



MAN (CONT'D)  
Look! Look right there it even  
says it on the box with a million  
fucking exclamation points!

PIZZA MAN  
Dude...

MAN  
I'm not paying for this!

PIZZA MAN  
Whatever.

The Pizza Man leaves.

MAN  
You still have to bring me another  
one! Cut in squares. I'll tip!  
[To himself] It's not my fault. I  
asked for it in squares. Moron.

EXT - NIGHT - OUTSIDE APARTMENT

On his way out the Pizza Man passes a Pizza Girl.

PIZZA MAN  
Hey. Is that for apartment 2W?

She checks the tag.

PIZZA GIRL  
Yup.

PIZZA MAN  
Is it cut in squares?

She opens it up and looks.

PIZZA GIRL  
Nope.

PIZZA MAN  
I wouldn't bother. This guys nuts.

She walks on.

PIZZA MAN (CONT'D)  
He's not going to pay for it lady!

INT - NIGHT - KITCHEN

The Man stands in the kitchen he has a phone book on the counter in the middle of a pile of flour. He has crossed off all the pizza places he has tried, the next one is "Van Horne's Pizzeria" his finger rests on the phone number. The door bell rings.

INT - NIGHT - DOORWAY

He answers the door.

PIZZA GIRL  
Van Horne's Pizza!

MAN  
Hi. I didn't order... Is it cut  
in squares?

She opens the box.

PIZZA GIRL  
You bet hun. Thin crust with  
Canadian bacon!

MAN  
Excellent!

He takes the pizza and disappears into the kitchen. After a moment she follows.

INT - NIGHT - KITCHEN

He sets the pizza, box square on the kitchen table. He quickly grabs a can of root beer from the fridge and pours it into a chilled glass. The Pizza Girl watches and observes the room. There are pizza boxes neatly stacked six feet high, each with notes attached to them. There is a variety of doughs rising in bowls on the kitchen counter.

He takes a bite and a moment to analyze the taste. Finally he tosses the pizza back into the box and shakes his head.

PIZZA GIRL  
No good?

MAN  
Just not what I was looking for.

PIZZA GIRL  
What are you looking for?

MAN  
Nothing. Here's your money.  
Thanks anyway.

The Man throws away the remaining pizza and adds the box to a stack, and makes some notes. He then checks on the pizza he has in the oven.

PIZZA GIRL  
So, are you a food critic or something?

MAN  
What? Oh, no.

PIZZA GIRL  
Then what's the deal?

MAN  
I'm sorry?

PIZZA GIRL  
Why all the pizza?

MAN  
[Pause] I paid you right?

PIZZA GIRL  
Yes, too much actually, here's your change.

MAN  
Thanks.

She stays.

MAN (CONT'D)  
Anything else?

PIZZA GIRL  
No.

MAN  
Um...

PIZZA GIRL  
May I stay?

MAN  
Look, I'm not interested in...

PIZZA GIRL  
Yes?

She grabs a root beer out of the fridge.

PIZZA GIRL(CONT'D)  
Do you mind?

MAN  
Pizza, right now I just want to  
find the right pizza.

He leaves and goes to the living room. She stays and looks more closely at his collection of boxes.

PIZZA GIRL  
How close have you come?

MAN (FROM LIVING ROOM)  
What?

She goes to the living room.

INT - NIGHT - LIVING ROOM

He's looking in the phone book for the next pizzeria to try.

PIZZA GIRL  
What's the closest you've come to  
the "right pizza"?

MAN  
This place on the other side of  
town had a decent crust, but the  
sauce was too sweet. This one had  
the right smell, but the crust was  
too thick. I have high hopes for  
this one I'm baking now.

PIZZA GIRL  
So you're trying to come up with  
you're own recipe?

MAN  
I don't care where it comes from I  
just want the pizza.

PIZZA GIRL  
Have you asked around for a recipe?  
From friends or family?

MAN  
No.

PIZZA GIRL  
Really?! No sister, Grandma, Wife?

MAN

No.

PIZZA GIRL

This isn't your wife in the photo?

She holds a family photo up.

MAN

It is, I just didn't ask her.

PIZZA GIRL

Let me guess you do all the cooking  
in the family, right?

MAN

Usually.

PIZZA GIRL

Where is your family now?

MAN

They just got tired of Pizza I  
guess.

PIZZA GIRL

Even the chil'ns?

He shrugs.

PIZZA GIRL (CONT'D)

Some kids that's all they'll eat.  
Remember book-it? Ya know in  
elementary school you read a book  
each week for a month then get a  
free personal pan pizza from Pizza  
Hut?

MAN

I remember it tasting really good,  
but I know it really must have been  
just awful. I think it was because  
I earned it myself. It made my Mom  
proud. But my Mom's pizza! That  
was excellent!

PIZZA GIRL

Tell me about it!

MAN

What I remember most is the crust  
had cornmeal on the bottom.

PIZZA GIRL

Ooo, I love the texture that gives the crust.

MAN

Me too.

PIZZA GIRL

Is there anyone who doesn't like it like that?

MAN

My brother!

PIZZA GIRL

He must be looney!

MAN

I know, right? I was always happy when it was my birthday so there'd be no arguments as to whether or not there'd be a cornmeal crust Toppings were an issue too, he liked pepperoni but I always had to have ...

PIZZA GIRL

Canadian Bacon.

MAN

Right, and lots of cheese. All the recipes I see only use mozzarella cheese, but I feel there needs to be a mix with cheddar, Colby jack, provolone maybe? It just looks prettier too!

PIZZA GIRL

Mmm. I would like to just eat the cheese!

MAN

When my mom would make pizza. My Dad would do just that, he'd come into the kitchen and nibble at the mound of cheese Mom had grated.

She giggles, and he smiles.

MAN (CONT'D)

Mom would shoo him away.

PIZZA GIRL

That such a nice memory.

MAN

The best memories I have from being in Boy Scouts are coming home from a cold wet camping trip and smelling the warm pizza she was making just for me. I could smell the dough, cornmeal, cheese and Canadian bacon all separately like instruments working together to make a symphony. You'd think I'd know how to recreate her pizza just by smell.

PIZZA GIRL

Ahhh! Stop! I'm getting hungry!

MAN

I know the feeling! In order to pass the time my brother and I would take turns playing video games. The trick was to NOT be the one playing when the pizza was ready!

PIZZA GIRL

So crafty of you!

MAN

Once it was ready I could never help gobbling it down. It would take Mom almost all day to make it then the whole pizza would be gone in minuets.

PIZZA GIRL

It sounds like something you should savor.

MAN

I know.

PIZZA GIRL

It's her pizza you're looking for isn't it?

MAN

Yes.

PIZZA GIRL

Why can't you get it from her?

MAN

I should have. She died a month ago.

PIZZA GIRL

Oh poor baby.

MAN

I can't find any recipe anywhere,  
my brother doesn't even care. She  
mentioned a few times something  
about using a pretzel dough recipe  
for the crust.

PIZZA GIRL

I'm sure we can figure it out.

MAN

I almost don't want to know the  
recipe, you know. I just want her  
to make it for me again and be  
served. She would always...

The Pizza Girl slowly begins to laugh.

PIZZA GIRL

Oh! You're so sweet!

MAN

What do you mean?

She continues laughing.

MAN (CONT'D)

Why are you laughing?!

PIZZA GIRL

Oh the best part was when you  
said... "like instruments working  
together to make a symphony."

Her laughter subsides and she gets out a small note pad and  
begins to write.

MAN

Get out!

PIZZA GIRL

Would you say the Canadian bacon  
was cut in thin slices or more  
chunky like?

MAN

Get out!

PIZZA GIRL

Oh, calm down, calm down. I'm  
sorry. Look I can help you.

(MORE)

PIZZA GIRL (CONT'D)  
I just need a little more  
information. Just answer my  
questions without the cheese!

MAN  
[Pause] Slices.

PIZZA GIRL  
The sauce, tomato I assume?

MAN  
Obviously.

PIZZA GIRL  
Just checking, more spicy or sweet?

MAN  
Spicy... I'd say. I was never as  
interested in the sauce, I'd even  
wipe some of it off the slices. My  
plate would have these little  
puddles of left over sauce...

She begins to chuckle and he catches himself.

MAN (CONT'D)  
What are you writing anyway?

PIZZA GIRL  
The recipe.

MAN  
'The' recipe?

PIZZA GIRL  
Based on your description I'm  
pretty sure this is it.

MAN  
You can't be serious.

He reaches for the paper, she doesn't let him have it.

PIZZA GIRL  
You said you just want to have it  
served to you.

MAN  
I need to see the recipe.

PIZZA GIRL  
How about this. You stay here and  
relax. I'll go in the kitchen and  
whip this up for you!  
(MORE)

PIZZA GIRL (CONT'D)

I guarantee it will taste exactly  
as it did when you were just a  
chil'n.

MAN

You're serious?

She nods.

MAN (CONT'D)

How could you possibly...

PIZZA GIRL

I'll even throw in a little extra.  
While you're eating the pizza you  
will relieve your experiences and  
emotions exactly as they were when  
you were a child.

MAN

How... What do you mean?

PIZZA GIRL

Think of it like a very real dream.

MAN

This is ridiculous Who are you!?  
Why am I even talking to you?

PIZZA GIRL

No need to be rude.

MAN

All right then! Prove it! Make  
the pizza.

PIZZA GIRL

Really?

MAN

Sure.

PIZZA GIRL

Yeah! Ok, you sit down right here,  
get all comfy. Play some video  
games and it'll be ready before you  
know it.

MAN

Ok.

PIZZA GIRL

Want anything else while you wait?

MAN

Some hot chocolate maybe? That'd be nice.

PIZZA GIRL

Coming right up!

INT - NIGHT - LIVING ROOM LATER

The Man is laying on the couch playing video games when the Pizza Girl finally peeks her head into the room.

PIZZA GIRL

Come and get it!

INT - NIGHT - KITCHEN

He sits at the kitchen table. The Pizza Girl cuts perfect squares, piles a handful onto a plate and sets it in front of him. He's about to dig in when he stops.

MAN

Are you going to have any.

PIZZA GIRL

Why thank you hun! You're such a sweetie.

They both eat. He bites into the first piece. After a moment he stops.

PIZZA GIRL (CONT'D)

Taste all right?

MAN

It tastes the same, but..

He gags and falls to the ground.

PIZZA GIRL

Oops! Careful hun.

MAN

This isn't right.

PIZZA GIRL

It's right. A bit salty for my taste, but you're Mom's pizza is still up there for me.

He runs to the bathroom. She grabs another piece and follows him.

INT - NIGHT - BATHROOM

He heaves into the toilet, she eats and watches.

MAN

I didn't relive my memories. It was a nightmare.

PIZZA GIRL

Oh no, hun. I'm sorry you misunderstood. You said, "memories", I said you'd relive your experiences "exactly as they were", that's "exactly".

MAN

How I remember them is how they were.

PIZZA GIRL

Not always, remember what you said about the Pizza Hut pizza? Same thing here hun. What you're forgetting is all the nasty stuff. How much your parents fought, how much you hated your brother, and how absolutely perfect you had to be for your Mom. You really don't have a "happy" childhood to be nostalgic about.

MAN

That's not true.

PIZZA GIRL

I'm sorry hun, but it is. Here, here's the recipe, and a ginger ale to help your tummy. Take care.

She leaves.

EXT - NIGHT - OUTSIDE APARTMENT

She leaves the apartment building and gets into her car and drives off.

INT - NIGHT - BATHROOM

The Man sits on the floor his tears drying. After a moment he stands up and walks away.

CREDITS