**Angela Rolph**

**The Pit of Perseverance**

**Page 1 Splash:** Showcase a large image where the couple and their little boy are the central focus, peering out from the window of the Pizza Pit. The orange sign of the Pizza Pit flickers brightly in the windy storm, and a young couple, both in blue jean shorts and matching Buzz Lightyear t-shirts, can be seen through the windows. They sit across from their son in a brown upholstered booth. Their little boy, in a green Toy Story t-shirt and orange shorts, holds up a massive slice of pizza. The gooey yellow cheese drips down his chin in thick globs as he tries to catch it in his wide-open mouth, a mixture of joy and anticipation on his face.

**1Caption:** Pizza Pit is in downtown Savannah, Georgia. It has been open since 1972 and is still in operation in 2024.

**Page 2**

**Panel 1**: A tall, skinny young man with black hair and an orange jumper with a pizza pit name tag counts money in the small, red-themed kitchen. He hovers his face over the cash register, casting a shadow over it. A short, stout young man with red hair, holding a roster, taps him on the back.

**1Donald:** Ronny, your job today is to **sweep** the kitchen. **Let me** do accounting.

**2Ronny**: **Are** you sure we can keep this place afloat? We are **all** working overtime.

**3Donald:** **Leave** the books to me, Ronny. I know you’re my best friend, but you’re also my best employee. **Work.**

**4Ronny:** William is out on delivery; I’ll help Kadejah wait tables. Becki told me she left for a coffee break with Rachel. Those two are slackers, Donald.

**1SFX:** **Bang!**

**Panel 2:** A short, thin girl with blonde hair, wearing hot pink high heels and an orange jumpsuit, crashes into the swinging door of the kitchen.

**5Becki:** Reporting for duty, your M**ajesty!** We’ve got everyone’s coffee. Where is my humble peasant, Rachel?

**Panel 3:** A young, skinny girl with curly brown hair, wearing an orange jumpsuit, backs into the door, holding a cupholder with four coffees in one hand and two more cups in the other.

**6Rachel:** I’m not your peasant, Becki; I’m your **bestie**. Now… start treating me like one.

**7Becki:** Peasants are **so touchy** **nowadays!** She sticks out her tongue at Rachel and twists her hands by her ears mockingly.

**2SFX: neeeeeeehhh!**

**Panel 4:** A tall, blonde, bearded man with graying hair enters the kitchen and empties a pizza delivery bag. He collapses into a nearby black office chair.

Page 3

**8Donald:** Becki, yanks Kadejah out from the floor. It’s time to have a friendly team meeting.

**Panel 5:** Kadejah, Becki, Donald, Ronnie, Rachel, and William are sitting around an office chair in the corner of the kitchen. Donald slaps his accounting book down on the table.

**3SFX:** **wham!**

**Panel 6:** The group exchanges worried looks and talks loudly.

**9William:** This is **more serious** than I thought. Are we in **trouble**?

**10Donald:** No one here is in trouble, but I want to get some things straight **right now**. Does anyone have any idea **how close** we are to losing this place?

**1Donald (thoughts):** They aren’t going to respond well to this.

**Panel 7: Becki**: **Oh my God, this is all my fault!** If only I’d worked **harder** and not been so lazy.

**11Rachel:** I feel the same.

**2Rachel (thoughts):** We don’t get paid enough for this.

**4SFX**: **Waaaaaaahhhhhhhh!**

**Panel 8:** Becki covers her eyes and cries; her mascara runs down her hands in black torrents as Rachel embraces her warmly.

**3Becki (thoughts):** I’m such a failure! I take too many coffee breaks.

**Panel:** A feisty red-headed young woman hollers.

**12Kadejah (bursts):** We’ve been working **hard**, and you two have wasted time**!** She yells with her head in her hands.

**5SFX**: **Uggggggggghhhhh!**

**Panel 9:** Kadejah is holding her head and screaming in frustration—Donald's hands are around six binders with paperwork inside.

**4Donald (thoughts):** They’ll **love** this. They might have to help me with several fundraisers.

**13Donald:** As I was **about to say,** the real reason behind our struggles is Pantastic Pizza. They are stealing all our customers.

**Page 4**

**14William:** What can we do to take them down? Let’s sabotage their pizza dough. I can think of a **million** ways we can sabotage their supply chain. He laughs menacingly.

**4William (thoughts):** They’ll **all** get what they **deserve!**

**6SFX: Mwaaaahhahahaha!**

**Panel 10**: Kadejah taps her foot nervously. Becki gulps as Ronnie listens intently. Donald gets up and answers the ring on the drive-thru window. He gets the customer’s pizza from the kitchen, runs their credit card, and hands them their receipt.

**15Donald:** You have the right idea, William, but we don’t have to resort to being **sneaky** to get even with them.

**16Kadejah:** Getting **even** is what I do best; when do we **begin?**

**17Donald:** This must be a **group effort**, and since I consider you all co-owners of this establishment, I’ve devised a fundraising plan to keep our place. Who's **with me?**

**2Caption:** Kadejah and Becki are outside the Pizza Pit, taking out the trash by the side of the building.

**Panel 11:** Kadejah and Becki are sitting on the curb talking when Becki stands up, drops her trash bag, points, and shouts.

**7SFX:** **R-r-r-r-aaaaaaaaaaaatttttttt!**

**Panel 12:** Rachel immediately stands up and pulls out her phone to take a picture of one of them with her camera. Her camera pops and flashes, and she pockets it back in her jeans pocket.

**18Rachel:** This is all the evidence we need, **Becki! Those no-good rotten finks are going down for good! Say goodbye to Pantastic Pizza!**

**19Becki:** They have rats, Rachel! Rats! I think I’m going to be **sick!**

**5Rachel:** **(thoughts):** Don’t **throw** up on me, **Becki!**

**3Captions:** She goes behind the humongous blue dumpster can and pukes up some green, chunky vomit.

**8SFX:** **Bleeeeeeeaaahhhhh!**

**Panel 13:** The girls ran back inside the Pizza Pit and wallop right through Donald’s office, located to the left of the kitchen. He drops his cell phone onto his desk.

**20Becki:** We have evidence the **Pantastic Pizza** is harboring **rats!** We have **evidence!**

**6Rachel (thoughts):** Get a load of these apples…**or Rats!**

**9SFX:Raaaaaatsssssssss!**

**Page 5**

**Panel 14:** She whips out her phone and scrolls to the picture of the rat from Pantastic Pizza’s kitchen.

**4Caption:** The next day is beautiful as morning light shines through Pizza Pit’s dirty windows. Donald slumps over in his office. Birds are twittering outside his office window. He fell asleep on his computer, reviewing his finances. The bank calls him.

**11SFX:** **Riiiiiiiiinnnnnnnngggggg!**

**Panel 15:** Donald answers the phone.

**V.O.** (Bank employee speaks brokenly): We’re sending someone over so you can sign the deed to your land.

**21Donald:** Please give me one last **shot!** I can make it **work!**

**12SFX: Cliiiiicccck!**

**7Donald (thoughts):** We’re **all screwed**! The bank will put this place for sale as **soon** as they can.

**23Donald:** This may take them down, but we still struggle financially. So, even with the competition, our financial woes will continue to grow. This changes nothing; I’m sorry, girls.

**Panel 16:** Donald goes back to working in his office. The girls hang their heads and return to the kitchen to put on their aprons to continue making pizzas. Becki slides a pizza paddle under a pizza to take it out. She drops the whole thing on the floor, shocked.

**13SFX:** **Splaaaaaaaaaat!**

**8Becki (thoughts):** I must be getting tired.

**24Rachel:** What a waste of delicious pizza. I can’t believe we can do anything to save this place. Even if we try to raise money, we won’t have enough time.

**25Becki: Donald says it wasn’t meant to be and that we should all** start looking for other jobs.

**26Rachel:** Becki, let’s go take out some more stinking trash.

**Panel 17:** Becki and walk outside with their full black, leaking trash bag. Becki drops it on the sidewalk, and slime oozes out into the sidewalk cracks. A red Mercedes Benz pulls up slowly from the entrance of the small parking lot.

**14SFX:** **Plop!**

**27Rachel:** Don’t look now, but the wealthiest lady in town is pulling up to have pizza here.

**28Becki:** I **don’t think** she just has **pizza** on her mind, **Rachel!**

**Page 6**

**Panel 18:** The car door is flung open, and a white-haired woman emerges. She is dressed to the nines in a yellow silk dress. She walks to the door, yanks the for-sale sign out of the green grass, and smiles. The woman thrusts up her checkbook, and the sun is setting behind her back as she casts a long black shadow.

**29Francis:** My name is Francis Merci. You’re standing in the middle of historic land. A tunnel underneath Pizza Pit leads to long lost Incan treasure. My team uses advanced radar to scan through objects. Name your price**,** and you’ll be **filthy stinking rich!**

**30Kadejah:** Yes, ma’am, we’ll do anything we want.

**31Donald:** Hush Kadejah! We can’t sell this land or building. This is a home away from home, and we’re family. Everyone cries out in unison.

**15SFX:** **Yeeeeaaaaaah!**

**Panel 20:** Francis thrashes her hands in protest.

**32Francis:** Alright, you’ve left me with **no choice.** If you agree to sell this land, I’ll keep you on and give you half of the profits. You’ll be **making history!**

**9Francis (thoughts):** They are fools if they don’t take this offer.

**Panel 21: William has a scowl across his face.**

**10William (thoughts):** This old broad isn’t budging.

**Panel 22:** Kadejah tugs on her long, thick hair.

**11Kadejah (thoughts):** I’d take the money and run.

**12Ronnie (thoughts):** What other choice do we have?

**Panel 23:** Becki has a quizzical brow as she is lost in her train of thought.

**13Becki (thoughts):** Just think of all the purses and shoes I can get with my share.

**Panel 24: Rachel looks amused and is smiling.**

**14Rachel (thoughts):** I think Becki will explode from excitement.

**Panel 25:** Donald has a determined expression on his face.

**15Donald (thoughts):** By accepting her offer, I would be doing an honor to my grandaddy and Daddy before me.

**16Donald (thoughts):** You have yourself a deal, Francis! The gang cries out in excitement.

**16SFX:** **Hoooorrraaaaaah!**

**Panel 26:** Francis writes the check and hands it to Donald. She strolls back to her Mercedes Benz, slams the door shut, and drives away. Tiny rocks near their feet begin to tremble.

**17SFX:** **aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!**

**Panel 27:** Fantastic Pizza’s evening crowd runs screaming out of its yellow doors, and well-fed rats race out from around their feet. The gang fist pumps the air. Victory is a dish best served burning hot.