

ZACK

Not much. Oh, I got a job as a dancing waiter at a pizza place where robot animals play music.

ZACK'S DAD

I remember my first robot pizza place job... Wait, no. I worked at a gas station like a normal person.

ZACK

Yeah, well, what can you do? Goodnight, folks!

He SALUTES them as he heads to bed.

ZACK'S DAD

How long until he gets fired?

ZACK'S MOM

Three weeks?

ZACK'S DAD

Hm. Let's enjoy it while we can.

INT. ZACK'S CAR- MORNING- JULY 1994

A sleepy-eyed Zack starts his car, a '92 Pontiac Grand Am in good shape, and turns up the RADIO.

FEMALE RADIO DJ (V.O.)

101.7 WFNX. Boston's True Alternative. Here are a couple songs to make your commute suck just a little less!

Zack blares GRUNGE-ERA ALT ROCK as he drives through town. Past the high school, video store, all the way to Pizza Pen.

INT. PIZZA PEN- MOMENTS LATER

Zack enters the quiet, darkened room where JOHNNY ORTON (20), friendly, his long rock hair pulled back into a Pony Tail, pops up from a booth nap.

ORTON

Hey... Do you work here or did I sleepwalk to the Pizza Pen in Braintree?

ZACK

Hi, I'm Zack. I start today

Orton heads over, reaching out his hand to shake.

ORTON
 Hey man! Johnny Orton, Assistant
 Manager. Now that I'm up, let's
 take the grand tour!

He leads Zack towards a BALLPIT and GAME ROOM, where two
 blurry staff members nap in a couple of the rides.

ORTON (CONT'D)
 This is the Game area. Those sleepy
 boys are Raff and Billy. I'd fire
 them, but we're in a band together,
 and they own most of our gear.

He WOLF-WHISTLES at RAFF and BILLY, two grungy goons.

ORTON (CONT'D)
 Wake up, my lovelies!

They stir awake, and both wave and nod at Orton.

ORTON (CONT'D)
 Fellas, would you mind shaking your
 heads in the direction of Zack
 here? It's his first day.

RAFF
 (Nodding)
 Hey.

BILLY
 (Nodding)
 Yo.

ZACK
 Wow. I've never felt so welcome.

Orton guides him towards the Showroom as Raff and Billy
 immediately fall back to sleep.

ORTON
 And now, we come to our most celebrated
 employees, the Fun Times Band.

He raises the curtain to reveal the band.

ORTON (CONT'D)
 On guitar, we have the
 Saucetronaut. Ant Chovie is on the
 skins. Kelly Kitty sings back-up
 and bangs the hell out of a
 tambourine.

(MORE)

ORTON (CONT'D)

Baron Von Thincrust is on keys. My theory is that he was a Nazi who fled Germany under cover of night to live out his days spreading his love of Italian pies.

ZACK

Totally checks out.

ORTON

Which brings us to our frontman. Our Mick, our Bono, our David Byrne. The singing swine himself, Pep R. Oinky.

CLOSE ON Pep R Oinky's GOOFY GRINNING FACE

ORTON (CONT'D)

They look lazy now, but when they get to playing, kids go apeshit. As dumb as it all is... It's a beautiful thing.

As fellow waiters and cast members enter the showroom, Orton ruffles Zack's hair.

ORTON (CONT'D)

Alright, my boy. Let's have some fun!

SERIES OF SHOTS- ZACK'S FIRST DAY

-The Curtain Comes Up on the Fun Times Band.

PEP R. OINKY

(Singing)

Hey Everybody, got some news for you/Pep R. Oinky's got a show to do

-Zack waits on a table.

ZACK

Hey there, can I take your order...

An alarm goes off by red flashing "**DANCE ALARM**" sign.

ZACK (CONT'D)

...In just a sec!

Zack and the other waiters clap their hands over their heads to the beat of the peppy pop song.

KELLY KITTY

(Singing)

*We're gonna sing and dance and eat
some yummy food!*

SAUCETRONAUT

Houston, we have a pizza!

-Zack takes an order when the **DANCE ALARM** goes off. The wait staff dances, though with a little less energy than before.

BARON

(Thick German Singing)

*And the Fun Times Band vill make
you feel so good!*

-Zack balances two pitchers of soda on a tray when the **DANCE ALARM** goes off, and he spills it all in an EMPTY BOOTH.

Kimmy rushes over.

KIMMY

Leave it. Leave it!

She grabs Zack's shoulder forcefully, but with a smile.

FUN TIMES BAND

*At the Pizza Pen/We're about friends
and fun/and we won't stop the
rock/Until all your pies are done!*

As the curtain comes down on the band, Kimmy addresses the kids.

KIMMY

Here he is, kids! Live and in
person, it's Pep. R. OINKY!

A COSTUME WALKAROUND Pep R. Oinky emerges. The kids swarm him. He hugs, scruffs heads, etc.

Zack watches as he collapses into a booth, exhausted.

INT. PIZZA PEN BACK ROOM- LATER THAT DAY

Zack takes off his shoes to inspect some GNARLY BLISTERS.

KIMMY (O.S.)

Uh oh! Somebody's got Dancin' Feet!

He quickly hides his gross feet from Kimmy.

KIMMY (CONT'D)

You did great! Miles ahead of any other trainee I've ever seen!

ZACK

That was fun. Kind of like hell, but fun.

KIMMY

Right?!

Orton comes in with his clipboard.

ORTON

Congrats on surviving the first day, my boy! You didn't suck shit!

ZACK

Gee, thanks! Now, it's time to head on home and maybe wash off all the boogers and cheese?

ORTON

Oh, you're not going anywhere.

ZACK

What do you mean?

Orton raises his eyebrows with a mischevious grin.

INT. PIZZA PEN SHOWROOM- LATER THAT NIGHT

As the OPEN sign turns off, Raff and Billy put CURTAINS up over the windows. Orton WHISTLES, and two waiters wheel out a KEG from the bar area.

ORTON

Once a month, we like to cut loose with a little staff get-together on the premises.

ZACK

Won't Rance find out?

ORTON

Rance once locked himself inside his own apartment. I think we'll be fine. Let's get you a beer.

They pass by JONATHAN HUMBLEY, a chubby pompous actor type.

ZACK

Who's that?