

I got to watch an episode of Babylon 5 after work without being mocked.

PENNY

It's all my fault. I just wanted to punch his lights out in class, but the whole ride home I felt like I'd kicked a puppy.

LEONARD

So that's the whimpering noise I heard from the other room last night.

PENNY

Aw geez, I'm gonna go talk to him.

WOLOWITZ

Penny, one question: How did it feel?

PENNY

What?

WOLOWITZ

Knocking Sheldon out.

A BEAT.

PENNY

So good.

AS PENNY CROSSES TO THE HALLWAY, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE J

INT. SHELDON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

SHELDON SITS ON HIS BED, HOLDING HIS KNEES.

THREE KNOCKS ARE HEARD AT THE DOOR, THEN:

PENNY

Sheldon... (THREE KNOCKS) Sheldon...

(THREE KNOCKS) Sheldon...

SHELDON CROSSES OVER TO THE DOOR, AND LETS PENNY IN.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Hey, how're you doing? I was thinking we could get out of here and go to the comic store.

SHELDON

You're mistaken. I don't like comics.

PENNY

Sheldon, sweetie, is this because I knocked you out last night at class?

SHELDON

Why, that's preposterous!

PENNY SITS DOWN ON THE BED, AND SHELDON LEAPS TO HIS FEET.

PENNY

Sheldon, this isn't the first time I've hit you. Is it because I did it in front of a bunch of strangers?

SHELDON

Your "pep talk skills" leave much to be desired.

PENNY

You can't let one little bloody nose make you scared of everything. That's not very Batman-like, is it?

SHELDON

I'm not Batman-like qualities. I never could. I'm hardly fit to wear the short-shorts of Robin, the boy wonder.

PENNY

Sheldon, there's a drop-in class tonight. Why don't you come with me?

SHELDON

I couldn't. You can't make me!

PENNY

Well, why don't you go play board games with the boys?

SHELDON

I couldn't possibly strategize against the three of them at once.

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

The last thing I need to compound my defeat is an intellectual whupping.

(HORRIFIED) Whupping? Oh Lord, I'm adopting my native Texan vernacular!

PENNY

Okay, calm down, calm down. Why don't we play a game?

PENNY PICKS UP A BOX OF TRIVIAL PURSUIT CARDS OFF SHELDON'S BOOKCASE.

PENNY (CONT'D)

(READS) *"How many days does it take the earth to revolve around the moon"?*

SHELDON

That's easy, 27 Days. Or is it 28?

I'll do the calculations myself.

Where's a calculator? (THINKS) Oh God, a calculator? What am I, some meth-smoking summer school burnout?

PENNY

I'll give you the point for "27"...

Watch, I probably can't even get one:

(READS) *"In which state was Kool-Aid invented?"* (NERVOUS) Uh... pass.

SHELDON

Penny, In which state was Kool-Aid invented?

PENNY

I don't know? You tell me Sheldon.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Answer the question!

PENNY (CONT'D)

Alright, it's Nebraska! But I only remember because I'm from there, and I had to play Mrs. Kool-Aid Man in my grade 4 pageant!

SHELDON

If there's one thing I cannot abide it's being condescended to! I shall accompany you to Taekwondo class tonight!

SHELDON GRABS A GYM BAG AND STORMS OUT OF THE ROOM. HE RETURNS, AND GRABS THE TRIVIAL PURSUIT CARD FROM PENNY.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

And for the record: 1812, Lucille Ball, Hydrogen Sulphide, and "It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World"! I'm back!

AS SHELDON AND PENNY CROSS OUT, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ, AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE STILL PLAYING RISK.
THEY ALL STARE AT EACH OTHER WITH CONTEMPT.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Good times.

SHELDON CROSSES FROM THE HALLWAY, FOLLOWED BY PENNY.

SHELDON

Gentlemen, and I use the term wholly
facetiously: Penny and I are leaving
for Taekwondo so that my training may
recommence in earnest! (THEN)

For the record, Raj could have won the
game several moves ago by invading
Upper Canada, thus driving Leonard and
Howard to mutually assured destruction
in Sub-Saharan Africa.

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Instead, you've all spent the last 3 hours sniping at each other like preteen girls debating the merits of the hunks from "Twilight". You are an embarrassment to geopolitical conflict.

SHELDON CROSSES OUT.

PENNY

I just didn't want to say it.

PENNY CROSSES OUT.

LEONARD

He's right. Don't you see?

WOLOWITZ

We need him to focus our anger on, otherwise we turn on each other.

KOOTHRAPALI

Just like the Soviet Republic, before the Bolshevik Revolution.

LEONARD AND WOLOWITZ STARE IN DISBELIEF AT HIS UNUSUAL FACTOID.

KOOTHRAPALI (CONT'D)

(REALIZES) Damn you Sheldon!

AS THEY SHAMEFULLY LEAVE THE RISK GAME BEHIND, WE:

CUT TO:

SCENE L

INT. TAEKWON-DO STUDIO - LATER

THE CLASS IS SPLIT OFF, WORKING IN PAIRS. SHELDON AND PENNY ARE BOTH DRESSED FOR CLASS.

PENNY

Alright Sheldon, we're going to try this again.

SHELDON

(NERVOUS) I'm not certain Penny. I thought I could do this, but here amidst the bright lights and pungent odors I'm having second thoughts. I'm not worthy to train.

TWO STUDENTS WALK PAST. SHELDON ANXIOUSLY BOWS TO THEM.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Please don't publicly humiliate me, fellow students.

PENNY

Sheldon, no one's going to humiliate you. You just need to get started. I'm going to let you hit me.

SHELDON

What?

PENNY STANDS WIDE OPEN.

PENNY

Come on. First one's free.

SHELDON

I can't strike a defenseless woman!

PENNY

Sheldon, I knocked you unconscious last night.

SHELDON

Another reason not to strike you!

PENNY

Sheldon, you want to be like Batman, right?

SHELDON

No. I want to be Batman.

PENNY

Okay... I'm asking you "what would Batman do?" Would he be scared? Would he hide? Or would he man up and hit a girl?

SHELDON CONSIDERS THIS. THEN:

SHELDON

(DEEP VOICE) I'll do it.

PENNY STANDS THERE, AS SHELDON TRIES TO SUMMON THE COURAGE. SHELDON RUNS AT HER AND STOPS.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

You promise you won't be angry?

PENNY

Yes Sheldon.

SHELDON

May I have your word that any injury I
cause will not be grounds for civil
prosecution?

PENNY

Just hit me Sheldon!

SHELDON JERKS INTO ACTION.

ANGLE ON: IN SLOW-MOTION, SHELDON HALF HITS, HALF SLAPS PENNY
IN THE SHOULDER. SHE BARELY FLINCHES.

SHELDON

I've done it! I've enacted physical
violence on another person! What is
this glorious feeling I'm
experiencing?

PENNY

Uh, not shame?

SHELDON

I like it! Let's continue!

PENNY

Really?

SHELDON

Bring it on baby!

PENNY AND SHELDON SQUARE OFF. SHELDON TURNS TO THE CLASS.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Hey Master Frank, watch me-

SHELDON TURNS BACK, AND PENNY PUNCHES HIM IN THE NOSE. AGAIN, WE HEAR A LOUD "THWACK".

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON: SHELDON'S POV.

SHELDON OPENS HIS EYES, AND WE SEE PENNY HOVERING OVER HIM.

PENNY

Oh God, Sheldon, I'm so sorry!

PENNY HELPS SHELDON TO HIS FEET.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Let's find you a chair.

SHELDON

Why, I feel great! Don't you see what this means? Not only am I capable of striking an opponent, but my ability to absorb punishment is perhaps my most Batman-like attribute of all!

PENNY

Yeah, that's it...

SHELDON

I want to thank you Penny, for showing me my true potential.

PENNY

Um, don't mention it, Sheldon.

PENNY STARTS TO LEAD SHELDON OFF THE FLOOR. HE STOPS HER.

SHELDON

Wait.

SHELDON BOWS TO PENNY.

PENNY

Aw...

PENNY RETURNS, AND BOWS TO SHELDON. THEY BOTH RISE. SHELDON IMMEDIATELY STUMBLES.

SHELDON

(DIZZY) Evidently I'm still quite
light-headed.

AS PENNY HELPS SHELDON TO A CHAIR, WE:

CUT TO:

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CAFETERIA - THE NEXT DAY

LEONARD, WOLOWITZ, AND KOOTHRAPPALI SIT HAVING LUNCH.

LEONARD

(OVERLY POLITE) Howard, may I please
have the salt?

WOLOWITZ

Certainly. Friend.

KOOTHRAPPALI

That's better.

SHELDON ENTERS, AND JOINS THEM. HE WEARS HIS BLACK CAPE OVER HIS REGULAR CLOTHES, AS WELL AS A YELLOW BELT.

LEONARD

Wow, you're feeling better.

SHELDON

I am. My training is back on track.
I've even donned my old utility belt,
so that I may never be caught off
guard again. As you can see:

SHELDON PRODUCES SEVERAL ITEMS.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

First aid kit, magnifying glass,
fingerprinting kit, and... Oreo
cookies as a snack.

THE BOYS ARE IMPRESSED.

WOLOWITZ

Nice! You'll never be hungry on a
stakeout.

SHELDON

Gentlemen, the criminal element has a
new reason to feel terror.

SHELDON LEANS BACK IN HIS CHAIR. AS HE DOES, A SMOKE BOMB
EXPLODES ON HIS BELT. SHELDON TAKES A BEAT, AND CALMLY RISES
FROM THE TABLE.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

AS SHELDON CROSSES OUT OF THE CAFETERIA, TRAILING A THICK
PLUME OF SMOKE BEHIND HIM, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW