

Extrait de l'épisode « The Tangerine Factor » (S01E17) de *The Big Bang Theory*

Penny: OK, so here's the thing: I guess you're aware that Leonard asked me out.

Sheldon: Well, he didn't actually say anything but when he came back to the apartment he was doing a dance that brought to mind the happy hippos in Fantasia.

Penny: Oh, that's nice. Anyhow, the thing I wanted to talk to you about is, you know, since Leonard and I have become friends, I was just... Wanna sit down?

Sheldon: Oh, I wish it were that simple... You see, I don't spend much time here and so I've never really chosen a place to sit.

Penny: Well, choose!

Sheldon: There are a number of options and I'm really not familiar enough with the cushion densities, airflow patterns and dispersion of sunlight to make an informed choice.

Penny: All right, why don't you just pick one at random and if you don't like it, you can sit somewhere else next time?

Sheldon: No, no, that's crazy! You go ahead and talk while I figure it out.

Penny: OK... Erm, here's the thing. So, I've known for a while now that Leonard has had a little crush on me.

Sheldon: A little crush? Well, I suppose so, in the same way Menelaus had a little crush on Helen of Troy.

Penny: All right, yeah, I don't really know who they are...

Sheldon: Menelaus was the brother of Agamemnon and...

Penny: Yeah, honey, I don't care, I don't care. Listen. The point is, Leonard isn't the kind of guy I usually go out with.

Sheldon: Leonard isn't the kind of guy anyone usually goes out with. Would you be open to rotating the couch clockwise 30 degrees?

Penny: No. What I'm saying is, Leonard might be different in a good way. Obviously my usual choices have not worked out so well.

Sheldon: Your last one worked out well for Koothrappali. He got a free iPod. Oh, glare.

Penny: But on the other hand, if things don't go well with Leonard, I risk losing a really good friend. I mean, I'm guessing he's not looking for a fling. He's the kind of guy that gets into a relationship for... I dunno, like you would say, light-years.

Sheldon: I would not say that! No one would say that. A light-year is a unit of distance, not time.

Penny: Thank you for the clarification.

Sheldon: Draft. You see, people hear the word "year" and they think duration. Foot-pound has the same problem. That's a unit of work, not of weight.

Penny: Right, thanks.

Sheldon: It's a common mistake.

Penny: Not the first one I've made today.

Sheldon: OK! I think this'll be my seat.

Penny: Sheldon, do you have anything to say that has anything to do with, you know, what I'm talking about?

Sheldon: Well, let's see. We might consider Schrödinger's Cat.

Penny: Schrödinger? Is that the woman in 2A?

Sheldon: No. That's Mrs Grossinger. And she doesn't have a cat, she has a Mexican hairless, annoying little animal, yip yip yip yip...

Penny: Sheldon!

Sheldon: Sorry, you diverted me. Anyway, in 1935, Erwin Schrödinger, in an attempt to explain the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum physics, he proposed an experiment where a cat is placed in a box with a sealed vial of poison that will break open at a random time. Now, since no one knows when or if the poison has been released, until the box is opened, the cat can be thought of as both alive and dead.

Penny: I'm sorry, I don't get the point.

Sheldon: Well of course you don't get it, I haven't made it yet. You'd have to be psychic to get it, and there's no such thing as psychic.

Penny: Sheldon, what's the point?

Sheldon: Just like Schrödinger's Cat, your potential relationship with Leonard right now can be thought of as both good and bad. It is only by opening the box that you'll find out which it is.

Penny: Okay, so you're saying I should go out with Leonard.

Sheldon: No, no, no, no, no, no. Let me start again. In 1935, Erwin Schrödinger...