Finally Catching That Sneaky Pancake Thief

By: A.X. Bueno

It's a lazy Saturday morning at the house of a certain spotted polar bear who only just woke up several minutes ago. His name is Theo and he's trying to blink the sleep out of his eyes as he heads to the bathroom in a pair of blue jeans. After he's done brushing his teeth and getting ready for the day in the bathroom the bear goes to the kitchen to make himself some breakfast, specifically pancakes. As the bear whips up a whole stack of pancakes for himself in the kitchen something or rather someone manages to sneak in without the bear even noticing. This mysterious intruder decides to hide behind Theo's couch as the bear finishes up in the kitchen walking out of it with a sizable pancake stack.

Theo sets the pancakes down on a table as he goes now to wash batter from his paws and also grab the syrup and some utensils, both of which he realizes that he forgot in the kitchen. This is the moment in which the intruder decides to go for what he came to Theo's house for in the first place, for he is the pancake thief that has been stealing the spotted bear's pancakes whenever he isn't looking for some time now. The thief reaches for the platter holding the pancakes quickly with a paw so he could take the stack and continue on with his his day like he didn't just rob someone but suddenly a pair of blue sclerae green eyes locks on this intruder with a shocked look. The bear beastman is so fresh out of the bathroom he's still trying his paws with a hand towel and the thief stares at the polar bear for a solid minute before either of them makes a move, made immobile by the tenseness of the moment. The pancake thief makes the first move bolting for the front door of Theo's house as the bear mage snaps back to reality.

"Bwahh!" Theo yelps in surprise before trying to stop the thief's escape with a blast of ice to freeze the intruder. Unbeknownst to Theo in the heat of the moment the thief also has a solid mastery of the ice and is able to stop and dissipate his ice blast with ease. Next Theo tries icing the floor which slips up the thief for a few seconds before he makes the ice sublimate into water vapor and continues his mad dash to the door until Theo takes a swig from a test tube he apparently got out of the bathroom. This allows him to freeze the thief in place and lift him a few feet in the air not necessarily with magic but with potion given telekinesis which shocks the thief.

"What?! How did you-?" Theo cuts the thief off before he can finish asking his question with the obvious ending.

"How'd I do that? Easy, a sip from a potion of temporary telekinesis. Now I'm pretty sure I know who you are but I still want to get a good look at the person who's been trying to steal my pancakes for all these months."

The bear mage then proceeds to walk forward to close the gap between him and the pancake thief still stuck telekinetically hovering thanks to his potion acquired power. He reaches the thief and circles him for a few seconds before looking him straight in the blue eyes and the bear's expression goes from smug satisfaction from catching this apparently powerful thief that's been bothering him for months to bemused annoyance and slight confusion at realizing who this is. It's a blue eyed cat(a Caribbean Shorthair to be exact) that the bear beastman is all too familiar with.

"Tommy?! Well that explains how you managed to not be affected by my ice magic but what the heck are you doing in my house and why are you trying to steal my pancakes? How'd you even get in here?" Theo is genuinely puzzled and waits for an answer. The pancake thief, Tommy, takes an extra few seconds to think of what to say next.

"Well umm is there any way we could skip me answering all those questions and jump to the part where you pretend this never happened and let me go?" Tommy begs with kitten eyes which leads to the polar bear just raising an eyebrow in a way that says "seriously?!" This makes the shorthair tense up but not say anything until Theo tugs with the tip of a claw at his collar and then let's go making it snap back in a way that's trying to say make a move. He may not be able to move still hovering in the air thanks to telekinesis but this does make Tommy talk.

"So I uhhh, got in through the kitchen window. You left it open and I just kind of snuck in cause I wanted pancakes. I figured you w-wouldn't catch me, what are you gonna do now?" Tommy's eyes shift around for a second before looking back to the big bear in front of him, he recognizes that he's completely at the polar bear's mercy and while they may be friends the bear also caught him trying to steal. Theo looks at him deep in thought at first but then a smile comes to his lips and he rubs the fur on his stomach.

"I see, well since you tried to steal pancakes from me I might as well make you be one. I'd say that's a fitting punishment wouldn't you?" Theo asks rhetorically.

"You're going to turn me into a pancake?! I don't see that **p-p-panning** out well for e-either of us **heh heh**" the cat chuckles nervously trying to pun his way through his fear at what the bear mage could do to him. Theo laughs at this in amusement though not necessarily at the pun.

"Ha! No, I'm not going to turn you into a pancake though that *is* tempting. I'm just going to treat you like one." Theo does a lowering motion with his hand and this makes the cat drop to the floor with an "oof" but the bear picks Tommy up with his right paw before he can really recover from the small fall or move.

"What do you mean by **thaaa-**? **What?!** Hold on...please?" Tommy pleads with the spotted bear while Theo is bringing his right paw to his maw with the shorthair only a few inches from it now. The bear closes his maw, moves Tommy back a bit to be more away from his face and prepares to speak.

"I've already been pretty patient with you so far. Normally I'd either just eat my food or make a little game out of shrinking and... hunting them let's say but what the heck I can wait a little more and hear you out. So what do you have to say that's worth holding on for? How are you gonna try to convince me not to eat you?" The bear beastman says while using his claws to scratch at the fur under his chin anticipating either an actually compelling or an unintentionally hilarious reply.

"Ummm...well..." the carribean cat struggles to think of anything to say, he didn't think he'd get this far, regarding getting the bear to listen that is and is tempted to admit that but instead goes with something else. "Come on can't we just *iron* this out? You can let me go and stop *waffling* on whether you're gonna eat me or not." The bear raises a finger at Tommy's words and prepares to speak.

"W-Were those waffle puns?"

"...m-maybeee?" The cat replies sheepishly, rubbing a paw behind his head and gulping in the slim hope he won over the bear with his wordplay.

"Ok then... I'm going to eat you now." The bear says casually then brings the shorthair cat to his black lips and spreads them apart to reveal his sharp white fangs and big bright red tongue slightly slick with drool, awaiting the feline's entry into his maw. Theo shoves Tommy into his mouth before he can finish uttering his "NOOOO!" of despair and wastes no time before he starts swallowing the cat down. Normally the polar bear would maybe spend some time tasting and teasing someone before he ate them, take some pleasure in it or having some other food to accompany the person he nommed but this isn't really meant to be enjoyable it's meant to be punishment. Well as much punishment as the attempted theft of pancakes warrants and done by someone who wants to remain friends with his fellow fur. Meanwhile inside the polar bear beastman, Tommy is still in the midst of being swallowed with Theo not slowing down and within moments the "pancake" is halfway down his throat with only the tail sticking out till Theo slurps it in more like a giant fluffy noodle than anything else. The "pancake" passes by the loud thumping of the polar bear's heart and makes it to the entrance to the stomach so shocked by what happened that he didn't even struggle on the way down.

When Tommy slides into the stomach he maintains a shocked look as he plops in head first followed by his foot paws and tail. Theo merely looks down at his now larger, stuffed gut in

satisfaction at using it to capture and contain the pancake thief. Tommy lays on his back in Theo's stomach which is pretty roomy for him, not too surprising when you consider that the polar bear stands at a gigantic 9'10" compared to the smaller cat but still. Theo sitting on the couch now with his pancakes on the end table right next to him just lazes about with it being a few minutes since he finished swallowing his feline friend revealed to be the pancake thief. He's tempted to eat the pancakes partially because he's hungry still and partially because it would add to the punishment but decides that being eaten by a polar bear is punishment enough for anyone then his cat friend pipes up apparently over his shock now.

"You know, I've got friends... and a family. They'll come looking for me soon enough, they care a lot. How do you think they'll react to what you're doing to me Mr. Bear?" Tommy asks from inside Theo.

"Well I doubt they'll come looking for you too soon and I planned to release you in a couple of hours or so anyway."

"Before I got digested? You mean that?" Tommy, despite knowing the polar bear for a while now, is still surprised sometimes by how soft he can be.

"Of course, in fact..." Theo cuts himself off to go grab a potion's vial from a drawer in his room taking Tommy along for a somewhat bumpy ride while the bear walks. He then proceeds to head back to the couch where he drinks the potion to Tommy's confusion and dismay since he barely dodges the potion as it splashes down into the bear's big belly.

"Oh man, what is this stuff?!" Tommy groans as some of it barely avoids splashing him and his blue and black shirt.

"Potion of acid suppression. It's to ensure that you'll be fine" the bear says while giving his belly a pat. He then proceeds to take out his switch which he also had in his room intending to game. "Anyway I suggest you get comfortable cause you're going to be in there for a little while."

"Okay" Tommy says, now accepting the whole situation. "Can we play something together when you let me out" he says clearly having heard the polar bear start up whatever he's playing.

"Absolutely. We could totally play something together in a little bit when I let you out" Theo says and at that Tommy's pancake stealing days are over(probably), thwarted by becoming a pancake for a friend and the promise of gaming.