

"THE STILETTO PROPOSITION"

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REVISED DRAFT

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WRITER'S NOTE: While this is a follow-up of sorts to the episode "The Bus Pants Utilization", it is not imperative that you view that episode prior to reading this one.

Suffice it to say in the previous episode, the boys decide to write an app that recognizes complex equations. After Sheldon becomes too Sheldon, they kick him off the project and he begrudgingly helps Penny write an app that recognizes shoes and then tells people where they can buy them.

The fates and successes of the apps were never revealed ... until now.

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Questions or comments (other than formatting): feel free to e-mail me at: ecomments@aol.com

THE BIG BANG THEORY

"The Stiletto Proposition"

COLD OPENING

FADE IN

INT. BUILDING LOBBY

PENNY, BERNADETTE and AMY enter as PENNY casually sifts through her mail.

BERNADETTE

You know, I knew planning a wedding would take a lot of time, but I never knew it could be so hazardous.

PENNY

Howard's mother again?

PENNY spots a letter she doesn't recognize and opens it.

BERNADETTE

You know, I still haven't seen her since I first met her in the hospital. We just talk on the phone. About every detail. Every frigging little detail. (beat) Oops. Excuse me.

AMY

It's not surprising, really. When the son decides to take a wife, or, in this case finally decides to take a wife, I understand the entire mother/son familial dynamic can reach its ultimate, albeit sometimes bloody, conclusion.

BERNADETTE looks at AMY, a little concerned.

AMY (cont'd) (beat) We've got your back. PENNY reads the letter and is confused at first, but gradually catches on. It is very good news.

BERNADETTE Oh, I've decided I like our phone relationship just the way it is. I'm thinking for the actual wedding I'd just put her on speakerphone in the front pew.

PENNY screams and her eyes almost pop out of her head.

PENNY What -- ? Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

BERNADETTE Goodness, Penny, what <u>is</u> it?

AMY

Lab results?

PENNY

Sheldon. Sheldon!

PENNY begins dashing up the stairs. BERNADETTE tries to keep up with her, bopping up and down as she runs up the stairs.

BERNADETTE

Slow down! With those legs two steps of yours are six of mine.

AMY is left alone.

AMY

They get excited so easily. I'm thinking sometimes I should have my estrogen level checked more regularly.

She shrugs and slowly follows them up the stairs.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT LANDING - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING (DAY 1)

PENNY finishes dashing up the stairs and knocks three times on the boys' door.

PENNY

Sheldon.

(three knocks)

Sheldon!

(three knocks, screaming)

SHELDON!

SHELDON opens the door and look at PENNY.

SHELDON

Well, that was annoying.

PENNY gives him a "no kidding" look. She waves an envelope in front of him.

PENNY

I have something for you.

SHELDON, slightly suspicious, takes a step back.

SHELDON

You've given up acting and become a process server.

PENNY

(singing)
And it's going to make you happy!

SHELDON

You've given up acting and become a singing process server.

PENNY

Keep it up and I won't give you this.

SHELDON

Maybe I don't want it.

PENNY

Sheldon, this will make you happier than getting an unopened original Universal Studios Frankenstein's Monster model kit.

SHELDON

Hmmmm ...

PENNY

By Revell.

SHELDON

Oh, well, now you're just being ridiculous.

PENNY gives him the envelope.

PENNY

Read it and weep -- with joy.

He opens it and pulls out a check.

SHELDON

Well, even you know the odds of that happening. (beat) A check. For me?

He sees the amount.

SHELDON

How much?

PENNY

Remember my "silly little shoe app"?

SHELDON

I remember writing some elementary bits of code while you took countless pictures of everything in your closet even remotely resembling footwear.

PENNY

Right.

SHELDON

Those are two hours I'll never get back.

She points to the check.

SHELDON

What? How? This is a lot of money, Penny. (beat, chuckling) Moneypenny. That's a reference to --

PENNY

Not the first time I've heard it, honey.

SHELDON

(squelched) Oh. Well, this is very nice. And did you get a check, too?

PENNY holds up her check.

PENNY

There are a lot of women with feet out there, Sheldon.

BERNADETTE bops into view, still bouncing up and down as she finishes the stairs. She puts a hand on her breasts to stop their motion. AMY is a few steps behind.

BERNADETTE

Woo! Once the girls start going sometimes it takes a few seconds to make them stop. Hi, Sheldon. My feet are killing me. I need some new running-up-stairs shoes.

AMY suddenly sits, not demurely, and begins pulling off one of her high-tech orthopedic oxfords. It takes her a few tugs during the following.

AMY

Here. Try mine. They were designed by Elizabeth H. Blackburn, 2009 co-Nobel Prize winner for Medicine. Technically she received the award for the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase. But I hear she has a nifty shoe shop in her garage and whipped these up one weekend. AMY, still sitting slightly stretched out and unladylike, holds a shoe up. BERNADETTE looks at AMY and then at PENNY and then slowly takes her phone out and casually takes a picture of the shoe. She turns to PENNY.

BERNADETTE

What was the name of your app again?

PENNY Doubt that one's in the database. (to AMY) You're much more limber than I would have guessed.

AMY

I get that a lot.

She starts to stand, unconcerned with modesty.

PENNY/BERNADETTE

Don't get up!

SHELDON

Am I missing something here?

AMY shrugs and stays sitting on the floor.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

FADE IN:

INT. BOYS' APARTMENT

As the others eat and drink, SHELDON has his nose buried in a merchandise catalog. PENNY is pacing around, excited. She frequently stops near someone, takes some of their food, and inhales it.

PENNY

Oh, my God, I can't believe it! I've never seen this much money at one time. I can give up my waitress job. Maybe even give up my acting career.

SHELDON

(not looking up)
Well, that seems a little redundant. Ooh,
look! An actual silver and emerald replica
of the Silver Age Green Lantern ring.
 (confused)
"Batteries not included"?

PENNY, instead of wincing, laughs and goes over to SHELDON, picking something off HOWARD's plate on the way. RAJ tries to see the page of the magazine SHELDON is reading.

RAJ Ooh! Where do the batteries go in such a tiny piece of jewelry?

PENNY

Sheldon, I'm so happy right now that not even you can spoil my mood. In fact, I'm going to give you a great big hug.

SHELDON

Oh, that's really not --

PENNY gives his head an awkward hug from behind, and then kisses the top of it. He starts to touch his head, but realizes there might be germs there. She walks away and starts to take something off RAJ's plate, but he holds it out of her reach.

SHELDON

-- necessary. Great. (to RAJ) Is my cowlick sticking up now?

RAJ I'm assuming "cow lick" means something different in this country.

PENNY walks to RAJ's other side and grabs some food anyway. SHELDON goes back to his catalog.

RAJ Hey! That's the third Column B you've grabbed from me!

HOWARD That's why I always eat my Column A food first.

LEONARD

So let me get this straight. You came up with an app for identifying shoes and telling women where they can buy them?

PENNY

Uh-huh! I made shoe shopping easy, so I named it "Penny Loafers".

RAJ smiles and nods, liking the name.

RAJ

Cool! Whatever it means. I'm assuming it's a pun of some kind. Someone should really write a book of them for the rest of us.

RAJ gives PENNY a thumbs-up and offers her more food.

HOWARD "Penny Loafers." Cute. I like it.

PENNY

Thanks!

HOWARD

(pointedly at LEONARD) Clever. Easy remembered. <u>Marketable</u>. Sure is a whole lot catchier than "Differential Equation Recognition Database".

LEONARD gives HOWARD a look, but lets it go.

RAJ

(mouth full)

DERD. Really trips off the tongue.

HOWARD

(nauseated) Like your Column B food is doing right now. Close your mouth when you chew, please.

LEONARD

(to Sheldon) And <u>you</u> wrote the code for that?

SHELDON

(oblivious) Did you know you can get a life-size Batmobile car kit for only \$35,000?

HOWARD

TV, movie, or movie re-boot?

SHELDON

TV, of course.

HOWARD/LEONARD/RAJ

Cool!

SHELDON

All I need is a Yugo to build it on.

RAJ

What's a Yugo?

HOWARD

It's like a Pacer, but without the frills.

PENNY is exasperated.

PENNY

Guys! Come on! This is my moment.

LEONARD

Of course. Sorry, Penny. This is so amazing! So, how did you sell it?

PENNY

After a few months I got up the nerve and I just filled out the application and sent it in. It was approved in just four days!

HOWARD

I guess, the "gang at Cupertino" isn't very fussy when it comes to footwear. I mean they buy what, one pair of sneakers every five years?

RAJ

(at HOWARD)

Pot, kettle. See? I get that one.

PENNY

Next thing I know it just took off! I didn't want to say anything in case it was a fluke.

SHELDON

Did you know you can buy a fishing boat primarily <u>for</u> catching flukes? Wonder if it comes in blue?

PENNY

Of course, I'm sure I didn't do nearly as well as you did with <u>your</u> Equation Spotter thingy app.

LEONARD, HOWARD and RAJ avoid PENNY's eyes, embarrassed.

LEONARD

Well, I think you might have brought in a few more buyers than we did. Our demographic was a bit narrower than yours.

HOWARD

Narrower?

HOWARD lifts up a pen.

HOWARD (cont'd)

See this pen? I bought it with my share of the profits. Almost.

SHELDON

And the money come rollin' in.

LEONARD

(changing subject) So ... do you have a name of your company?

PENNY I call it "Penshel Enterprises."

HOWARD

Pencil?

PENNY points to herself and then SHELDON.

PENNY

No. "Pen" and "Shel". Like what you guys did with your app.

RAJ

I like the Star Trek reference.

HOWARD

Not that Enterprise.

RAJ

Well, maybe some of your customers won't know that.

HOWARD

Yeah. "Penny Loafers" will be real big with pre-teen boys.

RAJ It will if you use a picture of Penny in a bikini.

PENNY

Aw, Raj ... always so sweet.

RAJ smiles, proud of himself.

PENNY

Guys, tomorrow night? Dinner on me. At a good place!

SHELDON

You know, if I had a Batmobile, I could drive us.

LEONARD

Drive us? You're scared to death of driving.

SHELDON

Wouldn't be if I had a Batmobile. Of course it only holds two people so you three would have to take a second car.

CUT TO:

SCENE C

FADE IN:

INT. DRESS SHOP - THREE DRESSING ROOM STALLS - THAT AFTERNOON

We are in a somewhat upscale dress shop. We see three dressing room stalls next to each other, and the legs of PENNY, BERNADETTE and AMY. BERNADETTE, in the center stall, is having some trouble putting her dress on.

BERNADETTE

Mmmmph. Ugh. Whew!

PENNY Bernadette, are you okay?

BERNADETTE

The dress is a little tight. Kind of like scuba gear.

AMY

Bestie, this is very generous of you, Buying us dresses for dinner tonight. Are you sure it's financially prudent?

PENNY steps out first. She is SMASHINGLY hot. She looks in a side mirror and checks out her dress.

PENNY

Prudent, schmudent. Heads will turn. Besides, just once I want to know what's it like to say, "It's on me."

BERNADETTE

I'd like to know what it's like to hear Howard say that, and not be referring to guilt.

PENNY

Besides, if you can't spoil your friends a little, where's the fun in life? Come on out, Bernadette.

BERNADETTE

I don't know. It's a little revealing.

PENNY

That's the idea. To knock 'em over.

BERNADETTE

Okay, but do me a favor first.

PENNY

What.

BERNADETTE

Could you look around to see if there are any nuns with rulers nearby?

AMY

Is there actually any truth to that anecdotal legend?

BERNADETTE

My knuckles didn't heal until I was twenty-three.

PENNY

All clear.

BERNADETTE comes out looking AMAZING. The dress has a high hem and is very low cut. BERNADETTE tugs down and pulls up to maintain her modesty. PENNY smiles at her.

> PENNY Wow! You are really wearing that dress!

BERNADETTE

Well, almost. I'm just worried that I'll be playing tug-of-war all evening. Only with the dress instead of Howard.

She looks in the mirror and smiles, still a little modest.

PENNY

Howard won't be able to keep his hands off ... oh, that ship has sailed.

BERNADETTE Nightly. Sometimes I feel like bread dough. AMY quietly emerges. She looks spectacular in her dress. The other girls are stunned.

AMY The tops of my breasts are cold.

PENNY

My, my, my! Doctor Amy Farrah Fowler! Who knew under all those PhD clothes you had such a cute figure?

AMY

Well ... I did. I do have a mirror in my post-shower dressing area.

BERNADETTE

Penny is right. You do look great.

AMY

As do you, Bernadette. Seeing your tiny, curvaceous little frame combined with your enviable cleavage so stoutly supported, I wonder why I'm thinking of the prime number 7.

PENNY

And that color is perfect on you. It really sets off your ... brings out your ...

PENNY tries to find a feature to mention, but is caught.

PENNY (cont'd) ... you look great!

AMY

This outfit is having an unexpected psychological effect on me. You know, I think I enjoy being a girl.

PENNY

Oh! Amy, I'm impressed. An actual musical theater reference. From "Flower Drum Song" by Rodgers and Hammerstein!

AMY

What?

(looks in mirror) In any case, I feel pretty. Oh, so pretty. PENNY

Ladies, when the boys see us tonight there'll be pandemonium.

AMY Say, that's a pretty long word for you, Bestie.

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT - THAT EVENING

The whole gang is at a very nice table and are just finishing dessert. The guys are a little more dressed up than usual. The ladies look amazing. SHELDON continues reading his catalog. The other guys are busy trying not to look at the ladies' busts, though they (especially RAJ) sneak in some not-so-subtle glances. HOWARD is annoyed when RAJ looks at BERNADETTE.

BERNADETTE

What a great dinner. Penny, this is so nice. Thank you.

PENNY

You're very welcome. I'm glad you all could come. (at SHELDON)

With or without your catalogs.

BERNADETTE And all the men look so handsome.

The guys smile, but no one returns the compliment. RAJ tears off a roll, HOWARD sips his drink and elbows RAJ when he looks at BERNADETTE, who almost catches him looking. SHELDON is still looking at the catalog. LEONARD checks the table cloth fabric. The ladies wait a moment. Finally:

AMY

(prompting)

Gentlemen?

They finally snap to and ad-lib compliments.

GUYS Huh? Oh, right. You look great. Nice hair, etc.

HOWARD

(softly, to BERNADETTE)

You're the prettiest.

BERNADETTE

Thank you, sweetie.

HOWARD

Now cover them up until we get home.

HOWARD puts a napkin over her décolletage. RAJ is disappointed.

BERNADETTE

Don't be silly, Howard.

BERNADETTE removes the napkin and RAJ smiles at HOWARD.

PENNY

What is the matter with you guys? You've been quiet through the whole meal. Almost as if the topic was sports.

AMY

I believe they're trying to avoid eye contact with our exposed-more-than-usual bosoms. Penny excepted.

The guys, except SHELDON, are embarrassed and ad-lib disagreement.

GUYS

(ad-libbing)
What? No. Don't be ridiculous, etc.

SHELDON

(outraged) Oh, come on ... five hundred dollars for a star-spangled Wonder Woman boustier? That's two-fifty a cup!

The guys feel even more awkward. SHELDON looks up.

SHELDON

What.

AMY

I've never understood the heterosexual male preoccupation with the female mammaries.

RAJ

You would if you didn't have any.

PENNY

Everybody relax. We're all here to celebrate. Why doesn't everyone just have a sip of wine and take a great big breath?

LEONARD/HOWARD

No!

RAJ

Yes!

(to guys) Shut up! I want to see their big breaths.

Everyone drinks, even SHELDON, but by coincidence. RAJ waits for the big breaths, which are not forthcoming. A pause. Finally:

LEONARD

Oh, Penny ...

PENNY

(quickly and very grateful) Yes! Leonard!

LEONARD I have a present for you. To celebrate.

PENNY is delighted. The others smile.

PENNY

For me?

LEONARD pulls out his phone.

LEONARD

It's a screen capture.

PENNY

Oh. Um ... okay. Yay ...

He taps it a few times and passes it to her. She looks at the screen and is amazed and delighted.

PENNY

Look! Look! Penny Loafer is now one of the top 25 apps!

Cheers from the others. PENNY circles the table, showing everyone.

RAJ Very impressive. Do you get any kind of prize?

HOWARD It's paying for your dinner.

BERNADETTE

It's so exciting!

PENNY

I know!

HOWARD

That <u>is</u> amazing. I think <u>our</u> app made it up to what -- nine thousandth?

AMY

Bestie, I'm stoked.

SHELDON barely glances up, he is not impressed.

SHELDON iPhone 3GS. Nice. Very 2009.

PENNY Sheldon, look! We're in the top 25!

SHELDON

Oh! Well ... good for us. I've always aspired to be twenty-fifth at something.

PENNY

First or twenty-fifth, the money spends the same.

Finally, she leans over LEONARD and gives him a hug, with her arms and her cleavage.

PENNY Oh, thank you, sweetie. It's the best present you could have given me.

LEONARD

Ditto.

LEONARD smiles for a number of reasons then catches himself. He stands.

LEONARD

A toast.

Everyone else stands as the WAITER returns with the check. Even SHELDON stands, but he keeps reading the catalog.

LEONARD

To Penny. May her newfound talent and determination keep her ever moving upward.

ALL (but PENNY and SHELDON)

To Penny.

They drink. PENNY is moved. Throughout the following, the WAITER tries to figure out who gets the bill. He goes to each of the men first. They react differently; RAJ swallows in terror, HOWARD backs away a step.

PENNY Thank you, Leonard. Thank you, all. (beat) You too, Sheldon!

The WAITER gets to SHELDON at the same moment. SHELDON waves him off.

SHELDON

(distracted) No, I'm full.

The WAITER gets to LEONARD, who shakes his head and points directly at PENNY.

LEONARD Um, no. She. Her. That one.

PENNY smiles and waves to the WAITER.

PENNY Nope! Down here. I'll take that. (happily) "It's on me." The girls applaud as the WAITER looks back at LEONARD and winks.

WAITER I see ... <u>and</u> dinner. Nice going.

CUT TO:

SCENE E

FADE IN:

INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT AFTERNOON

PENNY and SHELDON are discussing their "company". LEONARD is grading some papers. PENNY holds a clipboard.

PENNY So what is this list again?

SHELDON

It's all the ideas I have for our company. To help ensure success for Pen<u>Shel</u> Enterprises.

PENNY We're already successful.

SHELDON

I want to be more successful. Look, I've even designed a logo.

He points to the clipboard. PENNY glances down.

PENNY A giant penny with your face on it.

SHELDON

Get it?

PENNY

Yeah. But it took a fourth of a second.

SHELDON

Not a terribly good likeness, I photoshopped a picture of me at age 12. Other than my university badge, it's the last picture I had taken of me. I don't like having my picture taken. That's why you don't see any around the apartment.

LEONARD

Don't think we don't appreciate it.

SHELDON

Don't you have essays to grade?

PENNY

"Job title: CEO and Master of All Things Technical."

SHELDON

Has a nice semi-religious sound to it. My mother would like it -- or think it blasphemy.

PENNY

(doing the acronym) So, you would be the MOATT?

LEONARD

Trust me, Penny. You really don't want to get into job titles with him. Speaking as a surviving negotiator I'm giving you fair warning.

PENNY

No, I figure I'll be President and CEO.

SHELDON

How come you get to be both?

PENNY

My company. My idea. I'm the head honcho.

SHELDON

But if you're the head honcho, what would that make <u>me</u>?

LEONARD looks up.

LEONARD

I don't know. The "butt" honcho?

PENNY

(giggling) I'd like to see that on your nameplate. "Sheldon Cooper - Butt Honcho."

SHELDON

Oh, come on now, Penny. Let me be the CEO.

PENNY

No. I figure <u>you</u> would be the Chief <u>Technical</u> Computer ... Writing ... Guy.

SHELDON

Well, <u>that</u> will fit nicely on a business card. "Sheldon Cooper, Chief Technical Computer please flip card over Writing Guy".

LEONARD

Well, it's better than MOATT. Maybe she can just call you "Scotty."

PENNY Sheldon, there are just the two of us!

SHELDON I'm not getting an assistant?

PENNY crosses it off his list.

PENNY

No assistant.

SHELDON

But who will bring me my Tang?

She looks at him, he pouts.

SHELDON

Okay. So where will our offices be?

PENNY

Offices?

SHELDON

I suppose we should choose a building first. It's very important to make a impressive first impression when people come to call. Or interview me. Or take me to lunch.

PENNY

But --

LEONARD

Don't try stopping him. He's about to talk architecture.

SHELDON

I think classic Greek architecture would be an excellent choice.

LEONARD

Told you. It was one of his 12 minors.

SHELDON

With big columns out in front. But which style? There are three, you know. Ionic? Corinthian? No, they're too ornate. I'm thinking standard Doric.

LEONARD

I'm thinking standard dork, too.

PENNY

Sheldon, this is a virtual company.

She looks over at LEONARD to make sure she got the term right. He happily nods, impressed.

PENNY (cont'd) We won't have offices. We don't <u>need</u> offices -- or a building. I take the pictures in my apartment, and you write the code stuff anywhere you want to.

SHELDON

No offices, no building, no desks, no pencil-and-Post-It holders? Wonderful. Now you join the 21st Century.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE F

FADE IN:

INT. BOYS' APARTMENT

The gang is sitting around eating Chinese food. SHELDON is absent.

HOWARD So, where <u>is</u> Sheldon tonight?

LEONARD

Oh, Sheldon's gone?

RAJ

Probably out spending all that extra money. Lucky duck. I wonder what he'll buy?

LEONARD

Probably the entire batcave ... or five magic beans.

They laugh as PENNY enters. Even though she wears a shirt and shorts, she's dressed a little more upscale than usual, and her hair is done very attractively.

PENNY

Hey, guys!

HOWARD It's the CEO of Penshel Enterprises!

LEONARD Wow. You look extra nice tonight.

PENNY smiles and models, and flashes her nails.

PENNY

Thanks!

She sits and grabs some food.

HOWARD

New nails, new clothes, new hair ... Gee, you must be in a whole new tax bracket now, too.

PENNY

What do you mean?

HOWARD

Well, owning your own company, making so much money. I remember my first lemonade stand. Right outside the synagogue. Made a killing. Especially when I gave them the face.

HOWARD makes a poor, orphan face.

LEONARD

You made enough that you had to pay taxes?

HOWARD

Yeah. Fortunately half my clientele were tax lawyers. Otherwise those taxes would have killed me.

PENNY

Well, not me.

LEONARD What do you mean, not you?

PENNY The app is under a dollar.

LEONARD

So?

PENNY

You don't pay tax on a dollar of income.

The guys lean forward, concerned. RAJ gulps down a lot of food and begins coughing.

HOWARD

It's not an individual thing, Penny. It's how much you make in total. Even though my price per glass <u>was</u> a bit inflated. Standard markup.

LEONARD

Are you saying you haven't paid any taxes on all that income?

PENNY stops mid-chew and is suddenly very scared.

PENNY

Um ... suppose, for argument's sake --

GUYS

Oh, no!

PENNY

I don't like it when you guys talk together. It never ends up good.

LEONARD

This is serious. You could be in big trouble, Penny.

PENNY

Really? Maybe they won't notice. Maybe I'll get in under the radar.

SHELDON enters with two shopping bags of comic and sci-fi merchandise, which are a little heavy for him. He sports a brand new super-hero t-shirt which he flaunts by feebly puffing his chest out and twisting from side to side.

> SHELDON Look what I bought with some of the money I had left over. After putting some away for paying my taxes on it.

PENNY realizes she's screwed. SHELDON coughs from trying to puff his chest out. He puts down his shopping bags and rubs his upper arms.

> SHELDON You know, uber-fandom can be occasionally be quite strenuous.

> > CUT TO:

SCENE G

FADE IN:

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

PENNY and SHELDON are sitting at a desk with a young LAWYER on the other side. SHELDON occasionally glances up at framed diplomas on the wall.

PENNY

Thanks for seeing us on such short notice, Bobby. It's been awhile since the acting class.

SHELDON

(to himself)
"Bobby". A name that will strike fear
into many a prosecutor's heart.

BOBBY

Had to finish my degree online. And hey, my first day! Glad you could be my first client.

SHELDON

An acting lawyer. Well, there you go.

PENNY

Why did you come with me Sheldon?

SHELDON

For moral support, of course ... and to see if my butt is in the clear.

PENNY

How bad is it, Bobby?

BOBBY

Remember Medea?

SHELDON

The woman who, in Greek mythology, after being betrayed by her unfaithful husband Jason, killed their children, not to mention her brother? Although that last one had nothing to with Jason's infidelity. She was just generally a really vindictive bitch.

BOBBY

Compared to the trouble you're in, her life was a picnic.

SHELDON

Doesn't sound good.

PENNY is desperate and exasperated.

PENNY What do I need to do?

SHELDON

Start working double-shifts.

BOBBY

I took the liberty of outlining the best plan of action.

PENNY

Which is?

BOBBY

Pay all your taxes, fees and start a legitimate business.

PENNY sits and absorbs it for a second or two.

PENNY

And ... Plan B?

BOBBY

No Plan B.

SHELDON

Really? There's no legal mumbo-jumbo or courtroom chicanery you can come up with?

BOBBY

I'm afraid not.

SHELDON

Well, you're certainly no Matlock.

BOBBY opens a file folder.

BOBBY

After paying your taxes <u>with</u> penalty, filing for your business license, and assorted other minimum startup business and administrative costs here's what you're left with.

He hands her a piece of paper.

PENNY

Three hundred forty-six dollars and seventy-three cents?

SHELDON Um ... does that include my dental?

PENNY

I'm ruined.

SHELDON

PENNY

You don't understand. By now there are probably hundreds of other shoe apps out there. I was the first. This was my big chance. I'll never make that much money with this again.

SHELDON

Well, there goes the company Christmas party.

CUT TO:

SCENE H

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT LOBBY - AN HOUR LATER

PENNY sits on the stairs, dejected. She has a stack of paperwork on the step next to her. LEONARD enters and sees her.

LEONARD

Hey, Penny. Why are you sitting down here in the lobby?

PENNY

Just got back from the lawyer. No strength left to climb the stairs.

LEONARD

Ooh, that bad, huh?

He sits on the step next to her.

PENNY

Taxes, penalties on taxes, licenses, filing fees, penalties on late filing fees. I'm broke again. Well, almost.

LEONARD

What's the bottom line?

PENNY

My super-popular shoe app, which was bought by tens of thousands of shoeless women has netted me three hundred forty-six dollars and seventy-three cents.

LEONARD

Hey, at least it's a profit. Very few new companies can do that, you know. And you still made more than my app.

PENNY

I'm just a failure at this, too. My acting career, nothing I do is a success.

LEONARD gets a little angry.

LEONARD

That's not true. Like you told Sheldon yesterday: you're <u>already</u> a success. How any people have written an app that sold as many as yours?

PENNY

I don't know.

LEONARD

I know <u>I</u> haven't. And wasn't your app listed in the Top 25?

PENNY

(smiling for a moment)

Yes --

(sad again)

-- but what do I have to show for it?

LEONARD

A great idea that other people <u>also</u> thought was great. You went out there, alone, and made and sold something useful to the public. Well, the "shoe-minded" public.

PENNY

But this was my one shot.

LEONARD

Who says? Who says you only get one shot? I had to take wood shop three <u>times</u> before I passed. And I still have all my fingers.

He wiggles his fingers and she laughs.

PENNY

I guess.

LEONARD

You have a track record now. Come up with another app. Dresses, hats, women things. You own a legitimate company now, you know. PENNY Well, maybe. But what if I fail this time?

LEONARD

Always a possibility, but ... \underline{I} believe in you.

She smiles and nudges him with her head.

PENNY

Thanks, sweetie. I just feel sometimes that I'm going to be a waitress the rest of my life. Maybe Sheldon is right.

SHELDON enters and stops. He is wearing an odd, mildly glittery coral colored shirt. LEONARD doesn't see him.

LEONARD

Penny, don't say that. Sheldon is not right.

SHELDON

Don't be ridiculous. I'm never not right. Occasionally less than exact when given insufficient or erroneous data by others, perhaps ...

LEONARD

Sheldon, Penny has had a very tough day. She doesn't need you insulting her.

SHELDON reaches into his backpack and pulls out an envelope. He gives it to PENNY

PENNY

What's that?

SHELDON

It's the check you gave me, minus a few little odds and ends I bought.

PENNY

Sheldon, I can't take this. You earned it. You wrote the code and created the interface.

SHELDON

True.

LEONARD

Sheldon ...

SHELDON

(acquiescing) Based on your ideas and your sketches. You are the writer and the inker, and I am just the colorer. Those are comic book terms.

PENNY

But this is a lot of money.

SHELDON

To you, perhaps. And don't be so sure. I bought a lot of stuff. Granted, no Batmobile. Besides, Yugos haven't been sold in the U.S. since 1991, and darned if I'm going to have one shipped from over there. No, Penny, I have my regular job. Consider this a sort of an investment.

PENNY

In what?

SHELDON

(simply) In <u>you</u>, of course.

PENNY is speechless.

SHELDON (cont'd)

I'm sure you'll come up with some other cockemamy scheme and rope me into it somehow. Sure as my name is Ricky Ricardo.

Touched and elated, PENNY slowly takes the check. But SHELDON holds onto it for a second.

SHELDON

Now, remember, when you finally get your building --

PENNY

You will have your own office on the top floor and I'll even throw in a Tang assistant.

SHELDON

As long as we're clear on that.

SHELDON lets go of the check and begins going up the stairs. PENNY hugs him.

PENNY

Thank you, Sheldon.

SHELDON

Oh, sure ... cry all over my brand new diamond-powdered Aquaman shirt.

PENNY/LEONARD

Aquaman?

SHELDON

It was on sale. The Flash cowl with the rubies was out of stock.

She laughs and cries at the same time. LEONARD smiles. SHELDON awkwardly pats PENNY on the shoulder and the three begin up the stairs.

LEONARD

Three hundred forty-six dollars and seventy-three cents, huh?

PENNY

Yeah.

LEONARD

You know, I bet you could buy some really nice shoes with that.

PENNY playfully slugs him, as they all walk up and out of view.

SHELDON Please don't Leonard, even in jest. You know how easily he bruises.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. THE BOYS' APARTMENT - THAT EVENING

LEONARD, RAJ and HOWARD are playing a famous video game on the TV. The music is low, but familiar to old gamers. SHELDON is twisting a Rubik's Cube extremely quickly. RAJ is excited, and playing with an ancient joystick.

> RAJ Do your worst! You'll never stop me.

RAJ jumps and emits a scared little noise. We hear a familiar withering sound from the game. RAJ is unhappy and hands the control over to HOWARD.

> RAJ Stupid gorilla and his barrels!!!

HOWARD Gotta love the classics. Time to save me the Princess with just my wits and a sledge hammer.

LEONARD Not unlike your <u>real</u> dating technique.

SHELDON suddenly stops as a thought occurs to him.

SHELDON Say, when is Penny taking us to that dinner she promised?

LEONARD She <u>did</u>. A few days ago.

SHELDON How come I wasn't invited?

RAJ

You were there.

SHELDON Really? What did I have?

HOWARD Chicken and mashed potatoes.

SHELDON

(making a face) Oh, right. I must have blocked them out.

He goes back to twisting the Rubik's Cube.

RAJ

And you had your nose stuck in that catalog all night. You missed three really nice dresses.

HOWARD

(still playing) I wonder what's <u>in</u> those barrels?

LEONARD

(to SHELDON) You must be off your game tonight. It's taking you forever to solve the Rubik's Cube.

SHELDON

Oh, I'm not solving it. I'm setting it up so <u>you</u> will never be able to solve it.

He stops, looks at it, starts to give to LEONARD, pulls it back and makes one last twist. He smiles and gives it to LEONARD.

LEONARD Hmmm ... you worked hard on this.

SHELDON

Well, what's hard for some is not as hard for others. You might say when it comes to mastering complexity, <u>I</u> am the "Donkey Kong" of this apartment. LEONARD twists the cube at incredible speed, SOLVES it, and hands it back to a stunned SHELDON.

LEONARD Now I'm ready for the <u>other</u> gorilla.

LEONARD goes back over to the others as SHELDON stares at the cube in his hand.

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW