

Growing Pains

By Holo

Adam stepped in front of the big growth laser in the Glacier Technology testing chamber. The device looked threatening, to say the least. It was bigger than the anteater's entire body, making him feel small. "So uhh... I'm still getting free food for this, right Mr. Glace?" Adam asked the man standing at the laser controls.

An arctic fox poked his head into view, looking unamused. "Yes, you are, now stop asking and let me work." The CEO was in a constant state of irritation, and today it was made worse by having to operate the laser himself. He snorted as he punched in the last few commands, and tried to focus on how much he would enjoy at least the second phase of the testing. "Stand still, please."

Angelus warmed up the laser, making it hum ominously. He pointed it at Adam, set it to a low speed, and hit "Grow." Adam felt his body tingle, and the room seemed to grow smaller. He recognized that he was growing larger though, and he squirmed from the odd feeling despite trying his best to not move. He was grown to double his own height, and the laser now looked small enough that he might be able to heft it if he used both hands. He made a move to reach for it, but he only managed to twitch before the room became bigger again.

A lot bigger.

He found himself squeezed down to half of his starting height, somewhere around a measly three feet tall. He paused there for a moment, and then felt another wave of energy hit him again, this time stronger. He shrunk faster, enough to make his body ache as he was reduced to just an inch in height in a couple seconds.

Angelus paused to adjust the laser's aim, as the tiny anteater had shrunk out of range. Adam took the moment to roll his shoulders and stretch his back. All of this size changing was making him sore. Before he could really work out the kinks in his muscles, he felt himself starting to grow again, slowly but with increasing speed. He winced as a feeling of pins and needles prickled his skin. He groaned, wobbling in place a bit bigger than his starting size. He raised a hand and opened his mouth to mention the discomfort to Angelus, but he didn't get a word out before he was shrunk again, slowly this time.

He was getting dizzy from everything growing and shrinking so much. He shut his eyes to try and counteract the feeling as he lost height, but his headache persisted as he felt his body scrunching up into a tiny form. His big claws flexed and he scrunched up his face as the discomfort of the experiment turned to pain.

"Almost done." Angelus' voice was like thunder at Adam's size, and Adam covered his ears at the sound. He was glad to be nearly finished, at least! He was shrunken again, down to a hard-to-see couple of centimeters, and his body hit an uncomfortable breaking point. One of his hands was still bigger than the other, and the same went for one of his legs. He looked down at himself, horrified, and then started to grow again.

Everything was coming out uneven. One ear lagging behind, his tail surging ahead, his body parts growing unevenly and independently of one another. By the time his height was restored, his legs were too big, his head too small, his arms different sizes, and he was leaning

over to one side as his ribcage wasn't evenly sized. He was struggling to stay conscious as Angelus stared at him, looking more intrigued than anything.



"Huh. Well, that bug is going to have to be squashed. Time to finish shall we?" Angelus' flashed a grin and turned the laser up to max power and set it to grow. Adam was zapped hard, and his body surged up in size. Joints popped and bones groaned, but when all was said and done, he had evened back out to his normal proportions, albeit at a now staggering one hundred feet tall. "Ah, perfect." Angelus powered down the laser and stepped out from behind it.

"Wait!" Adam shouted. "Aren't you gonna turn me back?"

"What? Before you've had your food?" Angelus said, leaving the room. Adam watched him leave, looking concerned about what the fox had just said. He returned through a warehouse door, and a parade of metal cages stuffed with people followed behind him. "So, your 'food' is here," Angelus said as he pushed his hair back. "I have some people I need gone, and since size ray testing was today, well, this was a good opportunity to save time and effort. Hope you're hungry." With a snap of his fingers, a number of Glacier Technology employees began to open up the cages and drag out the people inside. There was a lot of struggling, but not enough for anyone to escape before they were tossed into the anteater's long mouth. Adam tried not to swallow, but as more and more people were pushed in, he couldn't help but gulp just to clear his throat.

There was a lot to eat, almost an absurd amount. Even at his size, Adam was unsure if he would be able to finish everything that the CEO fox had lined up for him. His stomach started

to expand, steadily and slowly with bunches of tiny people all squirming to try and get free. It was a useless fight, and Adam couldn't help but feel sorry for them. He had been tricked into helping Angelus with his dirty work.

His gut stretched out, filling his lap and weighing him down. Even with his strength proportional to his size, he already knew that he wouldn't be able to get back to his feet until he had digested all of this, and there was still more coming. He began to get queasy from all the people he was eating. The thought of it alone was nauseating, but feeling them thrashing about in a mob inside of him was really upsetting his guts.

He was fed until he could fit no more, and only then did Angelus relent. Adam was totally immobile, pinned under the weight and size of his own overstuffed stomach. He was ready to fall into a food coma and sleep all of this off and hope that everything in his life would be back to normal when he awoke. "Wh-why?" Adam stammered as he stifled a burp with a hand. "I can't even digest them! My digestive system isn't made for meat and bones!" he insisted, hoping that he would get Angelus to relent somehow.

The fox merely looked intrigued. "Ah that's right, there was one *other* thing I wanted to test on you." He snapped his fingers, and a pair of employees presented him with a gallon jug of something with a nonsensical alphanumeric label. "This is our prototype digestion aide. It should help you process things that you normally can't. I'm eager to see results." With that, he took off the cap and shoved the opening against Adam's mouth, forcing him to chug it down. Adam whimpered as his guts started to burn, but the sensation faded by the time he finished the bottle. Angelus tossed the empty plastic container at his head, and it bounced off and onto the floor. "There. Thank you for your compliance." The arctic fox turned away to face his staff. "Let's move out everyone, go! Out!" he barked, scowling at them with distaste. The testing floor was cleared with practice efficiency, and Angelus was the last one to leave. He gave Adam a sly grin as he and his staff slipped out of the room. "See you in a few days, big guy," he sneered as the door shut and locked behind him.

Angelus came to check on Adam after a couple of days. He wandered into the room and took a curious look around, and a grin crossed his face at what he saw. Adam was shrunk back down to his original height... but all of the fat he had gained from his forced binge hadn't sized down at all. The anteater was swimming in his own body, which was so heavy with fat it would be hard to tell what his species was if you didn't know beforehand.

His big claws poked out from the big rings of fat that his arms had become, and his legs were lost under all of the fat that flowed out from his belly and butt. Only the tip of his long face poked out from all of the tires of neck fat that had swallowed his head, and he was so thick and heavy that he could barely even wiggle enough to make his body jiggle.



Angelus approached, chuckling to himself. He ran an ice-cold finger along Adam's hide, but he was so fat that he could barely feel the chill. "Well well, look at you, what a sight for my tired eyes. I really do appreciate you offering to help me out with the testing, you were... as easily manipulated as I had hoped." He jabbed his finger between a couple rolls and scoffed. "Well, we at Glacier Technology thank you for volunteering. You may exit the facility at any time... provided you can do so without assistance." Angelus smiled and hummed to himself as he finished circling the blob of anteater. He stepped back, took one last good look, and exited the testing area.