

It's a won-dough-ful life

by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. A RUSTIC, TRADITIONALLY ITALIAN PIZZERIA - DAY

E-SHOT:

Interior of a classic Italian pizzeria, filled with guests who happily enjoy their pizza.

CAMERA MOVES THROUGH THE RESTAURANT TOWARDS A COUNTER

An elderly, Italian PIZZA BAKER is kneading pizza dough, with the love and patience of a chef with a passion for traditional food.

SEMI-CLOSE-UP OF HIS HANDS

He puts the dough in a bowl to rest. Right as he grabs a dish towel to cover the bowl, he accidentally bumps into the fridge, which causes a shelf above the bowl to rock.

THE CAMERA MOVES UPWARDS TO FOLLOW THE MOVEMENT

On top of the shelf is a mysterious bottle without a name tag. The shelf rocks, which knocks over the bottle...

CLOSE-UP OF BOTTLE, EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF DROP

...and a drop of the mysterious liquid inside falls into the bowl with the pizza dough.

CUT TO:

The pizza baker quickly puts the bottle back up, not noticing that it dripped into the bowl. He covers the dough with a cloth and leaves it to rest, getting back to his craft.

CAMERA STAYS ON THE COVERED BOWL

As the dough rests, something is starting to move inside the bowl, under the covers. It seems to come...alive.

CLOSE UP OF THE BOWL:

A tiny hand, made of dough, appears under the towel, scanning around the edge of the bowl. The hand extends from under the towel and reaches the counter...

CAMERA MOVES WITH THE HAND

...where it touches two slices of pepperoni (or salami). The

little dough-hand grabs the slices and retreats back to the bowl.

CAMERA FOLLOWS THE HAND BACK TO THE BOWL

A head formed out of dough arises from the bowl, paired with a second dough-hand. The hands take the salami slices and place them on the pizza-head, serving as its eyes.

CLOSE-UP OF FACE

It blinks and slowly starts to open its eyes, taking in the world around it, fascinated by what it sees.

CUT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PIZZERIA AND THE PIZZA-MAN'S REACTION TO IT.

It notices the pizza baker, who shoves a readily-topped pizza into the hot oven, as he simultaneously takes out another, steaming hot pizza out of it.

The little pizza-man looks around in horror: people in this pizzeria are EATING the pizza! The pizza-man starts panicking, wide-eyes, frantically looking around (maybe even a few drops of "sweat") It has to get out of here!

CLOSE-UP OF PIZZA MAN INSIDE THE BOWL

Huddled in its bowl, arms around its knee, the light gets darker (time lapse - indicating that it's night time now)

2 INT. PIZZERIA - NIGHT

In the dark, the pizza-man takes its chance: it has to escape!

SEMI-CLOSE-UP OF BOWL

It sticks its head out of the bowl, looks around. Limb after limb, it climbs out of the bowl, but it quickly realizes that its dough is too soft. With every step it takes, its legs melt onto the counter and pull it down. It struggles to stand upright. Then, it remembers the oven (a light-bulb moment - shown on its face)

CUT TO:

3 INT. PIZZERIA - DAY

Flashback:

The pizza baker shoves rolled-out pizza into the hot, steaming oven, closes the door. The dough turns brown.

CUT BACK TO:

4 INT. PIZZERIA - NIGHT

SHOT OF THE COUNTER, WIDE-ANGLE

The pizza-man arduously drags itself to the oven. Its salami-eyes keep sliding down on his face and it keeps pushing them into place again. The pizza-man fumbles around the oven regulators and tries to set them to the right temperature, until the light turns on inside the oven.

It collects all its strength and tries to pull open the oven door. He climbs inside and takes in the warmth of the oven, bathing in it.

5 INT. PIZZA OVEN - NIGHT

It lies down inside the oven like on a tanning bed and starts browning. But then, the pizza-man starts "sweating" - it's getting pretty hot and the dough hardens more and more. Soon it's becoming harder and harder to move for the little guy. It has to get out of here before it hardens completely and is unable to move!

As fast as it can, the pizza-man escapes the oven, but it's not much colder outside, either, since it left the oven-door open. It frantically looks around. Cool off! It needs to cool off. There! It spots the window, opened just a slit.

Tarzan-like, it brachiates through the kitchen, wiping the "sweat" off its face. It grabs a mushroom head from the counter to wear as a sun-hat. The gap between window and wall is pretty small, but the pizza-man makes its way there, anyways, and tries to squeeze through.

It's stuck. It focuses all of its strength and efforts on squeezing through the gap and - PLOP! Drops out of the window and lands on its back, right on the sidewalk in front of the pizzeria. Phew! Pizza-man takes a deep breath and sighs in relief.

6 EXT. SIDEWALD - NIGHT

Unharmred, but a little dusty, in the glow of the street lights, the little pizza-man stands up and wipes the dust off its body. What now? Where to go? It looks around. This world is even bigger than the pizzeria! And even more dangerous!

While the little pizza-man tries to think of where to go and what to do, a mountain of feathers appears behind it and engulfs it in its shadow. Slowly, the pizza-man looks up - and right into the face of a pigeon.

The pigeon starts pecking at the pizza-man's head. The pizza-man throws its hands up to shield itself from the pigeon's beak, throwing its arms around, trying to defend itself.

But where there's one pigeon, there's always more: slowly, more pigeons start turning up, towering over the pizza-man, picking and pecking at it.

Right as it looks like the pizza-man is going to get eaten by the pigeons, a bell rings.

CUT TO:

As the front door of the pizzeria swings open, it pulls on a string, ringing a little bell over the door.

PAN DOWN TO REVEAL THE PIZZA BAKER STEPPING OUTSIDE.

With an angry look on his face, the pizza baker wags at the pigeons.

PIZZA BAKER

Shoo! Shoo!

The pigeons fly away and reveal a terrified pizza-man, huddled on the floor, shielding his face with his hands.

The pizza baker squats down and reaches his hand out, a friendly smile on his face.

The little pizza-man, with trembling legs and arms, carefully peaks out from under his hands to look at the pizza baker.

The pizza baker smiles and nods, trying to gain the pizza-man's trust. Carefully and hesitantly, it finally climbs onto the pizza baker's hand.

CUT TO:

7 INT. PIZZERIA - DAY

The next day, customers start entering the restaurant, with the bell ringing non-stop. The little pizza-man is sitting on the baker's shoulders. As happy customers bite into their pizzas, smiling, the pizza-man flinches. But the pizza baker gestures a big smile on his own face, showing the little

pizza man how happy his pizzas make the customers. He tries to calm the little pizza man down, by carefully petting his head, as the frightened pizza-man slowly calms down and inspects the customers' happy faces.

CUT TO:

8 INT. PIZZERIA - DAY

MONTAGE

The little pizza man helps the baker roll out the pizzas by pushing the rolling pin over the dough

It hands the pizza baker herbs from the top shelf

It sits on the baker's shoulder as he throws the dough in the air

The baker playfully throws flour at the little pizza man.

END MONTAGE

As the little pizza man climbs a basil plant to hand a few leaves to the baker...

CLOSE-UP

...it accidentally knocks over the mysterious bottle from the first scene.

ZOOM OUT

But this time, the little pizza-man manages to put it upright again, before it can spill.

CLOSE-UP PIZZA BAKER'S FACE

The pizza baker's eyes light up - he's got an idea

CUT TO:

WIDE-ANGLE, THEN CLOSE-UP OF HANDS

He grabs the bottle and lets a few drops spill onto his freshly made dough.

The little pizza man looks confused, but the baker gives him an assuring, confident look.

CUT TO:

The little pizza guy sits in front of a covered bowl, waiting, yawning. Suddenly, the cover lifts up, and a second little pizza guy (or girl - no gender indicated) hesitantly sticks its head out of the bowl. The little pizza-man looks up, delighted.

FADE OUT.