

# THE RAT PACK

by

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Steal it and die a horrible black death like days of yore.

**FADE IN**

**INT. CITY SEWER - DAY**

Through the three-meter diameter tunnel flows the raw sewage of the city above. Whatever can get flushed down a toilet or fit through a storm drain floats by.

The setting is quite serene. Just enough light beams down through the small openings of a manhole cover above to illuminate the scene.

On a ledge, just above sewage level, three rats sit with their backs against the tunnel wall. They relax and watch the flow for their next meal or a source of entertainment.

The thin brown rat drinks a cocktail from a thimble with a miniature umbrella. This is FRANKY.

The black rat smokes a cigarette. This is JUNIOR.

The other brown rat has flaming red eyes. This is DINO. Dino rubs his belly and picks his teeth with a toothpick.

Dino's whiskers suddenly perk to attention. He scurries to the edge and looks upstream.

DINO  
Hey, guys...check this out.

Dino dives in, swims to a passing pie tin and climbs aboard. He stands on his hind legs and holds the toothpick out like a sword.

DINO  
Yo, Franky. What am I?

Franky shrugs indifferently.

FRANKY  
Dunno, Dino. What are you?

JUNIOR  
A Rattus Dumbikus?

Dino scowls at Junior and points the toothpick angrily.

DINO  
I wasn't asking you, Junior.

Dino strikes the pose again.

DINO  
I'm a pirate!  
(MORE)

DINO (cont'd)  
(beat)  
Get it? A pie-rat?

Franky shakes his head and Junior displays a thumbs down.

Dino looks dejected. He sees another object float by and dives back into the sewage.

He climbs up and onto a Dominos Pizza box.

DINO  
Okay, what about now?

Franky barely acknowledges and Junior splays out his paws.

DINO  
Rats Domino!

Franky hangs his head in embarrassment and Junior smiles, not out humor, but Dino's own idiocy.

Dino, twice bit, swims back to the pack.

As he climbs back up to the ledge, a shrill police whistle fills the tunnel.

TWEEEE!

The rats look up from their ledge to see the manhole cover above get popped up and slid to the side.

Two CONVICTS in orange coveralls slide down the ladder and splash down in front of the rats.

One convict shouts up the ladder.

CONVICT  
You pigs ain't never gonna catch  
us!

The convicts wade quickly downstream until out of sight.

A COP pokes his red-faced head into the manhole and blows his whistle.

TWEEEE!

He starts down the ladder with the whistle pursed in his lips. He loses his footing and falls into the sewage.

The cop raises his head out of the sewage and realizes that the whistle, all covered in shit, is still in his mouth.

He spits it out in disgust and takes off after the convicts.

All the while, the rat pack just hangs out and watches the scene unfold.

When the cop is out of sight, Dino dives into the flow once again. This time, he climbs back out onto the ledge on the opposite side from his pack.

Dino has the whistle. He curls his tail into a corkscrew, sticks the sewage covered whistle into his mouth and gives it a blow.

TWEE-SPUTTER-EE!

DINO  
Well? What am I?

Franky shrugs and Junior looks ill.

JUNIOR  
Disgusting? Gross? A new hepatitis  
statistic?

Dino shakes his head in exasperation.

DINO  
I'm a pig, get it?!

Franky doesn't even acknowledge the act and Junior just rolls his eyes.

Dino throws the whistle into the flow and returns to the ledge with his mates.

After a moment, Junior leans over to Franky.

JUNIOR  
Hey, Franky.

FRANKY  
Yeah?

JUNIOR  
I bet this ain't the first time  
those two convicts slid into a  
shitty manhole.

For a moment, Franky sits stone-faced. Slowly, he breaks into a smile and then starts to laugh.

FRANKY  
Now, THAT'S funny!

Dino has a blank expression.

DINO  
I don't get it.

Franky and Junior laugh even harder.

FADE TO BLACK