

Night at The Pizzeria

By

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FADE IN

EXT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The green neon OPEN sign just went dark... It's closing time.

INT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT

Lights are still on inside the restaurant. Behind the counter there is a large pizza oven, it stretches almost all the way across the kitchen and it's conveyer belt is still running.

There are two cooking stations on either side of the oven, one for making PIZZA and the other is a HOT GRILL.

ZACK is 25. He wears a hat and a black shirt with the restaurant's logo displayed on the back.

He makes his way through the kitchen toward the back then walks into a small storage room. He bends down in front of a light switch box and is about to flip one of the switches.

CLOSE ON a LARGE KNIFE being pulled slowly out of a knife holder.

Zack hears something. He stops and looks to his right in the direction of the PREPARATION ROOM, which has a large preparation table... And on that table there is the knife holder, which is now EMPTY, and straight ahead there is a DOOR.

THE DOOR IS SLOWLY CLOSING. Zack looks surprised.

He gets up slowly and walks cautiously toward that door.

SOMETHING IS MOVING BEHIND HIM.

GIRL (O.S.)

Zack, what are you doing?

This startles him to death as he turns quickly and sees LINDA. A very cute 19 years-old blond.

LINDA

Sorry I didn't mean to scare you.

ZACK

(still catching his
breath)

Why the hell do you always sneak up
on me like that??

LINDA
Dude, I was just... Anyways why
didn't you turn off the lights?

ZACK
I was going to... Are you sure
everyone left?

LINDA
I guess so... Why?

ZACK
That's weird. I could swear I saw
the door moving.

LINDA
Now??

ZACK
Yes, just a minute ago.

LINDA
Maybe it's that homeless guy came
in to use the bathroom.

ZACK
Well we need to get him out. We
can't lock up and leave him in
there.

LINDA
Go get him and I'll get the
lights...

ZACK
(playful)
Why don't YOU go get him?

LINDA
OK come on! Brian is coming to pick
me up and I don't want him waiting
forever.

ZACK
(smiles)
You still dating that jerk??

LINDA
Would you please hurry??

ZACK
OK! OK! Fine!

He thinks for a moment.

ZACK

Hey, Linda, how do you know it's
the homeless guy?

LINDA

For all I know you and I are the
only people in this restaurant but
you're making up stories to get my
attention because you're a big
baby! NOW GO!!

ZACK

OKK!!

He hesitates for a moment then walks through the door.

Linda walks back to the storage room and reaches for the
light switch box, and flips the first switch... The kitchen
goes dark.

She then notices something. She gets up and walks back into
the preparation room and looks at the knife holder... She
frowns.

INT. RESTAURANT HALLWAY

There are four doors in the dimly lit hallway. The first two
are for the Men's and Women's bathrooms. The third leads to
the trash bin outside the restaurant and the fourth is on the
right and leads into the Bar Room.

Zack walks to the women's bathroom then looks under the door,
it's dark. He then walks slowly to the Men's... And to his
surprise the light under the door is ON.

He knocks on the door.

ZACK

Hey! We've already closed, you need
to get the hell out!

He waits. Nothing.

He then reaches for the handle and turns it... Then opens the
door.

THE PREPARATION ROOM

Linda is still looking at the empty knife holder when she suddenly hears a LOUD, HORRIBLE SCREAM... It's Zack.

The scream throws her completely off guard as she takes a step back but ends up tripping over a rubber mat and falls hard to the floor... She then hears ANOTHER LOUD SCREAM.

Then it's all quiet.

Linda is breathing heavily and not sure what to do. She hears a loud THUMBING SOUND coming from the hallway as if something just crashed hard against the floor.

There is a horror look in her eyes as she tries to get up, but at that same moment the hallway door is pushed open, and in a flash Linda crawls to the kitchen and makes it around the oven (pizza side, the far side).

SOMETHING IS MOVING in the preparation room.

Linda is able to lower her head and looks from under the oven over to the other side, the grill side, and there, a HORRIBLE SCENE... The lifeless body of Zack is being dragged by an INTRUDER, leaving a bloody trail behind.

Only the intruder's military-style boots and part of his black pants can be seen along with the bloody knife dangling from his hand.

Linda is in an absolute state of fear and shock.

The intruder suddenly stops. The direction of his feet pointing toward the still-lit dining room.

Linda also manages to lift up her head just enough to see a MAN walking calmly into the outside patio.

BRIAN is a well-dressed MAN in his mid 20's. He casually looks inside... Then reaches into his pocket and takes out a cellphone.

Linda realizes the disaster that's about to happen when Brian calls her and quickly reaches into her own pocket, takes out her cellphone and turns it off.

Brian waits few moments then puts the phone back in his pocket. He then casually lights and smokes a cigarette as he leans his back against the front window facing the street.

At that moment the intruder starts moving, alone this time.

He makes his way to the dining room. Now we get our first glimpse of the INTRUDER. A very large middle-aged Man in dark baseball hat and matching dark clothing. He walks closer to the window and stands directly behind Brian, only inches separate the two men.

The intruder grips harder on the knife while Brian blows circles of smoke in the air without a care in the world.

The intruder finally turns and gets out into a side patio through a double glass door.

Linda lifts up her head and looks at Brian.

LINDA
(soft, faint)
Brian! Brian! Help me!

She then quickly reaches for her cellphone and turns it on with her trembling fingers... Then starts to dial a number... But at that same moment a BLOODY HAND LANDS ON HER LAP...

Linda becomes hysterical as she lets out the LOUDEST SCREAM a human being can manage... It's ZACK.

His eyes half-closed. Blood sputtering from his mouth.

ZACK
(very faint)
Linda...Help... Me... Please...

LINDA
(still hysterical)
OH MY GOD WHAT THE FUCK IS
HAPPENING! WHO IS THAT MAN!!

ZACK
It's... It's...

Suddenly the intruder walks back into the dining room. Brian is still smoking his cigarette, looking the other way... The intruder slowly walks into the kitchen (grill side). Pizza Girl is on full alert.

The intruder walks slowly across the kitchen. Linda manages to grab Zack from under his arms and drags him to the opposite direction.

The intruder slowly turns toward the pizza side...

INTRUDER POV

Slowly moving behind the oven and looking at the pizza side... IT'S EMPTY.

BACK TO SCENE

Linda is using all her power to drag herself and Zack through the preparation room towards the hallway door.

EXT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT - PATIO - SAME MOMENT

Brian just put out his cigarette and turned to look inside the restaurant... His eyes narrow as he notices something moving inside the kitchen. Suddenly, A VERY LARGE SHADOW, holding the bloody knife is illuminated by the lights of the storage room.

BRIAN

What the fuck??

He bolts toward the entrance on the left and tries to push it open but it's locked, and the same goes for the other door on the right.

Brian quickly scans the building and tries to push open one of the folding security bars that are used to block the side patio at closing time... The first one is locked so he moves to the second one, it's locked as well...

INT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT - HALLWAY

The intruder violently strikes the women's bathroom door nearly breaking it... The room is empty... But the lights are ON in the Men's bathroom... The intruder tries to open the door but it's locked so he starts kicking it with such incredible power that it breaks open after few strikes... And it's also empty.

INT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT - BAR ROOM - SAME MOMENT

Linda just finished pushing a large sofa against the entry door from the hallway. She then leans Zack on the sofa.

LINDA

Zack, listen up... I'm gonna get us the hell out of here! You just hang on!

Zack manages a very weak nod. Linda bolts toward the other door, which is a small roll-up metal gate with a chain-link attached to it's side.

BRIAN

He is now trying for the last set of metal bars and kicking them extremely hard.

LINDA

She reaches for the chain-link and starts to pull it down. The gate squeaks and starts to open... Suddenly, an extremely violent and hard strike on the door that's blocked by the sofa is heard... Followed quickly by another one.

LINDA

Oh my god he's back!

Linda is now working frantically on the stubborn gate which is now about 15 inches open.

She finally manages to stick her head into the other side which is the side patio where Brian has made headway and managed to break the lock open, and is now lifting the metal bars to get in. Pizza Girl sees him.

LINDA

BRIAN!!

BRIAN

Linda, what the fuck is going on??

LINDA

Get me the hell out of here NOW!
PLEASE!!

BRIAN

I'm coming to you, try to push
yourself out more!

LINDA

I can't! The fucking gate is stuck!

Brian finally manages to jump inside the patio... Linda is able to get her right hand and most of her head through the gate. Brian runs to her. She reaches for him with her hand.

Their fingers BRUSH against each other when Linda is suddenly PULLED BACK INSIDE in lightning speed... And the metal gate closes.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT - BAR ROOM

Linda is on the floor. Every bone in her body has the word FEAR written all over it. The intruder is staring at her with his cold, piercing eyes and still has a strong grip on her feet after he pulled her back into the room.

The bloody knife is on the floor, only few feet behind the intruder.

LINDA

Wha... What do you want from me...

The intruder keeps staring at her without a single expression.

Linda looks over the intruder's shoulder and is shocked to see Zack getting up and limping very slowly towards the knife... He motions to her to sit still... He keeps moving slowly and is finally able to pick up the knife...

Zack holds up the knife and takes two more steps and is now standing directly over the intruder... Linda closes her eyes and looks the other way, then waits... Nothing happens.

She opens her eyes again and looks... Zack is calmly leaning over the intruder's shoulder and has a very strange and calm smile over his lips...

The blood in her veins just dried up as her eyes widens and it looks like she's about to lose concious... Zack spits RED BLOOD at her then wipes his mouth.

ZACK

I hate KETCHUP!!

He then takes a step closer to her and holds up the knife.

EXT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT - SIDE PATIO

Brian is working frantically to open up the metal gate and finally slams hard on it in desperation.

Then... Linda screams... Her scream is so loud it keeps echoing through the night... Then everything stops.

EXT. RAINFOREST RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - MORNING

A female TV reporter speaks into the camera.

TV REPORTER

... Sources tell us that the search continues for the two missing restaurant workers whose names have not yet been released by the police, and we also learned that Brian Naylor, the boyfriend of the female worker remains in police custody... That's the latest... This is Mona Abdul reporting from Hollywood, Back to you at the studio, Jim.

THE END