

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CAFETERIA - DAY
(Koothrappali, Leonard, Sheldon, Wolowitz, Extras)

LEONARD, SHELDON, WOLOWITZ, AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE EATING LUNCH.

LEONARD

Are we talking the original Star Trek,
or The Next Generation?

SHELDON

Or Star Trek: The Animated Series,
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Star Trek:
Voyager, or Enterprise. Which was
later renamed to Star Trek:
Enterprise. I think they worried we
wouldn't know what it was about.

WOLOWITZ

We can't have anything introduced in
Voyager.

LEONARD

Why not Voyager?

SHELDON

Other than the utter disregard
displayed for science contained
therein? Everyone knows that you can't
travel faster than warp factor ten.

WOLOWITZ

I gave up on Voyager after the third season.

LEONARD

Quitter.

WOLOWITZ

You know it's quitting time when the fanfic in which everyone is making sweet, sweet love has better characterisation than the show.

KOOTHRAPALI

So you stopped watching at the very moment Seven of Nine arrived. A woman literally sewn into a catsuit.

WOLOWITZ

I didn't stop watching. I just turned off the sound.

KOOTHRAPALI

If I can only have one technology from Star Trek, I'll take the transporter. No need to walk or drive, you just slide the levers and (MAKES TRANSPORTER NOISE) zhoooooooooo! you're there.

SHELDON

There's no need to walk or drive anywhere anyway.

LEONARD

That's because I drive you everywhere.

SHELDON

Exactly. This also explains why no-one visits the restroom in Star Trek. If we can take apart and reassemble matter, we can just (MAKES TRANSPORTER NOISE) zhoooooooooo! everything out of you when you're done digesting.

WOLOWITZ PUTS DOWN HIS FORK.

WOLOWITZ

I'm done digesting.

KOOTHRAPALI

I fail to see how this is better.

SHELDON

Have you been in our bathroom after Leonard's had dairy products?

LEONARD

I have an intolerance.

SHELDON

Well I have an intolerance for your intolerance.

WOLOWITZ

The Holodeck. "Computer, execute program Wolowitz one hundred and seven."

KOOTHRAPALI

Ah, the Orion Slave Girls.

WOLOWITZ

How did you know?

KOOTHRAPALI

I was guessing that most of them
featured the Orion Slave Girls.

LEONARD

Wait, you actually have these worked
out by number?

WOLOWITZ

Just the general themes.

LEONARD

Replicators. I just ask for a
delicious meal and moments later, it's
there.

WOLOWITZ

(PICKS UP IMAGINARY PHONE) Hello,
pizza please.

LEONARD

But faster. And free.

KOOTHRAPALI

Why is this a better idea than
transporters?

SHELDON

Do you not recall the great Dinner
Incident of 2010?

WOLOWITZ

What was the great Dinner Incident of
2010?

SHELDON

Leonard cooked dinner.

KOOTHRAPPALI/WOLOWITZ

(REMEMBERING) Oh. / Oh.

LEONARD

It wasn't that bad.

KOOTHRAPPALI

It kind of was, actually. The taste wouldn't go away for days. I'm not certain that my palate ever properly recovered.

LEONARD

Penny never complains.

SHELDON

Her desire to make you happy has obviously overcome the need for honesty in your relationship. But have you considered where the raw materials come from that the replicators then turn into Tea, Earl Grey, Hot?

LEONARD

No, but I'm sure you're going to tell me.

SHELDON

Travelling from world to world, the brave crewmembers of the USS Enterprise will need to conserve energy by recycling. So all of the things dematerialised from your inside will become the basis for future meals.

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

As will what's left behind in the
holodeck after program Wolowitz one
hundred and seven.

LEONARD PUTS DOWN HIS FORK.

LEONARD

I'm done.

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

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

LEONARD IS WEARING A VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET AND PLAYING ALIEN: ISOLATION. WOLOWITZ AND KOOTHRAPPALI ARE SITTING DOWN, WATCHING ALONG ON THE TELEVISION.

LEONARD

What was that?

WOLOWITZ

(SCARY MONSTER VOICE) It's behind you.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Ooh, the alien's hiding over his head.

LEONARD LOOKS UP AND SCREAMS.

KOOTHRAPPALI (CONT'D)

Yes, just there.

LEONARD LOOKS FORWARD AGAIN AND PLAYS WITH THE CONTROLLER.

LEONARD

It's all right, I'm running away. I just need to find a place to hide until it picks on someone else. This is just like high school. I have maxed out this skill tree.

PENNY ENTERS, AND KISSES LEONARD ON THE CHEEK. HE SCREAMS.

PENNY

Sorry, I thought you knew I was there.

LEONARD

I thought you'd come to eat me! And
then I got kissed. It was surprising.
(LOOKING FORWARD) Oh, now I get eaten.

HE TAKES OFF THE HEADSET.

PENNY

Where's Sheldon?

LEONARD

Smiling randomly at things.

PENNY

That's new.

SHELDON ENTERS, AND WALKS INTO THE KITCHEN. HE SMILES A HUGE
RICTUS GRIN AT THE WALL.

SHELDON

Hello, people of the future!

PENNY GETS UP AND CROSSES TO SHELDON IN THE KITCHEN.

PENNY

Sweetie. You do know there's no-one
there, right?

SHELDON

I'm speaking to the future.

SHE GUIDES HIM TO HIS SPOT.

PENNY

Of course you are.

SHELDON

You know about the holodeck in Star
Trek?

PENNY

That's the thing which is like a TV
show you live inside, right?

LEONARD

Close enough.

PENNY

(FIST PUMP) Yes!

SHELDON

It's actually an area made of
holograms and force fields in which...

PENNY

Is a TV show you live inside. Don't
spoil the moment.

LEONARD

Don't worry, Sheldon, I'll explain all
of the science behind it to her later.

PENNY SHOTS LEONARD A LOOK AND MOUTHS "REALLY?" HE SHAKES
HIS HEAD AND MOUTHS "NO."

PENNY

So why are you talking to the walls?

SHELDON

The game that Leonard was just
attempting to play used a virtual
reality, so wherever he looked he saw
things.

WOLOWITZ

Such as his inevitable death.

SHELDON

As technology improves, virtual reality will become indistinguishable from real life. So we could be living in a virtual reality already, which just happens to simulate the real reality really well.

LEONARD

Which has what to do with smiling in random directions?

SHELDON

By analyzing the lighting at various times of day, I've determined the best positions for virtual cameras. If we're being recorded, they're going to want to see us at our best.

LEONARD

There are people recording us.

SHELDON

Almost certainly. According to a 2003 paper by Nick Bostrom then mathematically speaking, one of three things must be true: the human race will never survive long enough to evolve into super-powerful beings; super-powerful beings will never create simulations of their ancestors; or that we are almost certainly living in such a simulation right now.