

= The Werewolf Transformation =

" The Werewolf Transformation " is the 18th episode of the fifth season of the U.S. sitcom The Big Bang Theory and the 105th episode of the show overall . It first aired on CBS on February 23 , 2012 .

In the episode , Sheldon (Jim Parsons) abandons his methodical approach to life after failing to get a haircut from his usual barber , while Howard (Simon Helberg) has a rough time in his astronaut training . The episode was submitted for Parsons ' Emmy nomination , but received mixed reactions from critics .

= = Plot = =

Sheldon goes to get a haircut ; his usual barber Mr. D 'Onofrio is in a coma , so the barber 's nephew Angelo (Peter Onorati) is there instead . Sheldon is uncomfortable with the situation and runs away . Later , he talks to his friends ; Penny (Kaley Cuoco) offers to cut his hair while Raj (Kunal Nayyar) and Amy (Mayim Bialik) suggest other barbers . He rejects all of their ideas .

Sheldon goes to visit Mr. D 'Onofrio in hospital . When the nurse sees him with scissors , expecting to get a haircut , she calls security and he has to leave . He accepts that he is not going to get a haircut , but also abandons all of his meticulous planning (for example , his bowel chart spreadsheet) , realizing it has been a waste of time .

Early in the morning , Leonard (Johnny Galecki) and Penny wake up to find Sheldon playing a bongo drum , as Richard Feynman played bongos . They try to make him stop but he leaves the apartment , eventually falling asleep on Amy 's couch . The next morning , Penny convinces him to let her cut his hair , although she ends up accidentally shaving off part of the back of his hair .

Meanwhile , Howard is summoned for astronaut training by NASA . After his first day of training , he talks to Bernadette (Melissa Rauch) via webcam ; he vomited while experiencing microgravity . Next , he is forced to go on overnight survival training , where he is spooned by an armadillo during a sandstorm . Bernadette goes to visit Howard in Houston , but finds his mother already there , taking care of him .

= = Production = =

At the 64th Primetime Emmy Awards , Jim Parsons received a nomination for Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series . He submitted " The Werewolf Transformation " for consideration . Alan Sepinwall predicted on HitFix that Parsons would win , which would have been the third time in a row Parsons had won the award . However , he lost to Jon Cryer , who played Dr. Alan Harper in Two and a Half Men .

Vernee Watson @-@ Johnson , who has appeared on several episodes of the show including the pilot , appeared briefly in the episode as Mr. D 'Onofrio 's nurse .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" The Werewolf Transformation " was first broadcast in the U.S. on CBS on February 23 , 2012 at 8 p.m. , and was watched by 16 @.@ 20 million households , the highest viewing figure that night . It received a Nielsen rating of 5 @.@ 3 / 16 in the demographic 18 @-@ 49 . On the same night in Canada , the episode garnered 3 @.@ 513 million viewers on CTV Total , making it the second @-@ most watched television show that week .

In Australia , the episode aired on the Nine Network on March 12 , 2012 . It was watched by 1 @.@ 312 million households and came third in the nightly rank . In the UK on E4 , " The Werewolf Transformation " was first broadcast on April 26 , 2012 ; the episode garnered 1 @.@ 609 million

viewers , along with 0 @.@ 377 million watches on the timeshift channel E4 + 1 . It was first on the weekly ratings for both channels .

= = = Reviews = = =

Will Harris from The A.V. Club gave the episode a B + , describing it as " relatively strong " while claiming there were " some imperfections in characterization " of Sheldon and that " Raj had little more than cameo status " in the episode . Harris was " actually moved " when Bernadette arrived at Howard 's hotel room in Houston . R. L. Shaffer of IGN gave " The Werewolf Transformation " 6 @.@ 5 out of 10 and described it as a " good filler episode " ; however , the subplot was criticized as viewers never see Howard experiencing hardships in training , and due to the " sour end " where Howard 's mother is revealed to be staying with him in the hotel . Shaffer also suggested that episode would have been a good opportunity for Sheldon to have sex with Amy . Jim Garner of TV Fanatic gave the episode 3 @.@ 8 out of 5 stars , saying that while it " wasn 't the most hysterically funny episode of the season , it did explore some fun areas of our favorite geeks " . However , Garner criticized the Howard subplot , saying that it had been " lingering " for too long and that " we [should] go ahead and shoot Howard in to space and be done with it " .

Robin Pierson of The TV Critic rated the episode 43 out of 100 . Pierson had " mixed feelings " about Howard 's storyline , but described Sheldon 's plot as " tedious " . When Sheldon abandoned the systematic organization of his life , " the episode was half over already " , so he did not have a chance to " question anything seriously " . Jill Mader from Inside Pulse described the episode as " solidly average " , commenting that Sheldon 's reaction was not surprising given his " strong signs of Autism Spectrum " . Howard 's subplot was described as " pretty funny " , although Mrs. Wolowitz 's appearance was described as an " easy joke " .