

Pizza Rat: Against All Odds

BY ADAM ROTSTEIN

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT, EAST VILLAGE

NEIGHBORHOOD HUMAN TEENAGER

Pizza rat? Ha...it's funny for me to even call him that. I knew him when he was just Rat -- about this big (shows pinky for reference).

Cut to Department of Sanitation Office

HEALTH INSPECTOR

The first time I encountered Pizza Rat was in a fourth story walk up on Avenue D. He and his buddies weren't after much- just some chicken bones and expired cheese. I think I said what I would have said to any young rat in that situation "Scram! Get the fuck out of here you filthy rat!"

Cut to large rat in a subway tunnel, back lit by camera crew.

PIZZA RAT'S MOM

(squeals for 10 seconds,
sniffs around for debris)

Subtitles below: He was a pretty normal child, one of 86 that summer. I did not know his father. We ate tin foil.

Cut to dumpster in an alley.

V.O.

The story of what happens when chance meets opportunity.

RAT FRIEND.

(Squealing)

Subtitles: I remember him coming into this pile of garbage we had been sniffing around all week. He said something like- I found an entire slice of Pizza.

(CONTINUED)

OTHER RAT FRIEND

(squealing)

Subtitles: Trevor and I were like, dude. Have you been eating paint chips again? That's twice your size. Also what is a slice? And he just looked at me with those beady eyes...

THIRD RAT

(squealing)

Did I think he was going to do it? I don't know. All I knew is that there was a hunger in him-- different from the one in most vermin. He wasn't going to...I mean he *couldn't*..settle for scraps. That was just not him.

V.O.

Critics are calling Pizza Rat "Kind of gross" and "I think I saw that on Gothamist..."

Int. swanky media office. Two hip looking millenials.

BUZZFEED COLUMIST

It's our job to break the big stories. When I saw people begin to whip out their iPhones, I knew this was bigger than just a rat and some pizza. It was those two things...together.

BUZZFEED EDITOR

Memes aren't born- they are made. After Pizza Rat got to 500,000 views - we moved him into our Viral subtab. I tagged it as EWW and AWW. I remember feeling like, 'This is journalism'-- like we were writing history.

Other more corporate office.

PIZZA RAT'S AGENT

Pizza Rat signed with me pretty much immediately after he made it down to the third step with the entire slice. That's when the calls started coming in... book deals from RandoMouse, a potential movie in talks. I mean we couldn't keep up.

(CONTINUED)

V.O.

This fall...relive the dream. From
it's very beginning... to it's
harrowing end.

Int. Vet's Office.

VETERNARIAN

He's...not going to make it. There
is congealed cheese obstructing his
airway.

AGENT

What? No!

BUZZFEED EDITOR

He's going to die? He's only two
years old!

VETERNARIAN

That's...how long they usually
live. He's just a rat.

AGENT

He's not a rat. (tearing up)
He's... Pizza Rat

Titles Appear "PIZZA RAT: AGAINST ALL ODDS"