

THE BIG BANG THEORY

"The Alternate Imperium"

by

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COLD OPEN A

FADE IN:

INT. THE COMIC BOOK STORE - DAY

KOOTHRAPPALI, LEONARD, WOLOWITZ AND SHELDON ARE LOOKING THROUGH THE COMICS RACKS. KOOTHRAPPALI PICKS OUT A COPY OF DC'S 'CONVERGENCE'.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Why are there so many comics set in an alternate universe these days?

LEONARD

I guess it's an escape from the gritty realism of everyday life in Gotham.

WOLOWITZ

You know my favourite alternate universe? The one in Star Trek, where everybody's dastardly and suave.

KOOTHRAPPALI

My favourite's the Ultimate Universe where everybody's younger and sexier.

SHELDON

I prefer Earth 3, where everybody's finally realised their true potential.

LEONARD

Sheldon, Earth 3 is where everyone's evil.

SHELDON

Surely not - Ultraman? Destroyer of Liberty? Evil?

LEONARD

There's a definite subtext.

WOLOWITZ

Imagine if it were possible to travel
between Universes.

SHELDON

Oh, it's possible.

WOLOWITZ

Theoretically yes.

SHELDON

Theoretical for you perhaps, but I'm
sure someone of sufficient intellect
would be able to do it.

WOLOWITZ

Someone like you?

SHELDON

Oh no. I'm far too busy.

LEONARD

You're saying the only thing holding
you back from an enormous scientific
breakthrough is a full diary?

SHELDON

No Leonard, you're right. That was a
foolish thing to say. I'll clear some
time this afternoon.

CUT TO:

COLD OPEN B

INT. ZANGEN OFFICES - DAY

BERNADETTE IS READING A NOTICEBOARD. ENTER PENNY.

BERNADETTE

Holy crap, have you seen this?

PENNY

The Outreach Program? Yeah, company
time for charity work, it's -

BERNADETTE

- mollycoddling lowlifes, lazybones
and parasites. What idiot came up with
that dumb idea?

DAN THE BOSS JOINS THEM.

DAN

Checking out the Outreach
Opportunities? Great idea Penny.

BERNADETTE

Oh. That sort.

PENNY

Thanks Dan.

DAN

Hey, if you're interested we've got a
slot at the Children's Hospital
tonight.

PENNY

Oh darn it, I'm busy. But how about
you Bernadette?

DAN

Those kiddies sure would appreciate a
visit. What do you say?

BERNADETTE
(through gritted teeth)

Nothing would make me happier.

DAN

Great! I'll send you the details.

DAN GOES. PENNY PUTS A HAND ON BERNADETTE'S SHOULDER.

PENNY

I never knew how good charity work
could make me feel.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. LEONARD AND SHELDON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SHELDON IS SAT IN HIS SPOT ON THE COUCH. ENTER LEONARD.

LEONARD

Hey buddy. How'd the inventing go?

SHELDON

Not well. I have reached an impasse.

LEONARD

I guess even you can't build a door to another dimension in one afternoon.

SHELDON

Oh no, that was easy. The problem's my personality.

LEONARD

I could have told you that.

SHELDON

I need to swap my mind with that of my counterpart in the next door Universe.

LEONARD

How do you know there'll even be a version of you in the next Universe?

SHELDON

A Universe without me in it?

Unthinkable!

LEONARD

Yeah - what would it revolve around?

SHELDON

I need a way to unloosen my psyche
from the bounds of physical reality.

LEONARD

You mean like drugs?

SHELDON

An intriguing suggestion. But who do
we know lowlife enough to have access
to such substances?

ENTER PENNY.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Ah Penny. Could you "score" some
"reefer" from your "pusher" for me?

PENNY

Sure, I'll ask him at the Biker Gang
meeting tonight.

SHELDON

Excellent. Would he prefer cash or a
cheque?

ENTER WOLOWITZ AND BERNADETTE

BERNADETTE

There she is! There's the goody-two
shoes hippy who's ruined my evening!

LEONARD

What did you do?

PENNY

I suggested the company use some of
its profits to help sick children.

LEONARD

Good for you Penny, I'm proud of you!

BERNADETTE

I'm sorry, I didn't realise we were living in Stalinist Russia.

WOLOWITZ

Come on, it might be fun. You know how children make you feel broody...

BERNADETTE

Nauseous, Howard, they make me feel nauseous.

WOLOWITZ

Nauseous, broody - it all means you need some Howie-care.

SHELDON

None of this chit chat is getting me any closer to scoring some doobie!

ENTER KOOTHRAPALI AND STUART

KOOTHRAPPALI

Why is Sheldon asking for doobie?

LEONARD

He wants to visit another universe.

KOOTHRAPPALI

Makes sense.

STUART

Well, if you like, I can take you to see Druggie Alan.

SHELDON

Does he have access to narcotics?

LEONARD

No Sheldon, he's called Druggie Alan because sells soda pop in 1957.

WOLOWITZ

How do you know drug dealers Stuart?

STUART

You work in the counter culture, you meet some pretty freaky people. Alan comes in every week for Archie comics.

LEONARD

I'm not sure - it sounds dangerous.

WOLOWITZ

You need to take some muscle along - me and Raj'll come.

BERNADETTE

No way, you two are coming with me. I'm not facing those malingering crybabies on my own.

KOOTHRAPALI

Oh, but I wanted to see the dangerous drug dealer!

BERNADETTE

You can choose the candy?

KOOTHRAPALI

Drugs are for losers!

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. DRUGS DEN - NIGHT

STUART, LEONARD AND PENNY STAND OUTSIDE AN APARTMENT DOOR.

PENNY

So this is what a drugs den looks like
nowadays?

LEONARD

What did it used to look like?

PENNY

A lot like my Gym Teacher's Office.

STUART

Where's Sheldon?

LEONARD

He said he wanted to get ready.

SHELDON ENTERS WITH HIS HAIR SLICKED DOWN, A GRUBBY WHITE T-SHIRT, BACK LEATHER JACKET AND DARK GLASSES.

LEONARD (CONT'D)

What's this?

SHELDON

I can't be recognised in an Opium Den -
Dr Sheldon Cooper is a respected
University Professor.

LEONARD

Well, he's a University Professor
anyway.

SHELDON

And I'm pleased to see I'm not the
only person who thought ahead.
Excellent Crack Witch disguise Penny!

PENNY

This is literally what I was wearing
when we set off.

SHELDON

It suits you. Now, shall we?

HE GOES TO THE DOOR AND KNOCKS.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Mr Pusher Man. Mr Pusher Man. Mr

Pusher Man.

THE DRUG DEALER OPENS THE DOOR, A MIDDLE AGED MAN WITH SHAVED
HEAD AND GOATEE - BASICALLY WALTER FROM 'BREAKING BAD'.

DRUG DEALER

Hey Stuart - what's happened? Is there
a problem with Betty And Veronica?

STUART

Only that there's only one Archie.

DRUG DEALER

You got that right! So, how can I help
you youngsters?

SHELDON

We'd like to score some Mary Jane.

LEONARD

He means pot.

PENNY

Leonard, this is a whole new "bad boy"
side to you I've not seen before.

SHELDON

If you don't mind me saying sir, you
don't resemble any dope peddler I've
read about.

DRUG DEALER

Well, I used to be a chemistry teacher but then I got a cancer diagnosis that made me reassess my priorities.

LEONARD

You mean you knew you were going to die so wanted to make enough money to keep your family safe?

DRUG DEALER

No, I got the all clear and thought "Screw it, let's get high!" Now, will you need a receipt?

CUT TO: