

PIZZA SHOP KINGS

Written by

Anthony Matos

anthonymatos@southern.edu

EXT. HILL - NIGHT

DOUG and KLAYTON trudge up a grassy hill. Doug shoots ahead, while Klayton struggles behind him.

The two are in matching Jo-Jo's Pizza Shop uniforms.

KLAYTON

Slow down Doug. You can't roll down again, no way you'd survive another fall.

Doug continues running until he makes it to the top.

He raise his arms and unleashes a primal yell.

DOUG

I love it up here man.

Klayton makes it to the top, gasping for breath.

KLAYTON

It's just a hill. We come up all the time.

DOUG

It's not just a hill Klayton, it's our hill. Up here, we're kings. Kings!

KLAYTON

Whatever you say man, one mis-step going down and you're a goner, king or not.

Doug spins around taking in his kingdom. Something catches his eye.

DOUG

Hey, what was that.

Klayton follows Doug's finger.

KLAYTON

I don't see anythi...

DOUG

It looked like a giant... no it couldn't be, it was standing.

Doug takes off before Klayton can respond.

Klayton chases after his friend.

KLAYTON

There's nothing over here man.
Maybe you should lay off the
special sauce at work.

Doug stops in his tracks and stares at Klayton.

DOUG

Who are you turning into, man?

But now Klayton sees something.

KLAYTON

Dude look at this.

He squats down next to a giant wooden chest. Yeah, a treasure chest.

DOUG

Open it.

Klayton opens it and a gold light shines onto their faces.

The friends stare at each other.

KLAYTON

Did we find...

DOUG/KLAYTON

Gold.

The two look back at the chest.

DOUG

What should we do man? How much is
this stuff worth you think?

KLAYTON

I don't know. Nobody really pays
for things in gold anymore, do
they?

DOUG

Nah, not since like, the Incas.

Klayton nods his head in agreement.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Let's bring some to my Uncle at
work tomorrow. He has that state
quarter collection, he must know
what we can do with this stuff.

The friends agree and load Klayton's backpack full of gold coins.

INT. JO-JO'S PIZZA SHOP - DAY

UNCLE JO rings up a customer at the register. The shop's wallpaper peels off the walls and the empty, worn down tables fill the room. Oldies play from a radio somewhere.

The customer finishes paying.

UNCLE JO

Enjoy your meal! Hope to see you again Tracy.

Klayton and Doug burst through the door in a frenzy.

UNCLE JO (CONT'D)

Oh look, two-thirds of my staff showed up three hours late. You guys really need to start being more responsible. Were you out looking for real jobs?

KLAYTON

Don't worry Jo, we'll just work here forever, like Cody does.

CODY pops his head from around the corner in the back. He glares at the three.

UNCLE JO

Cody is the hardest working employee I've ever had. You two have no business comparing yourselves to him. Now get an apron and get to work.

DOUG

Uncle Jo, listen. There's no time to work. We need your help. Can you tell us how much all this is worth?

Doug dumps the backpack of coins onto the counter in front of his uncle.

UNCLE JO

What the heck, where'd you guys get all this?

Klayton starts to answer but Doug covers his mouth.

DOUG

It doesn't matter where, Uncle. Is it worth anything?

UNCLE JO

Well, yeah, it's real gold. But if you guys stole this, you have to return it. Someone else might need this.

Doug started dancing when Jo said it was real gold.

He starts shoving everything back into the backpack.

DOUG

Did you hear that Klayton? We're rich! Sweet hallelujah, we've done it! Pizza boys no more, we're kings at last!

UNCLE JO

Uh...

DOUG

Let's go, we got a fortune to collect.

The two run out of the store.

UNCLE JO

Wait! Who's supposed to close tonight?

Uncle Jo sighs.

UNCLE JO (CONT'D)

Well, I guess it's you and me again Cody.

Cody stands behind Uncle Jo with wide eyes.

EXT. HILL - DAY

Doug and Klayton stare at a patch of grass on the side of the hill.

KLAYTON

It's gone.

DOUG

No! It can't be. Our fortune...

KLAYTON

Wait, there are some footsteps
here.

Klayton follows the footsteps into the woods and Doug hurries behind him.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The friends follow the path into the woods. Every few steps Klayton stands up straight, as if he hears something, and Doug runs into him. Klayton stops short again but stays hunched, staring at the ground. Doug rams his face into Klayton's butt.

KLAYTON

Did you hear something?

DOUG

Sorry, it was the pizza.

KLAYTON

What, no? Dude, c'mon.

The two sneak forward and look through the trees into a small clearing. WIZARD stands in the middle of the clearing wearing a long trenchcoat and leaning against a flaming red motorcycle. He argues with a short, stocky, furry-looking PIRATE.

Klayton leans forward to listen but steps on a stick.

CRACK

The two friends freeze and The Wizard looks up. He looks in the direction of the friends and moves quickly to his motorcycle.

He revs up and zooms in the direction of Klayton and Doug.

The friends race off into the woods.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - DAY

The motorcycle bursts through the trees and closes in on the two friends.

The two make a sharp cut to the right.

The motorcycle tries to make a sharp turn, but gets caught up in branches.

The friends continue running until they come across a small hut in the woods.

DOUG
Quick, let's go in there.

The friends hurry up to the house and knock on the door.

The door opens and TURTLE (a real turtle who stands on their back legs) greets them.

TURTLE
Can I help you gentleman?

Klayton faints.

DOUG
Um, uh. Yeah. We're running away.
Uhm. Man in trenchcoat. Uh. You're
a giant, talking turtle.

TURTLE
Say no more, come inside, you're
safe here.

Turtle helps Doug pick up Klayton and drag him into the hut.
The door shuts.

INT. HUT - DAY

Turtle and Doug lay Klayton down on a couch in the back room.
A cluster of concerned woodland creatures surround Klayton.
More woodland creatures fill out the room, some sitting in
the corner, playing cards and smoking cigars, others napping
on the floor in front of the fire place.

Doug clearly looks frightened.

TURTLE (CONT'D)
Don't worry about them, they will
make sure to take care of your
friend. Come, let's talk in the
kitchen.

Doug stares at Klayton being poked by talking animals before
he follows the turtle to the kitchen.

INT. HUT'S KITCHEN - DAY

Turtle walks over to the tea-kettle and pours a cup of tea.
He offers it to Doug.

DOUG

So, how come you're a giant,
talking turtle? Oh, no thank you.

The turtle motions for Doug to sit at the table.

Doug sits.

TURTLE

Well, you see. It's pretty simple
actually.

Turtle reaches above the kitchen counter and pulls down a massive diagram. He picks up a pointer and points at a picture of the wizard in the trenchcoat.

A porcupine waddles into the room and sits in front of the diagram. Turtle prods him away with the pointer.

TURTLE (CONT'D)

This is the man you saw, the one in
the trenchcoat?

DOUG

Yeah, that's him.

TURTLE

Well, it turns out, he's a wizard.
And he has been haunting these
woods for a very long time now. All
of us creatures are under his
spell.

The turtle starts moving down the diagram, pointing out images that match what he's talking about. The porcupine returns and tries to take the pointer from Turtle. Turtle ignores him.

DOUG

What kind of spell?

TURTLE

You see, we're not actually
supposed to be animals. All of us
were originally people, but once we
got captured by the wizard, he took
away our human bodies and put our
souls into animals.

DOUG

You're kidding me.

TURTLE

Not even a little bit.

The porcupine comes up to Doug and sits at his feet. Doug looks at him nervously.

TURTLE (CONT'D)

But that's not all. He took those poor animal souls, and put them in our human bodies. So now, he has this army of animal looking people, dressed as pirates, running around stealing people's gold. It's horrific!

DOUG

Despicable.

TURTLE

Downright mean.

DOUG

Well, what can you guys do to get you bodies back? There must be answer.

Doug looks at the porcupine expecting an answer, but the porcupine sleeps loudly at his feet.

TURTLE

Actually, that's why we're all here. We've concocted a potion that will bring us back to our normal selves. Everyone here has taken it, but the pirates need to have some as well.

DOUG

That doesn't seem so hard. I can't imagine those animal-people-pirates have too much self-control. Does the spell make everyone so sleepy?

Doug nudges the porcupine with his foot. The porcupine opens one eye and looks at Doug.

TURTLE

You're right, they don't. But, we can't leave this hut, another part of the curse. And of course, the wizard doesn't let the pirates anywhere near us. Careful with him by the way, he's very irritable.

Doug continues to nudge the porcupine. Without warning, the

porcupine's spikes spring out of its fur and some stick into Doug's skin.

DOUG
MOTHER...

KLAYTON (O.S.)
AHHH!!!

Klayton's scream interrupts Doug.

TURTLE
Oh, looks like your friend woke up.

INT. HUT LIVING ROOM - DAY

Doug and Turtle hurry back to the living room to calm down Klayton. They find him standing on top of the couch, holding a pillow out as a shield between him and the other creatures.

KLAYTON
Back, back. Doug, where the heck are we?

DOUG
Don't worry Klayton, I'll explain all of it to you later. Let's get back home.

Klayton hesitantly gets off the couch and walks over to Doug, eyeing the creatures the whole way. The two walk over to the door.

TURTLE
Doug wait. Here, take this. You might be the only who can save us.

Turtle hands Doug a large flask.

TURTLE (CONT'D)
It's the potion that turns us back to our human forms. Remember, the pirates have to consume it.

Doug nods his head.

DOUG
I'll see what I can do.

The two friends leave the hut.

INT. JO-JO'S PIZZA SHOP - NIGHT

Klayton and Doug walk into the pizza shop and close the door.

KLAYTON

So, they're humans, in animal bodies. Why are we helping them again?

DOUG

Because we're good people Klayton. Besides, they can probably help us find the rest of that gold. Hey Uncle Jo, you here?

KLAYTON

Doug, look at this.

Klayton shows Doug a note left on the counter.

DOUG

(reading)

If you want your uncle back, meet us where you found the treasure tomorrow at noon. Bring the gold. Hugs and kisses, Wizard.

KLAYTON

Oh boy.

DOUG

What do we do Klayton? We can't let Uncle Jo be turned into a raccoon.

KLAYTON

Raccoon? Really? I think he'd make a pretty good owl actually. He's got those eyes.

DOUG

Focus! We need to figure this out. I think it's time. For a Think Sesh.

KLAYTON

Oh sweet, I'm starving.

The two friends quickly break off and grab pizzas, chips, and sodas and bring them back to the table.

MONTAGE

Klayton and Doug stuff their faces with pizza and wash it down with soda.

Doug throws a chip in the air and Klayton catches it in his mouth.

The friends laugh.

Klayton and Doug race to see who can drink a soda faster. Doug can't do it and spits a bunch out all over Klayton. They laugh.

The two fall asleep.

END MONTAGE

Klayton sleeps with his face in a pizza and Doug sleeps with his head hanging off the back of the chair.

Doug jumps out of his chair.

Klayton falls out of his chair in surprise.

DOUG

I've got it! I've got an idea.

EXT. HILL - DAY

Klayton and Doug show up to the hill with their bag of gold and boxes of pizza. They see their uncle tied up and surrounded by a bunch of small, wild looking pirates.

THE WIZARD (O.S)

Ha! You fools. You've walked right into my trap. Beware to fall under my spell.

The two friends jump in surprise and turn toward the wizard.

KLAYTON

Wait, don't you need to say some elaborate speech and reveal who you are and what your evil plan is?

THE WIZARD

HA! Not this time. Now, time to get furry...

As the wizard moves to cast his spell he trips on his long trenchcoat. The coat rips off and his top hat tumbles down his back. Cody lies on the ground, shocked and in only his boxers.

KLAYTON

Cody!

DOUG

Cody!

UNCLE JO

(mumbled)

Cody?

One of the pirates picks his nose.

CODY

Yes it's true! But it doesn't matter who I am, you two are about to become squirrels!

Cody scrambles to find his wand inside his trenchcoat.

Klayton and Doug look at each other and nod. They open the pizza boxes they're holding. The aroma of the pizza catches the wind and wafts to the pirates with animal souls. Their noses start to twitch at the smell of pizza.

In a moment of mayhem they all leave their posts and storm the pizzas, indulging themselves.

CODY (CONT'D)

You fools! What are you doing?

After finishing the pizza the pirates start to change their form and get a lot less hairy. The group of them, led by the pirate who used to be the porcupine, storm towards Cody and steal his wand.

CODY (CONT'D)

Wait! Doug, spare me and I can show you where I hid all my gold. We can be partners. Doug, we can be kings.

Doug looks at Cody and then over at Klayton, at work untying Uncle Jo. Doug looks at the pirates.

DOUG

Sorry Cody, but I'm not a king, I'm a pizza boy.

Doug nods at the pirates who then grab Cody and drag him into the woods. One pirate stays behind, the one who used to be Turtle.

PIRATE/TURTLE

Doug, you did it. Thank you.

Doug nods his head and smiles. Turtle turns around and runs back to his group.

Uncle Jo and Klayton stand next to Doug and look at the group of people dressed as pirates, attacking their longtime co-worker.

UNCLE JO

Well, Doug. I hope you learned your lesson. Next time you get involved with wizards, buried treasure, and pirates who are really chipmunks, leave me out of it.

DOUG

Will do Uncle Jo. But hey, at least Klayton and I saved all these people from being animals for the rest of their lives. Right, Klayton?

Klayton looks over at the remaining people in pirate costumes, rolling on the ground holding their stomachs.

KLAYTON

Heh. Rookies.

He looks back at Doug.

KLAYTON (CONT'D)

So what are we gonna do with that gold we didn't have to give back?

UNCLE JO

Oh, I have an idea.

INT. JO-JO'S PIZZA SHOP - NIGHT

Everyone gathers at the renovated pizza shop, the former pirates wait tables, and customers must cram to get in. A jukebox plays catchy oldies, a disco ball lights up the dance floor, and the servers rollerblade around the tables.

Klayton rolls by the dance floor and notices Uncle Jo.

KLAYTON

Hey Jo, this was a great idea. And now, you have so much extra help around.

Uncle Jo gets his boogie on.

UNCLE JO

You're telling me. Now back to work!

Klayton skates off and passes by Doug, taking an order at a table.

KLAYTON

Kings?

Doug smiles at Klayton.

DOUG

Kings.

The friends high five.