

**UNTITLED SHELDON PROJECT**

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

We open tight on a gleaming locomotive, pulling back to reveal a 9-year-old Sheldon Cooper playing in his room with what is actually a toy train.

INT. SHELDON AND MISSY'S ROOM - DAY

ADULT SHELDON (V.O.)

I've always loved trains. In fact, if my career in theoretical physics hadn't worked out, my back-up plan was to become a professional ticket-taker or hobo.

The bedroom is small and has two single beds. Sheldon shares it with his twin sister, Missy. His side is very neat and filled with books, science toys, posters of Richard Feynman, Albert Einstein, a young Stephen Hawking, and Professor Proton. Hers is exactly what you'd expect for a 9-year-old girl in 1989.

MARY (O.C.)

Shelly, dinner's ready!

Sheldon continues playing, laser-focused on his trains. He's setting up a Lego tunnel and placing a ping-pong ball into a holder on one of the trains.

ADULT SHELDON (V.O.)

And like most children, I was a sucker for Newton's first law of motion: an object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force.

As the train heads toward the tunnel, young Sheldon presses a button that launches the ping-pong ball into the air. It flies over the tunnel and then lands right back on the spring launcher as the train leaves the tunnel. Young Sheldon enjoys this.

ADULT SHELDON (V.O.)

(giggling, re: ping-pong ball)  
Oh, who am I kidding, it's still so cool!

GEORGE SR. (O.C.)

Sheldon! Don't make me come in there!

Young Sheldon continues playing, oblivious to his parents' calls.

ADULT SHELDON (V.O.)

Of course, nobody I knew in East Texas in 1989 cared too much about Newtonian physics unless it applied to the motion of a football. And even then, when you try to explain linear kinetic energy and gravitational potential you're met with blank stares and the occasional pantsing.

MISSY (O.C.)

Sheldon, if you don't get in here, I'm gonna lick your toothbrush while you're sleeping!

SHELDON

(reacts)  
Coming!

He runs out the door.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONEINT. DINING ROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

Sheldon's mother Mary (mid 30's), his father George Sr. (mid-40s), older brother Georgie (13), and twin sister Missy are seated around the table. Sheldon enters.

GEORGE SR.

What the hell were you doing in there?

MARY

George.

GEORGE SR.

What?

MARY

Language.

GEORGE SR.

What language?  
(to Sheldon)  
So?

SHELDON

I was having fun with dimensional kinematics.

GEORGIE

(to his parents)  
Just admit it, he's adopted.

SHELDON

How could I be adopted when I have a twin sister? Think monkey, think.

MARY

That's enough. No one's adopted.

MISSY

(under her breath)  
I wish I was.

MARY

That can still be arranged.  
(then)  
Now let's pray.

GEORGE SR.

(groans)

Mary shoots him a look.

SHELDON

A moment please.

Sheldon takes a pair of mittens out of his pocket.

GEORGE SR.

(groans again)

MARY

(to George Sr.)  
Leave him be.

GEORGE SR.

He can hold hands with his family, it  
won't kill him.

SHELDON

We don't know that.  
(to Georgie)  
Did you wash your hands before dinner?

GEORGIE

Shut up.

SHELDON

(to George Sr.)  
Hence the mittens.

They all hold hands.

MARY

Thank you God for this food that we  
are about to receive and for the  
nourishment of our bodies and bless  
the hands that prepared it.

EVERYONE

Amen.

Sheldon takes off his mittens. They start eating.

MARY

Everybody excited to start school  
Monday?

SHELDON  
(while making sure the foods  
on his plate don't touch)  
I am.

MISSY  
I guess so.

MARY  
Georgie? Freshman year, that's a big  
deal.

GEORGIE  
(re: Sheldon)  
How can I be excited when he's gonna  
be there?!

SHELDON  
Don't worry, I won't be in the ninth  
grade for very long.

GEORGE SR.  
(to Georgie)  
Never mind him, you just focus on  
practice.

GEORGIE  
(re: Sheldon)  
How am I supposed to do that when he's  
in the same grade as me?

MISSY  
All I know is he's not in the same  
grade as me anymore, and I'm thrilled.

SHELDON  
(sarcastic)  
Good luck with your finger painting.

MISSY  
You're gonna get your ass kicked in  
high school.

MARY  
Hey, language!

SHELDON  
I'm not going to be assaulted -- high  
school is a haven for higher learning.

GEORGE SR.  
(to himself)  
Oh, dear God.

MARY

Speaking of God, who's going to church with me tomorrow?

GEORGE SR.

I can't, I'm meeting with the other coaches.

MARY

You can't meet after church?

GEORGE SR.

(firmly)

No Mary, I can't meet after church.

There's an awkward moment.

MARY

Georgie?

GEORGIE

I gotta study my playbook.

He looks to his father for approval. George Sr. nods.

SHELDON

I'll go with you Mom.

MISSY

Why are you going, you don't believe in God.

SHELDON

No, but I believe in Mom.

MARY

(chuckles)

I'll take it.

(then)

Missy?

MISSY

Can't, Heather asked me to help her with--

MARY

(firmly)

You're goin'.

MISSY

(under her breath)

Son of a bitch.

MARY

Hey!

Mary flicks Missy on the head with her finger.

MISSY

Ow.

GEORGIE

Ha ha.

George Sr. smacks him on the back of the head.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

What the hell?!

SHELDON

(to himself)

Maybe I am adopted.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH - NEXT DAY

Mary, Sheldon, and Missy are in church clothes, sitting in a pew. The church is full. Everyone sings "Onward Christian Soldiers" except Sheldon who's looking around curiously.

CONGREGATION

(singing)

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as  
to war, with the cross of Jesus  
going on before! Christ, the royal  
Master, leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle, see his banner go!

SHELDON

(during the singing, whispers  
to Mary)

Everyone here gets this is a metaphor,  
right? No one's going to battle.

Mary gestures "maybe, maybe-not" with her hand.

The song ends. A 30-something preacher wearing a jacket and tie, Pastor Kenneth Hodgkins, is mid-sermon.

PASTOR HODGKINS

What I want to preach about today is  
our "thought life." What God wants us  
to think. Now, it's pretty obvious  
that God knows our thoughts. God knows  
what we think even before we think it.  
In Matthew 9, verse 4 -- Jesus said,  
"why do you entertain evil thoughts in  
your hearts?"

Angle on Sheldon as the pastor continues the sermon in the background.

SHELDON  
(whispering to Mary)  
Do you have evil thoughts?

MARY  
Shh.

SHELDON  
I just don't think this part applies  
to me.

MARY  
That's fine, be quiet and listen.

SHELDON  
I'm only nine years old. Most evil  
doesn't start 'til puberty.

An older woman in the row in front of them turns back and glares at Sheldon.

SHELDON (CONT'D)  
(small wave)  
Hello.

She turns back. He sits quietly for a beat, then turns to his sister. They speak quietly throughout.

SHELDON (CONT'D)  
Do you have evil thoughts?

MISSY  
I'm having one right now.

SHELDON  
Really? What is it?

MISSY  
When we get home I'm gonna kick you in  
your little balls.

SHELDON  
Good luck finding them, they haven't  
descended yet.  
(then, to Mary)  
Mom?

MARY  
What?!

SHELDON  
(a little too loud)  
When should I be expecting my  
testicles?

The older woman turns back again.

WOMAN  
(to Mary)  
What is wrong with him?

MARY  
(barely containing her anger)  
Nothin's wrong with him. Now turn  
around before I knock your lights out.

The woman reacts shocked and turns around.

SHELDON  
(to Mary)  
I don't know why dad doesn't come to  
church, he'd like this.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. FRONT PORCH - LATER THAT DAY

We slowly push in on the front of the house. It's a beautiful, early-fall Sunday afternoon.

MARY (O.C.)

Shelly, it's your last day of summer, go out and enjoy it.

SHELDON (O.C.)

But I have to learn the student handbook.

MARY (O.C.)

You can read that later. Go on.

The front door opens and she ushers him out. He's reading a thick student handbook.

SHELDON

Did you know extreme hairstyles, goatees, and mustaches are not allowed?

MARY

I didn't.

SHELDON

I personally find that very reassuring.

MARY

Look what a beautiful day it is.

We see from Mary's POV: a blue collar, East Texas suburban neighborhood. An occasional car drives by, kids on bicycles, birds chirping, a woman walking a small friendly dog. A man across the street is mowing his lawn.

We angle on Sheldon as he looks at the same scene. Sheldon's POV: the dog the woman is walking is snarling like a creature right out of Middle-earth. The birds that were chirping now sound like flesh-eating pterodactyls. The pick-up truck Mary saw driving by rumbles like a Mad Max vehicle to him. The sound of the lawnmower is overpoweringly loud and abrasive.

We angle back on Mary and Sheldon.

SHELDON  
(re: handbook, nervously)  
Wouldn't it be better if I memorize  
where all the fire exits are?

MARY  
(taking handbook)  
Go play.

She goes inside and closes the door. Sheldon nervously looks around at his neighborhood.

SHELDON  
(sighs)  
She can be so mean.

He slowly crosses down the front path looking warily at all the dangers, waiting for the vicious dog to be safely down the street. He makes it to the sidewalk. He picks up a small rock with his thumb and forefinger and feebly throws it.

SHELDON (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
All right, that's gotta count as  
playing.

He wipes his fingers off on his pants and turns to cross back to the house.

BILLY (O.S.)  
Hey Sheldon.

Sheldon winces. He turns to see his 10-year-old neighbor, Billy Sparks. Billy is holding a chicken.

SHELDON  
Hello, Billy Sparks.  
(to chicken)  
Hello, Matilda Sparks.

BILLY  
I heard you're going to high school  
tomorrow.

SHELDON  
I am. You're going to have to find  
someone else to torment on the  
playground.

BILLY  
"Torment?"

SHELDON

(sighs)

It means to maliciously harass.

BILLY

"Her ass."

(chuckling)

That's funny.

SHELDON

Well this was nice, I'll be taking my  
leave of you now.

Sheldon turns and crosses back to the house.

BILLY

Wait. You wanna come to my house and  
look at comic books?

SHELDON

No thank you, comic books are for  
children.

BILLY

Hey doofus, we're children!

SHELDON

(turns back)

Says the boy with chicken poop on his pants.

BILLY

Sic 'em, Matilda!

Billy throws Matilda toward Sheldon. She squawks and flaps  
its wings. Sheldon runs for his house.

SHELDON

Mommm!!!

The sunny exterior of the house time-dissolves to night.

INT. SHELDON AND MISSY'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Sheldon and Missy are in pajamas in their beds. A lamp is on and  
Sheldon is reading the high school student handbook. In another  
part of the house we hear Mary and George Sr. arguing. Sheldon  
appears oblivious to the argument, Missy listens intently.

MARY (O.C.)

What am I supposed to do, his feet are  
growing?!

GEORGE SR. (O.C.)

Why can't he wear Georgie's old shoes?

MARY

He won't hold your hand, you think  
he's gonna put his feet in his  
brother's smelly shoes?!

GEORGE SR.

Well we better damn well cut back  
somewhere!

MARY

Will you please keep your voice down?

We hear a door close. Their argument continues muffled.

MISSY

(to Sheldon)

They're fighting about you again.

SHELDON

(while reading)

They're fighting about money. The  
fact that I don't want to contract  
Georgie's toe fungus is secondary.

MISSY

Everybody has to go to so much trouble  
'cause of you.

SHELDON

(still reading)

That's because I'm a special boy.  
It's how I can memorize the high  
school rule book and carry on this  
banal conversation.

MISSY

(re: handbook)

You're so stupid, nobody reads that  
thing.

SHELDON

(calmly, to her)

Think about what you're saying, Missy.  
If no one read it, how will the  
students know what the rules are.  
High school would be utter chaos.

He goes back to reading. Mary pokes her head in.

MARY

Lights out, big day tomorrow.

She starts to leave.

SHELDON

Mom, do we not have enough money?

MARY

Don't you worry about that, we're fine. Now go to sleep.

Mary exits.

MISSY

She's lying. She just said that to make you feel better.

SHELDON

Mom doesn't lie.

(then)

Sure she thinks the Earth was made in six days, but that's 'cause she's gullible, not a liar.

Sheldon turns off the lamp.

EXT. COOPER HOUSE - NIGHT

We see the night transition to morning.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

George Sr. is sitting at the breakfast table. Some toilet paper is stuck to his face where he nicked himself shaving. Mary tops his cup off.

MARY

(re: his face)

Cut yourself?

GEORGE SR.

Yeah, I need you to pick me up some new razors.

MARY

Sure. Although, you're a big fan of hand-me-downs, I can just give you the one I use on my legs.

(smiling)

See? I'm saving money.

George rolls his eyes as Mary crosses off. Georgie enters dressed for school.

MARY (CONT'D)

Morning.

GEORGIE

Morning.

GEORGE SR.

How's the ankle?

GEORGIE

I'll be all right. Think I'll be able to start against Nacodoches?

GEORGE SR.

I can't play favorites Georgie, depends on how hard you work.

Missy, dressed for her first day of fourth grade, crosses in.

MISSY

Mom, Sheldon can't find his bowtie.

MARY

Really? I laid it out for him.

She starts to cross out.

GEORGE SR.

Leave it alone Mary, he doesn't need a damn bowtie.

MARY

It's his first day of school, let him wear what he wants.

SHELDON (O.S.)

MOM, I CAN'T FIND MY BOWTIE!!!

MARY

Oh dear Lord, why's he gotta wear a bowtie?

Mary crosses out.

GEORGIE

(to George Sr.)

Can I drive in with you?

GEORGE SR.

Sure.

MISSY

(to Georgie)

Everybody's gonna know he's your brother. You can't hide. It's gonna be awful for you.

GEORGIE  
(to George Sr.)  
Tell her to shut up.

GEORGE SR.  
She's not wrong.

INT. COOPER HOUSE - SHELDON AND MISSY'S BEDROOM

Sheldon is frantically looking through his dresser drawers.  
Mary is looking under the bed.

MARY  
It's gotta be here.

SHELDON  
It's not. It's not!

MARY  
Stay calm, we'll find it.

SHELDON  
It's gone! My tie is gone! My tie is gone!

MARY  
(trying to soothe him)  
Shelly, you don't really need a tie.

SHELDON  
(not even hearing her)  
I have to find my tie. I have to find my tie.

MARY  
(realizing)  
Be right back.

She crosses out.

SHELDON  
Professor Proton wears a tie!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

George Sr., Georgie, and Missy are eating. Mary storms in.

MARY  
George Junior, give me back that bowtie right now!

GEORGIE

I didn't take it!

MARY

Don't you lie to me!

GEORGIE

I'm not lying!

MARY

We'll see about that!

Mary crosses out.

GEORGIE

Stay outta my room!

MISSY

(smiling)

She's gonna find your dirty magazines.

GEORGIE

Shut up.

MISSY

You are not having a good day.

INT. GEORGIE'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Mary is searching the room for the bowtie. It's a pigsty. She picks up a pair of his underwear that have seen better days.

MARY

Uch.

George Sr. crosses in.

GEORGE SR.

He didn't take it.

MARY

Then what happened to it?!

Sheldon runs down the hallway past the open door.

SHELDON

I'll check the bathroom!

He's gone.

GEORGE SR.

I took it.

She looks at him stunned.

MARY

Why would you do that?

GEORGE SR.

Mary, he's nine years old and going to high school. Isn't that weird enough?

MARY

Give it to me.

GEORGE SR.

C'mon. It's not just Sheldon, Georgie's gonna be in class with him.

Sheldon runs past the door in the opposite direction.

SHELDON

Not in the bathroom!

He's gone.

MARY

(firm)

Give it.

On George Sr.'s look, we:

INT. MARY'S CAR - LATER

Mary is driving a ten-year-old station wagon. Sheldon happily sits in the passenger seat dressed for school and wearing his bowtie.

SHELDON

Would you like to play a driving game?

MARY

(weary)

Not really, honey.

SHELDON

You sure? I'll let you win.

MARY

(sighs)

SHELDON

License plates with prime numbers followed by a consonant and then a vowel. I'll go first.

(looking out window)

Pontiac Fiero, seven D A.

MARY

What's a prime number again?

SHELDON

Hang on, I got one right, I get to go again.

Off her look, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - LATER

An average-sized, East Texas high school, home to around a thousand students. Mary pulls into the parking lot which is bustling with activity. Parents dropping off kids, busses pulling up, older students driving themselves, etc.

SHELDON

(pointing at a license plate)  
Twenty-three B A. That's a good one.

MARY

We're here, baby.

SHELDON

Oh okay. I guess I won. Sorry.

He looks around. From his perspective we see kids who are dramatically older and bigger than he is.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Oh dear.

MARY

(seeing the same thing he does)  
Yeah.

SHELDON

That boy has an exposed tattoo.

MARY

He does.

SHELDON

I wonder if he knows that's in violation of the dress code.

MARY

Speaking of which, how about we lose the bowtie?

SHELDON  
(covering it with his hands)  
Why?

MARY  
Look around honey, no one else is  
wearing one.

SHELDON  
Perhaps I'll start a fad.

MARY  
No you won't, please trust mommy.

SHELDON  
But it's my tie.

MARY  
Tell you what, take it off and this  
weekend I'll take you to Radio Shack.

Sheldon contemplates this.

INT. MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATER

Mary and Sheldon walk through the busy hall. He is no longer wearing his bowtie, but the shirt is buttoned to his neck. He looks around bewildered. From his POV it's a loud, disorienting world of giants.

MARY  
You doing okay?

SHELDON  
I guess. I smell ammonia. They  
must've done a thorough cleaning  
recently. I like that.

MARY  
Remember, if anybody bothers you, what  
do you say?

SHELDON  
My dad's a football coach.

MARY  
And?

SHELDON  
My brother's a football player.

MARY  
Good.

They keep walking.

SHELDON

Hey mom look, that girl's pregnant!

She pulls him out of frame.

INT. MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ANOTHER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Mary and Sheldon cross to the door of his homeroom.

MARY

All right, this is it. Want me to go in with you?

SHELDON

(mustering courage)  
No. I'm nine. I can do this.

MARY

Okay.  
(getting misty)  
Well, you have a good day. I'll pick you up after school at the same door we came in.

SHELDON

Are you crying or having an allergy attack?

MARY

(covering)  
Allergies.

SHELDON

It's probably the ammonia.

MARY

Probably.

SHELDON

Well, my freshman year begins. Albeit without a bowtie.

He crosses toward the door.

INT. HOMEROOM CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

This is Sheldon's homeroom. Approximately thirty students, some seated, some talking, laughing, etc. No teacher in evidence. Sheldon walks in carrying his bookbag. The room falls silent as everyone turns to look at him. The stares range from threatening to incredulous to baffled. Sheldon is frozen with fear. We hear his heart pounding. After a beat:

SHELDON

(loudly to the room)

My father's a football coach and my  
brother's a football player!

(then, seeing Georgie in the  
back)

Oh, there he is!

(waving)

Hi, Georgie!

As Georgie reacts in horror, we:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. HIGH SCHOOL

We hear the bell ring.

INT. HOMEROOM CLASSROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

A teacher, Ms. MacElroy (50-something), is writing her name on the board.

MS. MACELROY

All right everybody, my name is Ms. MacElroy. In addition to being your homeroom teacher, I'll also be seeing some of you in my English class and on the volleyball court. Just to give you some history, I've been here at Medford for twenty-nine years. I've taught some of your older brothers and sisters, and sadly, some of your parents.

A few students chuckle.

MS. MACELROY (CONT'D)

There's not much I haven't seen. Until today. As I'm sure you're all well aware, we have a student with us who, despite his young age, is remarkably gifted. And I expect you all to make him feel welcome.

Sheldon raises his hand.

MS. MACELROY (CONT'D)

Yes, Sheldon.

SHELDON

Per the student dress and grooming code,

(indicating students)

This boy's hair is too long, this boy is wearing sports attire outside of a designated area, and this girl's blouse is diaphanous, which means I can see her brassiere.

Those students react. Georgie sinks into his seat.

MS. MACELROY

(humoring him)

Thank you, I'll take that into account.

(then)

We have a few minutes before first period, so I need you all to fill out--

Sheldon's hand goes up again.

MS. MACELROY (CONT'D)

What?

SHELDON

Also, in violation of the grooming code, on page 48, article 5, subsection B -- you have a bit of a mustache.

Ms. MacElroy reacts, the classroom explodes with laughter.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Ms. MacElroy, and two other teachers, Mr. Givens and Mrs. Ingram, are complaining about Sheldon to Principal Petersen as Mary and George sit silently and listen.

MS. MACELROY

This was a stupid idea. He does not belong in our school!

PRINCIPAL PETERSEN

C'mon Vicky, it's just the first day. Why don't we all take a deep breath--

MRS. INGRAM

The hell with that! Five minutes into my math class he questioned my credentials!

MR. GIVENS

And how am I supposed to control a classroom when a kid accuses me of being in breach of the hygiene code?!

PRINCIPAL PETERSEN

Well, Hubert, it wouldn't kill ya to shower a little more often.

(to George Sr.)

George, you have any thoughts?

GEORGE SR.

Well--

MRS. INGRAM  
Oral Roberts University is a wonderful  
school!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Sheldon wanders down the hall, past a door where we hear a cello playing Mozart's sonata in D. Curious he looks in to see:

INT. MUSIC EDUCATION ROOM - SAME TIME

A music teacher, Ms. Fenley, is alone in the room playing the cello. Her back is to the door. Sheldon listens, then crosses to an upright piano and gently picks out the melody Ms. Fenley is playing. She stops and turns.

MS. FENLEY  
Do you know this sonata?

SHELDON  
No.

MS. FENLEY  
Do you play piano?

SHELDON  
No. I don't think so.

She stares at him quizzically.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Everyone is as before.

PRINCIPAL PETERSEN  
George, got any thoughts here?

GEORGE SR.  
(considers, then to Mary)  
What do you think?

MARY  
I don't think we have a choice.

PRINCIPAL PETERSEN  
Well you gave it a shot, we wish you  
luck with Sheldon elsewhere--

MARY  
No, no! We don't have a choice, he's  
gotta stay here!

INT. MUSIC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miss Fenley sits with Sheldon at the piano. She plays a series of chords.

SHELDON  
(as she plays)  
G minor, F, E flat, C minor.

She stops.

MS. FENLEY  
You have perfect pitch.

SHELDON  
Okay.

MS. FENLEY  
Sweetheart, you should really pursue music.

SHELDON  
I don't think so, I'm a man of science.  
(then)  
Do you know where the bathroom is?

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

MARY  
We can't afford private school, I sure can't homeschool him -- he's doing calculus and Euclidean something or other!

MRS. INGRAM  
It's Euclidean geometry.

MARY  
I don't care! What I care about is that my son gets the education he deserves, so you all are gonna have to figure this out!

PRINCIPAL PETERSEN  
(to George Sr.)  
Coach?

GEORGE SR.  
(shrugging)  
You heard her.

EXT. MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER THAT DAY

The JV Panthers are practicing. George Sr. and the other coaches watch and work with the kids. Cheerleaders are practicing their moves nearby. We find Georgie suited up, waiting his turn in a blocking drill. Assistant Coach Bergdoff is supervising the blocking drills.

BERGDOFF

Cooper, Stinson! You're up!

Georgie and Albert Stinson, a good-sized kid, take a three-point stance, nose-to-nose.

BERGDOFF (CONT'D)

Okay!

Bergdoff blows his whistle. The two boys slam into each other. Georgie, filled with misplaced rage, drives Stinson backwards, knocks him down, and slams him into the ground. Throughout this, Bergdoff blows his whistle trying to stop the play.

BERGDOFF (CONT'D)

That's enough!

The two boys start fighting, trying to rip each other's helmets off. It gets mean fast. George Sr. hurries over.

GEORGE SR.

What the hell is going on here?!

He reaches down into the pile, grabs Georgie by the collar of his jersey, and pulls him off of Stinson.

GEORGE SR. (CONT'D)

Georgie! Stop, stop! What's wrong with you?!

Furious, Georgie throws his helmet down on the ground, glares at his father, and stomps away. George Sr. looks down at Stinson on the ground.

GEORGE SR. (CONT'D)

You okay?

STINSON

("Duh!")

No I'm not okay!

INT. MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Georgie is in the empty locker room, angrily tearing off his equipment. His father storms in.

GEORGE SR.

Where the hell you think you're going?!

GEORGIE

I quit. I don't want to play anymore.

GEORGE SR.

Since when?!

GEORGIE

Since right now.

GEORGE SR.

(slamming Georgie's locker shut)  
All right, what's going on?

GEORGIE

What do you think's going on?!

GEORGE SR.

You mean Sheldon? You can't let that bother you.

GEORGIE

It doesn't bother you?! You got called into the principal's office!

GEORGE SR.

Yeah, that wasn't so great.

GEORGIE

I can't be in the same school with him.

GEORGE SR.

I don't see what choice you have.

GEORGIE

Right. Ever since that egghead could talk I stopped having choices.

Georgie sits on the bench. George Sr. considers his son's dilemma for a moment, then tenderly puts his hand on Georgie's shoulder.

GEORGE SR.

Georgie?

GEORGIE

Yeah.

GEORGE SR.  
(quietly, but firmly)  
Quit your whining, put on your uniform  
and get your ass back out there.

George Sr. crosses out:

GEORGIE  
(calling after)  
That's it?

GEORGE SR.  
That's it.

GEORGIE  
Aren't you gonna give me some speech  
about how a family's gotta stick  
together like a team?

GEORGE SR.  
(considers, then)  
Nah.

George Sr. exits.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Sheldon is sitting in his spot on the right side of the couch, watching Professor Proton. Missy sits nearby, bored. We hear the Professor Proton theme song coming from the TV.

SINGING KIDS (V.O.)  
*GRAB YOUR GOGGLES / PUT YOUR LABCOAT  
ON / HERE HE COMES / PROFESSOR PROTON!*

PROFESSOR PROTON (ON TV)  
Hey kids, who's ready for some  
science?

SHELDON  
Meee!

Professor Proton continues on in the background.

MISSY  
Why can't we watch Alf?

SHELDON  
Because we won't learn anything  
watching Alf.

MISSY  
It's TV, we're not supposed to learn!

George Sr. enters.

GEORGE SR.  
Missy, go somewhere else. I need to  
talk to your brother.

MISSY  
Why don't you two go somewhere else,  
and I can put on Alf--

GEORGE SR.  
(interrupting)  
Go!

Missy unhappily stomps out.

MISSY  
(under her breath)  
I hate everybody.

George Sr. turns off the TV.

SHELDON  
Hey! He's about to power a clock with  
a potato!

GEORGE SR.  
Not possible, now listen to me.

SHELDON  
Am I in trouble?

GEORGE SR.  
No. Maybe. Just listen.  
(then)  
You're not gonna make it in this  
school if you keep ratting people out.

SHELDON  
But they were breaking the grooming  
rules, and the dress code,  
(brightening)  
I saw one boy with a t-shirt that said  
(whispering)  
"Bite me."

GEORGE SR.  
Yeah, that's terrible. Sheldon, lemme tell  
you a little story. Did you ever wonder  
why we moved from Galveston to Medford?

SHELDON  
Not really. Unless we were leaving  
Texas I didn't care.

GEORGE SR.

Okay, well here's why. Your dad had a big coaching job. And I saw some grown-ups breaking rules.

SHELDON

What'd they do?

GEORGE SR.

Well it's kinda complicated, but football coaches aren't allowed to recruit kids from other high schools to come play on their team.

SHELDON

And you told on them?

GEORGE SR.

Yeah. You know what happened?

SHELDON

The swift hand of justice descended upon the rule-breakers?

GEORGE SR.

I got fired, Sheldon. And I got a bad reputation.

SHELDON

Is that why you drink so much beer?

GEORGE SR.

(sighs)

Just do yourself a favor. Go to school tomorrow and mind your own business.

George Sr. starts to cross out.

SHELDON

Are you sad that you got fired?

George Sr. pauses.

GEORGE SR.

Mostly angry. But yeah, maybe a little sad.

Sheldon watches George Sr. go, trying to process that last piece of information.

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The family is seated around the table for dinner. Sheldon sits between George Sr. and Georgie, putting on his mittens.

MARY

All right, let's say grace.

They close their eyes and all hold hands. During the prayer, Sheldon pulls off one mitten so he can hold his father's hand without it. His father looks down and takes this in.

MARY (CONT'D)

Thank you God for this food...

Mary's prayer fades into the background.

ADULT SHELDON (V.O.)

That was the first time I held my father's hand. I wouldn't touch my brother's hand until 17 years later, thanks to the invention of Purell.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. RADIO SHACK -- ANOTHER DAY

Sheldon and Mary cross to the entrance.

SHELDON

You know what the best part about  
Radio Shack is?

MARY

What's that, baby?

SHELDON

In a world filled with uncertainty,  
it'll be here forever.

As Sheldon and Mary cross in, we:

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW