

Callum awoke the morning after the competition with a large grunt and huffed from the strain of his deadweight stomach. As he cracked his eyes open, he recalled the familiar and exhilarating events of the day before; winning the contest, smiling dopily as the crowd cheered the competitors on, and the wonderful break through he's had with Reyna the evening before. The revelation sent a warm ripple through the drake's body, causing Callum to notice just how much he'd expanded from his colossal meal.

The dragon's belly now bulged two feet out, in a proud, plush curve accentuated by his luminous blue ventral plates. A noticeable addition of padding had also been deposited liberally to the drake's other features as well. His arms were considerably thicker, his muzzle and cheeks softer and more yielding, his rear had widened to allow for an even comfier place to sit, and the drake's legs were brushing together. Smiling contentedly, Callum affectionately rubbed his gut, enjoying the sense of heft it provided simply by resting in his lap. Standing up, the dragon nearly toppled from the precarious weight as his belly wobbled gently, reaching three-fourths of the way to his knees and protruding impressively.

Callum regained his composure after a couple of moments, and went over to his dresser to change into his work attire. He could only hope his shirt would be more forgiving than the last, as tearing articles of clothing was not something the drake could afford; both financially and pride fully. Luckily, the shirt seemed to hold against the drake's heavy gut, and Callum grunted approvingly before making his way out the door. The action would have been quite normal if not for the fact that the drake whapped his forehead on the doorframe whilst exiting. Cursing under his breath, Callum rubbed his tender head and glared menacingly at the cause of his pain before realizing what the implications entailed: He'd grown. The drake was certain that the cause stemmed from ingesting such a large amount of food the day before, but surely normal food wouldn't cause the drake to grow up as much as out. Then he remembered Reyna bringing him his platters, and a suspicion grew in the drake's mind..

"Hmmm. You seem to have increased another inch in height," Aaron noted as he held the bulbous drake once more in his coils. "Quite impressive, though it was to be expected with the amount of food you consumed yesterday."

Callum crossed his arms and glared menacingly at the serpent, "And I

believe the only way that was possible was if the nutrient ingredient was in my food. Meaning,” he pointed a pudgy finger at the snake, “You mixed some in with the confections Reyna brought me.”

Aaron couldn't help smiling guiltily, “Well perhaps I was able to sway her into aiding me, but I think,” he gestured to the drake's cavernous belly which bulged over the serpent's scales, “She appreciated it just as much, if not more than I.”

Callum cocked an eyebrow quizzically and adopted a self-pitying tone, “First you team up to scare me,” he bemoaned exaggeratedly, “And now I find you responsible for an underhanded attempt to increase my size all the more.” The drake collapsed to the side dramatically, raising one hand to his forehead as if he were about to faint, “Oh where will the treachery end?”

Aaron sighed, exasperated by the overly dramatic display of ridiculous behavior, “I'm sure you'll find recovery impossible in the future,” he chuckled before setting the drake down. “Apart from your height, it seems your musculature has also increased in proportion to your frame. I'd say you're well-ready for even the coldest winter days to come with that layer of padding.”

The dragon smiled and grabbed a love handle affectionately, “You're certainly right on that account. I don't feel a thing anymore.”

Aaron nodded encouragingly, “You can always put on more weight if you wish, but I would advise that you take it a little slower than the competition yesterday.”

Callum arced an eyebrow, “Oh I will, especially when sneaky, underhanded serpents are trying to go behind my back.” He grinned teasingly at the serpent who rolled his eyes at the accusation.

Before either of them said another word, they heard the bell in the front room ring and Callum was able to see a familiar otter's silhouette through the narrow partition in the door.

“I think,” he continued, as his grin widened, “There are other compelling reasons to continue my expansion.” And with that quip, the drake turned his considerable bulk to the front room and exited to greet the otter about

more important things.

Callum walked up and embraced the otter, though he wasn't entirely sure where his boldness came from. The drake simply felt that expressing his feelings toward her was best conveyed in a friendly hug, which proved difficult with the drake's large gut between them.

Reyna smiled in surprise at the gesture and was quick to return it, taking enjoyment in feeling the drake's soft flab compress against her. The two remained that way for several moments, before the otter finally coughed politely and pulled away. "Well that was certainly unexpected," she said with a slight blush. "May I ask what warranted such a pleasant act?"

Callum grinned, "I just felt a strong urge to express myself as directly as possible. And after the wonderful talk we had last night, I thought this was the best way."

Reyna let loose a melodious laugh as she gazed fondly at the ridiculously happy reptile; his plush figure and bouncy disposition was infectious and the otter was powerless to feel a little giddy too. The drake didn't know it, but her feelings were nearly identical to his own.

Turning serious for a moment, the otter remembered why she had stopped by at the early hour. "I was actually hoping to talk to you about something that transpired between Aaron and I yesterday." When she saw the drake's look turn to one of concern, the otter quickly added, "It was a positive development," she assured. "When we were cleaning up, the topic of magic came around and.." she hesitated, "Aaron told me about his true self. His immortality, his power, how he taught you basic telekinesis." Callum held his breath, nervous that the serpent's unusual history had deterred her in some way, "And I'm completely fine with it," she said, as the drake let loose a sigh of relief. "But I thought you should know that there are other beings capable of magic, and...well..I happen to be one of them."

It was Reyna's turn to feel the pressure build up in her chest, hoping Callum wouldn't receive the news poorly. The drake's eyes widened in surprise, before a large grin parted his ample features, "Really?" He inquired, "What type of magic?" A genuinely curious glint flickered in his eyes as he waited for the otter to answer.

"Infusions," the otter said simply, "I study the art of combining natural and

magical elements on a smaller scale to produce certain impacts on say...," she trailed her blunt claws over the drake's bulging gut, "The body." She finished, glancing up questioningly at the dragon.

"Interesting," Callum said thoughtfully, "Are you trained in any specific field?"

Reyna nodded, "Mainly physical reactions," she explained. "The study is usually used for chemistry, biological, and medical fields, but my interests lie in the realm of food." She smiled as her gaze turned transparent in longing, "I was hoping to graduate and work as a chef somewhere in the city." Her gaze snapped back to the present, "That's why I come here so often. The confections are wonderful for trying different reactions."

Callum pondered the thought, one hand grasping his belly in an increasingly common gesture that he'd come to adopt when thinking or embarrassed. Suddenly a light dawned in the drake's eye, "Is that why you appreciate this so much," he asked indicating his plush gut.

Turning red, the otter nodded meekly. "It's pretty obvious I suppose," she said with a sheepish grin. "I can't explain it, but I love someone who appreciates their food, and you seem to have a big fondness for it."

Callum smiled and knead his looming belly, "No argument there," he laughed.

At that moment, Aaron exited the kitchen with the intent of finding out why the drake was taking so long. Upon seeing the otter, he smiled warmly, "It's nice to see you Reyna," the serpent greeted.

"Likewise," the otter said. "I wanted to thank you for being supportive of my admission yesterday," she told the serpent with a grateful expression which he nodded to in recognition. "I don't suppose you overheard the specifics of my study when I was talking with Callum?"

"Only the last portion, the bit about being a chef," Aaron assured her. "You know," the snake said, with a sly grin on his face, "You could work part time here if you wished to expand your practices."

Reyna's eyes rounded at the thought, while Callum began grinning uncontrollably. "Well I...er..I suppose," the otter said, "But my studies

usually dictate my schedule.”

“We’re flexible,” Callum said rather quickly, showing his obvious eagerness to be closer to the otter. “Right Aaron?” The drake made use of his plush visage once more and implored the serpent with a pitiful look.

“Of course,” Aaron said, chuckling at the drake’s shameless display of pity. “We could always use the help, and it would be a great way for Callum to pick up on some magic tips from you,” he motioned to the otter. “Nothing serious, but the ins and outs of regulating one’s body for proper execution, exercises in memorization,” the serpent explained.

Realizing the benefits of the suggestion, Callum once more nodded eagerly while Reyna considered it. “Well I suppose I could claim it as an extra-curricular, and I could always try my concoctions on you,” she giggled and poked the drake’s belly, which rippled sluggishly from the impact.

The drake’s grin couldn’t be wider as he looked between the two. “This is incredible,” the drake declared vehemently. “We’ll have a great time working together,” he babbled to the otter, “And we can learn new recipes and further my magic and..and,” he took a deep breath as his gut heaved from the long spiel of words.

“Calm down,” Reyna said, smothering another snicker as she attempted to quiet the blustering drake. “We can try one tonight if you want,” the drake nodded quickly at the suggestion, “But for now, I have to be going to class.”

Callum sighed in satisfaction, as he realized how well the situation had turned out. Looking up at the serpent with a wide grin, he simply said, “Thank you.”

Aaron responded with an equally brief, but heartfelt, “Your welcome,” before the bulbous dragon and violet serpent made their way back into the kitchen.

The day passed quickly for Callum, as he raced through the customers and passed idle time by practicing his telekinetic tricks. As the sun began to set, a wooden bowl the drake had been hovering in figure eights dropped to the counter. He began cleaning down the front room and cast anxious glances toward the front door.

After the sun had dropped past the horizon, Callum finally saw the source of his excitement make her way into the shop. Grinning eagerly, the drake inquired what type of concoction she had planned.

Smiling tiredly, Reyna softly explained that she wanted to try mixture that increased the caloric intake of a food by two fold. Callum smiled as he realized the combination seemed similar to the nutrient-boosting ingredient Aaron loved to use.

Intrigued, Callum saw the experiment as a way to situate the otter into becoming more familiar with the kitchen. In the back, Reyna “eeped” in surprise when she was presented with the miniature cyclone of kitchen implements currently winding their way around the room. Aaron stood over at the preparation table, and called a greeting to the otter.

Ducking beneath a rolling pin, Reyna took a deep breath to calm herself and looked at the fat reptile next to her, “So this is what it’s like,” she said laughing lightly at the splendid scene.

“Pretty much,” Callum said, “But you’ll get used to it pretty quickly. Right now we’re winding everything down, so we should probably get working on your experiment soon.”

Reyna nodded in agreement before the two of them set to work. Callum showed the otter how to prepare the bread, knead the dough, add additional ingredients, and shape the bread into the desired product. They opted for a simple loaf of bread about twice the size one would normally use, and plunged it into the oven together.

Once it was done, the drake sat at the main table eagerly, ready to experience the effects it would have on his body. Reyna noted the eagerness too; it seemed as if he had been more willing to expand his figure since the competition the day before. Suddenly, the otter knew the reason. It was her. Callum was eager to please the otter’s desires and ensure her satisfaction.

A grin slowly spreading across her muzzle, Reyna grabbed the loaf of bread and pooped a chunk into the dragon’s maw.

Callum chewed heartily for a little while, noting the taste and consistency,

which was pleasant and airy with a highlight of nut in the bread.

Upon seeing the drake's reaction, the otter proffered another piece, which Callum took without hesitation. He realized the bread was no more filling than any other kind he'd ever eaten, and encouraged the otter to increase the pace.

Only after the entire loaf was gone, did the drake begin to feel the true impact of Reyna's spell. His gut began to grow tighter as the bread expanded from the chemical and magical reactions in the concoction. The drake's belly steadily swelled in his lap, becoming increasingly taught as the bread pushed gently against his sides. Callum's midsection expanded to the point where the ventral plates were taught across the curvature of his gut, and Reyna's paws were easily discernible against the tight mound of flesh. The drake's belly was still yielding, thanks to the soft resistance of the bread, but the caloric spell ensured the bread compensated in volume for the light mass.

Nuzzling the globular gut, Reyna hugged Callum tightly and said, "It worked wonderfully. I'm so glad it was a success!"

The drake returned the embrace and the two stayed that way for a long time.

Noting the embraced couple, Aaron smiled internally with satisfaction that the drake and otter would make a fine pair indeed.