

Two Cousins and a Pizza

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Cast of Characters

Johnny: Italian guy from Queens.
Feels very strongly about
family and pizza.

Mikey: Johnny's cousin who moved to
Chicago months ago, and is
back to visit with family.

Scene

Pizza joint in New York City

Time

Present day

LIGHTS UP

JOHNNY is seated at a table in a pizza joint in New York City. There is a large pizza pie on the table.

Enter MIKEY.

JOHNNY
Mikey?

MIKEY
Johnny!

JOHNNY and MIKEY embrace.

JOHNNY
Hey, how you doin', cuz? Long time, no see!

MIKEY
I know, right? How've you been?

JOHNNY
Been alright. Just the usual shit, y'know? How about you?

MIKEY
Same here.

JOHNNY
Chicago's been treating you nicely?

MIKEY
Eh, it's alright.

JOHNNY
But not quite the same as home, right?

MIKEY
You said it. Feels good to be back here in the Big Apple with my favorite cousin.

JOHNNY
Good to have you back, Mikey. Let's eat!

MIKEY
I don't know 'bout you, but I'm starving!

JOHNNY and MIKEY sit down together at the table. As they are talking, each of them takes a slice of pizza, and MIKEY starts cutting it with a fork and knife.

MIKEY

Y'know, I gotta tell you. I can't even remember the last time I've seen your face.

JOHNNY

I know, man. It feels like it's been forever since we-Mikey!!

MIKEY stops cutting.

MIKEY

(startled)

What?

JOHNNY

(angry)

What the fuck do you think you're doing?!

MIKEY

(confused)

What are you talking about?

JOHNNY

Your pizza!

MIKEY

What about it?

JOHNNY

What are you doing to it?

MIKEY

Huh?

JOHNNY

Is that a FORK?!

MIKEY

Yeah.

JOHNNY

And...a KNIFE?!

MIKEY

Yeah, I was just-

JOHNNY

(appalled)

Mikey, are you...are you CUTTING your pizza?

MIKEY

Yeah, cuz. That's how we always eat pizza in Chicag-

JOHNNY

OH GOD!!!

MIKEY

Hey, chill out, cuz. I was just-

JOHNNY

Have you ALREADY forgotten where you've come from?

MIKEY

What? No, wh-what are you talkin' about?

JOHNNY

You've lived in Chicago for just a couple of months now, and now...this? THIS is how you "eat" your pizza now?

MIKEY

Well yeah, I mean what's the big-

JOHNNY

God...oh God, I...I think I might be sick.

MIKEY

Johnny, I don't know what the big problem is. I mean, what makes you think-

JOHNNY

Mikey, you know better than this. Here in New York, you could get yourself killed for eating your pizza that way. You know that.

MIKEY

What?

JOHNNY

You grew up here just like I did! I mean, I-How could you go and pull a crazy stunt like THAT?!

MIKEY

How is that-

JOHNNY

I mean, really?! REALLY?! Are you fuckin' kidding me?!

MIKEY

I...I-

JOHNNY

Alright, y'know what, Mikey? Here. Let me give you a little refresher on how it's done. Here in New York - the greatest city in the world - you eat pizza like THIS!

JOHNNY picks up his slice of pizza shoves it in his mouth.

MIKEY

Johnny, I...I think-

JOHNNY

Not like THIS!

JOHNNY takes a fork and knife and mimes cutting pizza.

MIKEY

Umm, Johnny...Johnny, I-

JOHNNY

You don't go and pick up a fuckin' fork and knife and-You just don't need any of that shit, y'know? You just don't! Not for this!!

MIKEY

Okay, Johnny-

JOHNNY

It's fuckin' PIZZA! All you do is pick it up, fold it a bit, and put it in your mouth! That's ALL you gotta do-

MIKEY

I think I get the picture, Johnny.

JOHNNY

Do you?! Do you get the picture, Mikey??!!

MIKEY

Yeah, Johnny. It's just...I just don't think it's that big of a deal, really-

JOHNNY

Not a big deal? NOT. A BIG. DEAL??!!

MIKEY

I mean, Johnny, why-

JOHNNY

What do you think you're doing, going around sayin' shit like that, Mikey? What could have possibly made you forget how you eat pizza like a real New Yorker?

MIKEY

I didn't forget. I mean, I just...y'know, after a bit of time away, I kinda decided that I wanted to try something new, y'know? After a while, I thought now was a good time for a nice change of pace, moving to

(MORE)

MIKEY (cont'd)

Chicago and all. And y'know what? I like it. I actually like it.

JOHNNY

How, Mikey? How the fuck could you like-

MIKEY

Hell, I actually think I might like eating it this way a bit better. I mean, have you ever even tried eatin' it this way, Johnny?

Pause, as JOHNNY simply stares at MIKEY, unimpressed.

MIKEY

Johnny?

(pauses)

Johnny, I-

JOHNNY

I'm just gonna pretend I didn't hear that.

MIKEY

Look, Johnny. C'mon. All I did was-

JOHNNY

Alright, look. Here's the deal, Mikey. Since you're family, I'm gonna try and help you out here on this one.

MIKEY

Wh-what are you talking abo-

JOHNNY

If this were anyone else, I wouldn't care. I'd let them go, and get themselves shot over this. But not you. I'm not gonna sit by, and let my own cousin go down this road.

MIKEY

(reassuring)

Johnny, I-I appreciate you being so concerned about me, and all. But I...I really don't think I need your help. I'm...I'm okay-

JOHNNY

Mikey, I-I hate to be the one to tell you this, but...you're not okay right now, cuz. You need to get help.

MIKEY

I am! I'm just fine. I-

JOHNNY

No Mikey, you're not. But don't worry! I'm gonna save you. I'm gonna get you the help you need, and in the end, you're gonna be okay.

MIKEY

Johnny, please just-

JOHNNY

Because that's what family does, Mikey! We look out for each other! When we see someone in our family that's not doin' well, we do what we can to help them!

MIKEY

Okay, Johnny. Can you please-

JOHNNY

I dunno if you've forgotten that, too, while you were in Chicago, Mikey.

MIKEY

What? I-

JOHNNY

But I haven't! I haven't forgotten what it means to be family, and what it means to help them out.

MIKEY

Johnny, will you-

JOHNNY

I haven't forgotten, dammit!! And I'm gonna make sure that-

MIKEY

Will you just calm down, Johnny?

Pause

JOHNNY

Calm down? What do you mean "calm down"? How could I calm down after what I saw you do!

MIKEY

I mean, look, I don't know why you're acting this crazy. Y'know, like, why you have to go and make such a big deal about this, y'know? I mean...c'mon, man. It's just pizza. I mean, what if I just like to eat my-

JOHNNY

Just pizza? JUST pizza??

MIKEY

Yeah, I mean...is it really-

JOHNNY

Mikey, are you...are you really even my cousin?

MIKEY

What?

JOHNNY

Seriously. Now you're starting to act like some guy I've never even met before.

MIKEY

Johnny, why can't we just-

JOHNNY

What are you trying to tell me, Mikey? You know the important role pizza plays in our family. You know that! Are you saying that you don't want to be a member of our family anymore?!

MIKEY

What?! No, of course not!

JOHNNY

Then what is it, Mikey? What's gotten into you?

MIKEY

I just don't see why you have to make such a big deal over the way I eat my pizza. I mean, why can't we just move on, and just eat...the way we wanna eat?

JOHNNY

You wanna know why, Mikey?

MIKEY

Yeah, I do. I really do.

JOHNNY

Because...because I love you. You're my cousin, and I...I just don't wanna see you turn out the wrong way, and...

(emotional)

...and I've seen way too many people go down this road, and...I don't know if I could handle seeing you end up the same way they did.