

“Pogo”
By suitmation

“We got a winnah here!!” the carnie exclaimed as Cory knocked down the last of 3 pyramids of milk bottles. “Well what’ll it be sir? Pick out your prize! You can choose anything in the booth.” Cory looked around at the giant inflatable beach balls, outdoor game sets, and giant plush toys until something caught his eye off in the corner. There sat a giant grey kangaroo plush, easily just as big as Cory himself and twice as wide. A happy smile on its face seemed to entice Cory with its tooniness. “I’ll take that one.” He said motioning to the big marsupial. “Are you sure? He might be a lot to handle...” the carnie said while walking over to inspect the roo. “Oh I was leaving here in a few minutes anyhow and I should have some room in my car for him.” “If you say so bub.” He says as he stuffs the huge plush into a clear plastic bag and hands it over the counter into Cory’s waiting arms. Cory, almost totally engulfed by the sheer size of the roo, does his best to drag him to his waiting car. He stuffs the plush into the trunk of his coupe, which fills to the brim with the sheer bulk of it, and drives off into the late evening sun.

Cory opens the door to his house, a rental he shares with 2 other roommates who are currently engaged in a video game match on the couch. Tom and Dave, both pretty average as far as people go. Tom being only just slightly overweight to Dave’s average build, both in their mid 20’s. “What the hell’s in the bag?” Dave asks. “Well I was down at the carnival tonight since it’s the final night for it, and I won one of those pitch games. This was the only thing they had that I really liked.” Cory pulls the big fuzzy roo plush out of its bag and stands it up. After fluffing back up from being packed in the trunk it stands a bit taller than Cory, and is as big around as a refrigerator. The light grey belly fur is only broken by the line of a pouch, lined with light pink fleece. The rest of the body is a medium grey with dark grey highlights on the lower legs and feet, and the lower arms and paws, both tipped in pink fleece pawpads. Wide haunches, long feet, and pudgy stomach make up the bulk of the lower body, along with a long, fat tail with a dark grey tip. The wide toony muzzle is light grey and framed on either side with piercing white plastic eyes with a bright green iris and large black pupil. The ears stick up off the top sides of the head, slightly swept back, with a light grey interior, medium grey exterior, and a dark grey tip on the end. On top of the head is a spiky poof of dark grey fur hair. All the stitching and seams are exceptionally clean and it’s soft and filled with fluff, instead of hard and foam bead filled like many cheap Chinese plush toys.

“Where are you gonna put that huge thing anyhow?” Tom asks sarcastically. “Well I’m getting rid of my huge dresser tomorrow, so I guess for tonight I’ll sit it in bed next to me.” “What are you? Ten?” Dave jabs. “Shut up guys I think its cool, reminds me of a small plush I had as a kid...” Cory says as his train of thought trails off. “Whatever. As long as it doesn’t end up out here taking up space you can sleep on it for all I care.” Dave replies as he turns around to go back to killing brutes, Tom snickering at the comment. Cory just quietly picks up the plush and retreats to his bedroom, tired and ready for a good nights sleep.

Cory flicks off the light on his nightstand, curling up in his sheets. The big kangaroo body rests next to him on his queen bed. In his tossing and turning while trying to fall asleep, he wraps his arms around the roo, and hugs him tight to his chest. Calming down he finally drifts off into slumber....

Cory wakes up to the light smell of smoke wafting through the air. A faint beeping is heard in the distance, and as he wipes the sleep from his eyes, he begins to cough and shake in fear as he calls out for his parents. A loud banging emanates from his door, as streaks of light burst through cracks in the wood. He crawls under the sheets and tightly squeezes the plush grey kangaroo his mother brought him from her trip to Australia. Loud muffled voices come closer and throw back the sheets, exposing Cory to the blinding flashlight glow and thick smoke. "He's the last one! Quick, let's get out of here!" the fireman yells through his SCBA mask, making his voice sound almost alien. They grab Cory and pull him off the bed, dropping the roo plush during the hasty retreat. "POGO!!" Cory cries out while trying to break free from the fireman's grasp to save his friend. Fire engulfs the door as they quickly run down the hall, the flickering flames framing Pogo's limp form on the carpet...

Cory gasps and jumps awake in a cold sweat. He finds himself back in his familiar apartment bedroom, sheets thrown from his body in what must have been a tossing fit. Still though, he never let go of the plush through all this, still hugging it close to him. Somehow the plush roo had turned around during the night to face him, almost returning the embrace. "You know I'd almost forgotten about that night... then I saw you sitting there in that booth and it came back to me again. The fire, the damage to the house, losing that plush... He used to go with me everywhere, then I lost him." Cory spoke softly to himself, a small tear forming in his eye. "I never forgot about you." a voice responded back. Cory jumps back, startled by the sudden noise cutting through the quiet night. "Umm, hello?" he says quizzically while reaching to turn on the light.

"Hi!" says the roo, looking sweetly at Cory as the light flickers on. Cory, startled to see a plush talk and move in front of him, goes speechless. He's only able to stutter trying to get some sort of grasp on the situation. "Oh shhh shhhh." says the roo, hugging the confused man close to his soft furry body. "It's ok. I know you are a bit shocked right now but just calm down and listen to me." His voice oddly soothing, causing Cory to mellow out. "Ever since that day your mother gave me to you, I've been with you. Even after the fire destroyed me I still tagged along inside of you, waiting for the right time to show myself again." "Pogo?" Cory asked through quivering lips. "Yeppers! When you saw me at the booth earlier today, you reawakened my memory. So now I'm back for good! And, I have a way we can be together forever..." Pogo said as he hugged Cory tightly.

Cory was deeply confused. On the one hand he was regaining a friend he thought long lost. On the other, the friend wasn't supposed to be walking and talking. "What... what do you mean? You're here now, right? This isn't some dream?" "I'm real. You

can feel me right? See me? Hear me? Run your hand down my back.” Pogo says as he rolls over to face away from Cory. “A... zipper?” Cory asks. “Yup! All you need to do is put me on and we’ll be inseparable!” Pogo says giggling a tad. Cory reaches up and grabs the pull, and begins to unzip the back. The inside is overstuffed tightly, leaving little room for a person inside, and lined with super soft pink fleece. It seems strangely warm and inviting. Cory reaches a hand inside tentatively. He runs his fingers along the smooth inner surface feeling nothing but soft stuffing underneath. “Well, you gonna jump in for a test drive?” Pogo says giggling at the same time. “I’m not sure about this, it’s all so strange...” says Cory looking deeply into the opening, pondering what it would be like to be inside. “Just trust me ok? I wouldn’t do anything to hurt you, I just wanna make you happy.” He sits up and hangs his feet over the edge of the bed, ready for Cory to put him on.

Cory pulls his still groggy body up and over to the roo plush. He cautiously sticks one leg into the opening, then the other. Slowly slipping them into their appropriate places, the soft fleece lining caressing and squeezing his legs tightly the whole way down. His feet hit bottom and he stands up, the giant roo footpaws now supporting his weight. They feel bouncy as he hops slightly on them to test the feel. Next he grabs the waist and pulls it up around his own. The massive heavy tail coming up to meet his behind, its heft apparent as he turns left and right feeling it waggle slightly behind him. “Feels nice doesn’t it?” Pogo says, reaching one of his arms behind him to scruffle Cory’s hair teasingly. “Yeah..” he responds almost speechlessly, “Its like really soft pajamas, nice and warm...” Cory reaches his arms down into the body of the plush, feeling for the arms. He slips both of his arms into the sleeves and hikes up the front of the suit to his chest. Pogo’s head hangs down in front of his face as he situates his hands into the paws of the roo. Four fat fingers on each hand with pink fleece pads, big, toony, and hard to maneuver. Cory’s mind is swimming with the experience, its nothing like he’s ever done before. The suit is so soft and warm inside, like a big hug. It makes him feel happy just wearing it, lifting his once weary spirits and reminding him of better times.

Cory takes a deep breath and prepares himself for the final stage. He grabs either side of Pogo’s head with his big paws. Ducking slightly, he pulls it up and over his head. He slowly slips into it, feeling the tightness envelop his head. As it settles down into its final position, he realizes that there are no eye or mouth holes, only the smooth lining pressing tightly against his face. His breathing is only slightly stuffy, his hearing similarly muffled but not muted. As he tries to reach back behind him to zip back up the zipper, he feels it moving by itself. “Lemme get that for you ok?” Pogo says as the zipper slowly reaches the top of the opening, the suit pulling in even tighter around him. “All done!! How’s it feel to be a big plush marsupial?” he asks. “It’s.... really nice!” Cory says, bouncing slightly. He feels a new inner happiness, to him its unexplainable, but its all in Pogo’s plan....

“I felt you were sad recently. After moving away from your grandma and her recent passing I knew you needed a pick me up. She raised you for all those years after mom and dad died in that fire, and you were so close to her.” Pogo sympathetically

laments. "Yeah... I really miss her... Them." Cory begins to feel the tears well up in his eyes. "Well don't be sad anymore! I'm here to make you happy again. You know I really missed you all these years. I think we'll be inseparable from now on!" Pogo says as he uses his own arms to hug himself, hugging the suited Cory in the process. "I hope so too!" Cory exclaims. He begins to feel giddy again, Pogo using unseen forces to control his emotions. "Good! We can be friends forever and bring happiness to others. Lots of soft hugs and bouncing around with all our new friends, it's its gonna be great!" Pogo says, starting to work his magic on the human within.

Inside the suit, Cory feels a kind of crawling numbness in his limbs. It climbs from his feet upward through his legs. As it travels he begins to feel weird, different. He begins to feel the air on his legs and arms, the floor under his feet, the pads on his paws and the soft fur all over. His extremities are turning to plush filling and merging into Pogo's bulky frame. "Wait, I feel funny... something is happening to me." Cory says, less concerned than interested in the phenomenon. "You never wanna leave me right? I'd miss you too much if you did" Pogo says with mock sadness, knowing that his mental prodding is working. "You have a boring job, boring roommates, and sadly, no family to miss you... I'm the only thing you have, and you are the only thing I have. You'll love it just wait and see! It's a fun life, and we will always have each other! Maybe even some new friends can join us..."

Cory's body is changed even further now. His waist and chest now stuffing, becoming one with Pogo and flowing into him. He feels the soft chest fur and the big heavy tail swishing slightly behind him with every move. He sticks his paws into his new pouch, feeling its soft fleece lining and warm interior. Cory's mind is swimming. He doesn't wanna be a plush roo, does he? He'd never be able to go anywhere again. But who cares about going out if you can be happy all the time! He missed his friend all his life, the symbol of his great loss. But he was back again, he couldn't stop this now... "Yeah, I... I want to be with you forever." He says with a serious tone. "I love you Pogo." "I love you too Cory." Pogo answers back with warm inflection, knowing that Cory would now be a part of him forever in mind, body, and soul.

With that affirmation, the transformation moves quickly into its final act. It spreads up into his neck and head, his vision slowly coming into focus from the preceding blackness. He sees his large plush muzzle right in front of him, the shiny black plastic nose glistening from the glow of the lamp on his nightstand. His hearing becomes clearer as well, as he reaches up and feels his large fuzzy ears. Feeling the plush tongue in his mouth as it sticks out from the end of his face in a doofy expression. He looks at himself in the mirror on his closet door and makes a face, watching as the roo makes it back at him, giggling to himself. As the last of these feelings pass through him, he feels his mind begin to slow down, thoughts leaving him. His brain is slowly turned to stuffing as his conscious being is merged with that of the living suit itself. His thoughts and memories combine with Pogo's own as they become only one being.

Bounding around the room, the large grey kangaroo plush suit is finally complete. Filled with the love and soul of his lifelong friend, Pogo can't help but feel invigorated. His purpose is now fulfilled and a permanent part of him. They will be together forever.

"Now to keep my promise... I need to make some fun new friends!" Pogo says to himself. He bounces softly to the door, tail waving behind, headed down the hall to his roommates quarters. "I think they want to have new happy, carefree lives too!" As he leaves, his tail hits the lamp on his nightstand. It spins to illuminate a picture, Cory's mom, dad, and Cory himself, holding a small kangaroo plush tightly in his arms and smiling brightly. The lightbulb burns out, and the room goes black.

To be continued.