

KING LEAR, ACT 1 SCENE 5

RECONTEXTUALIZED IN THE STYLE OF THE PAPA JOHN'S SODIE POP AD

Written by

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INT. JOHN SCHNATTER'S REALY NICE LOOKING MANSION

Standing inside Papa John's luxurious mansion is PAPA JOHN (50) and MATT (30). Matt is holding a large pizza box.

PAPA JOHN

Greetings, Matt. Greetings, and welcome, welcome, to Papa's House.

MATT

Thanks, John. Here's your pizza.

Matt hands the pizza to Papa John. Papa John opens it and absorbs the steaming aroma of the pizza.

PAPA JOHN

Ah, six cheese with pepperoni. Just the way I like it.

MATT

Well, thanks for your business. Normally, this would be the point where I turn and leave, but for some reason I seem to be locked in your house. Why is that?

PAPA JOHN

Glad you asked. Between you and me, I'm falling on real hard times here, Matt. My wife is divorcing me. I can trust fewer and fewer people as the days go by. The PapaJohns.com internet website is just a bandaid on this cracked sodie pop tank that won't seem to stop leaking. Matt, I'm gonna be honest, I'm not doing too hot, and you're one of the original 100,000 delivery drivers that have been with us for two years. Matt. You know the common folk. You can talk to them. You've got to stop this wildfire before it becomes a big wildfire. Please. Make this six cheese a seven cheese.

MATT

We don't offer that.

PAPA JOHN

Ah. Well. Come. Follow me. I want to introduce you to someone. I think you'll like him.

Papa John takes the pizza and leads Matt into the house.

INT. BO'S BEDROOM

Sitting in front of a large desk and computer is BO (14). He is typing on the computer.

As Papa John and Matt enter, Bo looks up. He raises his arms.

BO

Bo's in the house!

PAPA JOHN AND MATT

Bo's in the house!

PAPA JOHN

Now that's what I call high pizza, high cool.

Papa John and Matt step aside to talk privately.

PAPA JOHN (CONT'D)

You see what needs doing?

MATT

Not at all. I may be one of the original 100,000, but that doesn't mean I'm that good.

PAPA JOHN

That boy you see behind the computer runs the entire company now. I have no say in whatever we do. My hands are tied! All I get to do is watch.

MATT

But you're the founder. You can do so many things with that.

PAPA JOHN

Matt, I'm going to use your analogy of pizza delivery drivers, except now we switch pizza delivery drivers to pizza company founders, and there's only one of them. I'm that one. Doesn't mean I'm that good. Do you understand?

MATT

What are you saying?

PAPA JOHN

I'm saying that I made a grave mistake in the direction of this company by making Bo its CEO, while also pushing myself down into a position where I cannot do anything about it. Matt. I'm asking you to kill Bo.

MATT

Woah, that was fast, that was real fast, like an-online-order-from-PapaJohns.com-internet-website fast. I can't kill Bo. I deliver pizzas for a living.

PAPA JOHN

What other alternatives are there! This is easier, it's simpler, and it's more engaging! Look. I brought you here for a reason, just like the inventor of the pizza put it in the oven for a reason. I know you've got it in you, Matt. I see you on that motorcycle day in, day out, sitting on that hot rubber seat like your life depends on it. Think of it this way. No other delivery driver is going to be able to say that they killed the CEO of Papa John's. You'll be making history, Matt.

MATT

Listen, man, I really don't think this is the way to solve this. Whatever problems you've got with the company, they ain't gonna be solved by Bo dying.

PAPA JOHN

Come on, Matt.

MATT

Nah, I'm walking out of this before you drag yourself deeper. You know the saying:

PAPA JOHN AND MATT

Let it happen, captain.

PAPA JOHN

You're right. You are absolutely right. I know what to do now.

MATT

Good. Order from me anytime-

Papa John throws the pizza out of the pizza box and hits Matt with it. Bo rises from his chair.

MATT (CONT'D)

Ow! What was that for!

PAPA JOHN

I'm sorry, Matt, but I haven't been completely honest with you. You see, I have eaten so many pizzas in so few days that my body now consists of a 96.4% Papa Johns elemental makeup, which is mostly made up of six cheese pepperoni pizza as well as sodie pops.

MATT

Then order more pizzas! What are you doing!

PAPA JOHN

You see, the original plan was to have you attack Bo and murder you in self defense, but at this point, well, you know what they say, we're halfway down the PapaJohns.com internet website and nowhere near close to a sausage onion.

MATT

Because we don't offer that! Please let me go!

BO

Father. I hunger.

MATT

Help! Somebody help!

PAPA JOHN

Matt. If you were in my position you'd understand. Eating 40 pizzas in 30 days does something to a man. You start craving for something.. more. And it's at that point where you realize that nothing else really matters. Nothing except that craving.

Matt SCREAMS as Papa John and Bo descend upon his body, devouring it. They rip him apart limb by limb. Matt is still SCREAMING as Papa John licks his lips and looks to Bo.

PAPA JOHN (CONT'D)

Bo. Our dream of world domination is closer than ever, even if it may not seem like so. We've gone through a lot. Been through a lot.

Matt stops screaming. Sirens fade in from outside the house. The front door is kicked in.

BO

Father. We've gone so far. We can't stop now.

Papa John holds Bo's shoulders. Looks in his eyes.

PAPA JOHN

Bo. You're missing the point. Don't you get it? The important part was that we were together when we went down. We were together in the worst of times. We didn't leave each other. Bo. I've gone on a journey, and even though I probably won't subject myself to it again, I just want you to know that the most important thing isn't how far we got, but that I got to do it with you.

They embrace as cops burst through the door.

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