

Signs  *and* *Sitcoms*
THE SITUATION LIFE SHOW

Ω THE LIBRA EPISODE

Show Notes
By Amy Hitt





“...we’re going to talk about intention and obstacle, which is the most important thing in drama. Without that, you’re screwed blue.”

Aaron Sorkin
SCREENWRITER
MasterClass.com

Introduction

I need to make a confession. I’m a little ashamed to admit how much of my life has been spent watching television. OK, I’m a LOT ashamed. Maybe you feel the same way. But there’s got to be something to it, right? We wouldn’t do it if it didn’t serve us in some really big way. But what are we getting? Are we just escaping our lives, or are we processing them?

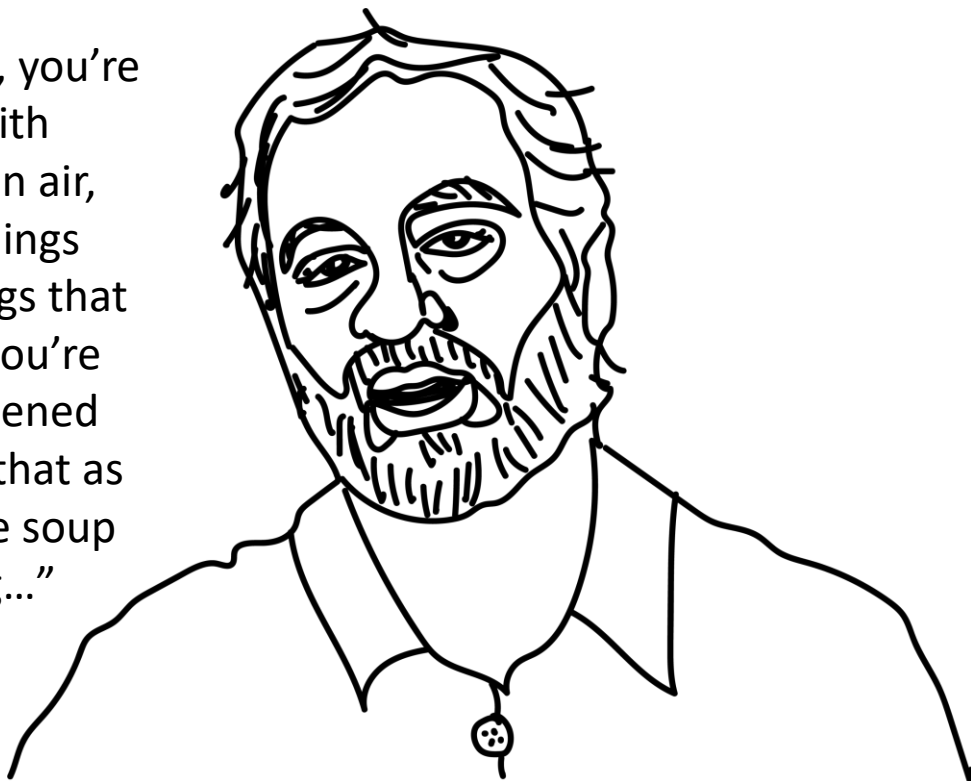
Storytelling and drama have been around for thousands of years, and that kind of longevity in and of itself is impressive. And so why do we love stories? Why do we love drama?

Aristotle believed audience members experienced **catharsis** when watching the players on the stage. **But does art inspire life, or does life inspire art, or both?**



“...when you’re writing, you’re basically...coming up with original ideas out of thin air, you’re remembering things that you’ve heard, things that you’ve observed, and you’re taking things that happened to you and using all of that as the ingredients in some soup of what you’re creating...”

Judd Apatow
SCREENWRITER
MasterClass.com



For the purposes of this show, we are going to say art inspires our lives because art is inspired by our lives. Let me say that again. **Art inspires our lives because art is inspired by our lives. It resonates with us because we identify with the art in some way.**

Next topic—astrology. Now whether or not you believe in astrology doesn’t matter. It, like storytelling, has been around for thousands of years, and that kind of longevity in and of itself is impressive. Why has it lasted so long? Because even if you don’t think you are at all like the way your Sun sign says you should be, you know someone who is like that. And so that sign or archetype exists, in reality, no matter when your birthday is. There’s truth in the astrological descriptions of human behavior.

In this series, I’m going to combine the two things I love most, television and astrology. And we’re going to attempt to learn about human behavior in the process. So, hold onto your hat. **This is the Libra episode.**



“The Big Bang Theory”
S2:E17—“The Terminator Decoupling”
Writers: Tim Doyle & Stephen Engel

SHELDON

We’re not flying. We’re taking the train.

PENNY

Oh, cool.

HOWARD

Oh, cool. Seven times as long as flying and costs almost twice as much.

PENNY

Well, then why are you doing it?

LEONARD

Well, we had a vote. Three of us voted for airplane. Sheldon voted for train, so we’re taking the train.

The Libra Episode

Maybe you are a Libra, or maybe you know a Libra, and I think we can all agree that they don’t like conflict. I’m not a Libra Sun sign, but I have a lot of Libra in my birth chart, so I understand Libra energy in an up close and personal way. In general, I believe Libras feel that they are kind, and everyone else is mean, and that their job is to keep the peace. They don’t make peace, mind you. They just keep it. They walk around on eggshells trying not to ruffle any feathers, that is until they explode. And in between all of that eggshell walking and exploding is usually a little passive-aggressive behavior.

But first, let’s ask ourselves why, but why, but WHY do they do this? (And, yes, I’m talking to myself.)

The Hero's Intention



"The Big Bang Theory"

S5:E9—"The Ornithophobia Diffusion"

Writers: Bill Prady, Steven Molaro, & Eric Kaplan

LEONARD

Just to be clear, sex is off the table, right?

PENNY

Way off.

LEONARD

Maybe we're not ready to hang out as friends.

PENNY

I don't know. Up until the last part, I was kind of enjoying take-charge Leonard with a little backbone, picking the movie, knowing what he wants, a little cocky.

LEONARD

Really?

PENNY

Yeah.

LEONARD

Well, then I'm putting sex back on the table. What do you think about that?

PENNY

Maybe I like it.

LEONARD

You do? Because if that's what you like, I can be that guy. I swear I'll be anything you want me to be.

PENNY

Goodnight, Leonard.

Why is Leonard willing to be whoever Penny wants him to be? And why on Earth would he think that would be attractive to her? Because the character of Leonard, who displays Libra characteristics, was conditioned to keep the peace, and peace, as a topic, is always about relationships. Libra can't help but focus on the relational aspect of life. Libra believes survival depends on it. Libra's goal is to unite, and they have a hard time seeing the individual people, including themselves, that they are attempting to make into one unit.

“Runaway Bride”

Writers: Josann McGibbon & Sara Parriott

IKE

You are so lost you don't even know what kind of eggs you like.

MAGGLE

What??

IKE

Yes, yes, that's right. With the priest—you liked scrambled, with the deadhead—it was fried, with the other guy, the bug guy—it was poached, now it's like, oh, egg whites only. Thank you very much.

MAGGLE

That is called changing your mind.

IKE

No, that's called not having a mind of your own. Maggie, what are you doing?!

The Hero's Obstacle

Remember what Aaron Sorkin said. Drama is built on intention and obstacle. Libra's intention is to unite. Their obstacle is the person who does not want to merge into a couple and instead wants to stay an individual. That person is the polar opposite of Libra. That person is Aries.

We can't talk about Libra without talking about Aries. The person who is the opposite of Libra doesn't necessarily want to be alone. Take Sheldon, for instance. He can be alone, but he also likes to be with his friends. He simply demands that his friends do things the way he wants regardless of their feelings.

Yes, we often call those people narcissists, but they play an important role in society and culture. Because while Libra is focused on uniting everyone, the opposite of Libra exists to remind us all that our individual selves, our individual self, is also important. Yes, peace is important, too, but so is my own personal and unique expression of self.

The opposite of Libra's job is to keep us separate, so we don't lose ourselves. The only problem is they are usually only worried about their own individual self and not all of the individual selves of the group.

When Leonard says he'll be whoever Penny wants him to be, he means it. He's even pretty capable of it since he has been whoever Sheldon has wanted him to be for years. But it's not healthy, and it's not sustainable and, eventually, he snaps out of it, hence the explosion part of the program.

“Frasier”

S3:E8—“The Last time I Saw Maris”

Writer: Ian Gurvitz

FRASIER

She always puts her needs above his. She never attends family functions. Doesn't that make you angry?

NILES

Well, over the years I've learned to accept Maris' eccentricities.

FRASIER

Oh, she's not being eccentric. She's being arrogant and selfish.

MARTIN

If he says he's not angry, he's not angry.

IKE

And even if I were angry, what would you have me do?

FRASIER

Let it out!

NILES

Well, I am letting it out. I'm getting hives.

FRASIER

Well, that is a triumph of self-expression. My God, man, why don't you just let out some of the words that you're dying to say...

NILES

I am so sick of you and your relentless psychobabble.

The sound of Niles smashing an expensive vase on the floor.

FRASIER

You're not angry at me. That was directed at Maris!

NILES

Nope, that was for you. This is for Maris.

The sound of Niles smashing another expensive vase on the floor.

"Everybody Loves Raymond"

S2:E20—"T-Ball"

Writer: Lew Schneider

BRYAN

I'm talking about the beautiful snack today.

DEBRA

We didn't bring a snack.

BRYAN

Ray just gave it to me.



RAYMOND

Will you shut up about the snack! All right, just shut up about the stupid, freaking snack! Here!...Take it! Take all of it!

The sound of Raymond dumping the snack bag all over the ground and all over Bryan.

RAYMOND

Are these healthy enough for you? Plantains! You couldn't just put bananas on the list, huh? I ate two of these before I found out you gotta cook 'em!

Those of us who do not like conflict stuff and stuff our emotions inside until they inadvertently come out like a volcano, the exact opposite of what we want. We become the conflict we are so desperately trying to avoid. It's a longboard between staying united and staying individuals. And whether or not your tendency is toward peace or standing up for yourself, you have an important part to play. But you also have to respect the important part your opposite plays in this particular polarity.

As I mentioned earlier, in between walking on eggshells and exploding, Libra usually displays some passive aggressive behavior like hiding the fact they are defying their wife's wishes by sneaking the approved snacks to the T-ball game. Passive aggressive behavior, by the way, is still aggressive. It's just aggression done behind someone's back. And that type of betrayal is not going to bring long-term peace or sustain long-term relationships.

The Hero's Transformation

All stories require that the hero make some type of transformation. So, how is Libra asked to transform?

“Frasier”

S9:E13—“Mother Load: Part 2”

Writer: Lori Kirkland

DAPHNE

Well, I am a grown woman whose made her own life and her own decisions. Now, I plan to shack up with Niles here and damned if we aren't going to do it every night of the week.

That's the way it's going to be, Mum, and, if you don't like it, that's just tough.

GERTRUDE

Is that so? Well, if that's how you repay me for all my sacrifices...

DAPHNE

Oh, don't even start!

GERTRUDE

Fine! Just for that, I'm not spending another night under this roof. I intend to fetch my things, find a hotel, and be on the first flight home tomorrow. Excuse me!

DAPHNE

Oh, look at me I'm shaking. It just came gushing out. Once I started, I couldn't stop.

NILES

I know, it's all right, it's all right. You were great. You were great. I have never been prouder of you.

DAPHNE

I can't believe I talked to my mother that way.

Conclusion

To overcome their obstacle and reach their goal of peacefully uniting, Libra is asked to have courage. And when a Libra type character finally stands up for themselves, it can be a very frightening experience. The good thing is the root word for courage means “more at heart” and having heart is the one thing Libra’s pride themselves on.

For more information, please visit www.signsandsitcoms.com. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter @signsandsitcoms.

You can currently stream “The Big Bang Theory” on HBOMax, “Frasier” on Hulu, and “Everybody Loves Raymond” on Peacock. “Runaway Bride” is available through Amazon and Disney+.

If you have a relationship question you would like for us to discuss on the show, leave us a voicemail at 720.598.2683 or email us at signsandsitcoms@gmail.com. By leaving a voicemail or submitting an email, you are giving us permission to possibly use your question on a future episode.

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