

Hit the Helium  
By Angelus

The squeaks and splats of a Splatoon match blasted out of the TV as a trio of aquatic critters attacked their controllers as they tried to get a leg up on the opposing team. Arador's figure stood out the most. Even seated, he was a head taller than the other two, and his puffy tail was large enough that the other two were using it as an inflatable sofa. The water dragon's vinyl body shimmered in hues of blue under the overhead lighting, and his air-filled paws squeaked as he manipulated an oversized controller. "Hah, got 'em!" He pumped his arms into the air as he confirmed a kill, causing his internal air pressure to shift.

"Whoa!" Sal scrambled to wrap their tail around one of the thick handles protruding from Arador's tail as it bounced from Arador's celebration. The pool toy sea dragon was a deeper blue than Arador, and their long body was draped over the swell of the water dragon's tail. Their many fins flailed and steadied their body while their front flippers continued to bap at their controller with surprising articulation. They managed to narrowly avoid the inky blast of a splat bomb as they balanced out. "Phew..." They let out a relieved sigh and unwound their tail tip from Arador's handle.

"Nice, keep up the pressure you two, we've almost got this match!" Mollusk was seated between Arador and Sal, gently squished between two pool toy dragons. The gray shark was glued to the match. His ears and tail twitched with anticipation as the timer reached the end. The final buzzer was accompanied by a victory fanfare with his team successfully winning the match. "Woohoo, way to go!" He raised his arms to high five the team. Sal met his invite with a hearty fin to hand slap that bounced off of Mollusk's palm with a squeak of vinyl. Arador did the same, but his oversized and almost weightless paw squished around Mollusk's hand and rebounded away.

"Up for another?" he asked as he looked between his squad mates.

Sal gave a thoughtful hum, then shook his head, making his thick dragon whiskers wobble. "Nah, I think I'm good! That's a good match to end on."

Arador nodded in agreement. "I think I could use a break too."

They set their controllers down and Mollusk gathered them up to set them on the chargers near the TV, given he had the least puffy appendages of anyone in the game room.

"Hey Moll!" Sal called to the shark while his back was turned. "You know what? If you were a pool toy I bet you'd make a super cute reefslider," they commented, referencing the rideable pool toy sharks from the game they had just been playing.

Mollusk's thick and orange-striped tail stuck out straight and his ears bolted upright. "Nuh uh, I wouldn't be shaped like that. My pool toy form looks way different."

Arador's brow raised slightly. "Oh right, your pool toy form! Didn't I help you come up with the design for that~?"

"Erk." Even without turning around to face his friends, he could feel their gazes burrowing into the back of his head. "Uh, n-no, because I totally don't have a pool toy form. I didn't say anything like that!"

"I guess we'll just have to see about that! Sal, hit the helium!" Arador whipped his huge tail, sending Sal sailing across the room to a wall panel that controlled the lights, climate, and

other things. They mashed a button with a picture of a big pool floatie on it, and the vents rumbled as the fans spun up.

"H-hey, what are you two planning!" Mollusk demanded. "I am NOT going to be a pool toy today!" He huffed and headed for the door.

Arador hopped to his feet, nearly floating thanks to his low density body. His head fin brushed the ceiling, and with two strides of his long legs he outpaced Mollusk and sat in front of the door. His huge tail jammed in the doorway, making the vinyl crinkle around the edges. "Ooopss, I'm stuck~ Think you can help me out?" He flashed the shark a big grin full of cartoonish teeth.

"I *know* you can fit your tail through there if you try, get out of my way." Mollusk huffed, puffing out his cheeks as he reached out and grabbed Arador around the ankle. He squeezed to get a grip, displacing the air in Arador's joint and making the water dragon's hips and tail puff slightly wider, sticking him more firmly in place. "Oh come on!"

Arador gave an innocent shrug. "Told ya! Stuck~"

"Oh we'll see about that. Don't make me bite you! Deflation is a last resor... resor... ouugghh..." Mollusk wobbled on his feet and shook his head as a wave of dizziness washed over him. "What? Sal... Sal! What're you doing over there!"

"Nooothing!" Sal lied. "Just filling the room with a little helium! The kind that turns people into pool toys." They gave a wide, painted-on grin and their flippers flapped against the ground in excitement.

Mollusk turned and looked up at Arador with an incredulous look on his face. "Why would you have something like that installed??"

Arador simply looked at the pool toy dragon that was Sal, then down at his own vinyl water dragon body, and finally back to Mollusk.

Mollusk frowned at himself for even asking that question. "Okay okay fine, but I am NOT getting my 'summer bod' out, I'm getting you out of my way. Homph!" Mollusk bit down on Arador's ankle... And he felt his teeth squish uselessly against the surface.

"You and what teeth?" Arador's tail swished on the other side of the door as he reached down to pat Mollusk's head with a paw bigger than the shark's entire head. Mollusk was enveloped by the huge paw, and when it pulled away, his ears were both shiny and full of air. "Oops~"

"N-not fair! That's it, I'm turning that off! Sal, I'm coming for you!" Mollusk abandoned his current attempt to move Arador and stomped over to the control panel.

Sal squeaked and reared up as best they could to put their body between the control panel and Mollusk. "Ah, hey, you wouldn't do anything drastic to a pool toy with no limbs, right?"

"I'm gonna punt you across the room like a volleyball."

"Oh that sounds fun... Wait, uh, I meant, please don't?" Sal's flippers skittered backward, squashing their puffy body against the wall as Mollusk got closer.

"Alright Sal, up you-bwah??" The shark's next step landed with a weightless *pwomf* and he tripped over his now oversized paw and landed on his stomach with a grunt. He groaned through clenched vinyl teeth and started to push himself up. His hands tingled as he put weight on them, and as he watched his gray skin became shiny and textured. His sharp claws turned into soft, decorative nubs. His fingers swelled, losing dexterity as the joints smoothed out and

the pressure expanded from his fingertips to his palms. He managed to scramble to his feet before the swelling started to spread past his wrists and up his arms.

His paws were oversized for his body. Each of his hands was bigger than his whole head, and his thighs and arms were engorging as the transformation spread from his extremities to his center. "Bwuh... Th-that's it, I'm moving you!" Mollusk tried to grab Sal, but his short fingers could barely close around his palms, let alone keep a grip on Sal's flippers as the sea dragon flapped them around.

"Have you tried using your arms?" Arador called from the doorway several feet away.

Sal paled. "Wha- don't give him ideas!"

"Oh right, my bad."

Mollusk grinned wide and wrapped both arms around Sal, just under their arm-like flippers, and lifted with a twist. Or at least, he tried to. Just as he started to pull, the creeping transformation shot up his arms all the way to his shoulders. The sudden rush of air pressure into his limbs flung them out to his sides, causing him to lose his grip on the sea dragon. Mollusk yelped and stumbled back on legs that were held up more by air pressure than muscle strength at this point. His thighs were swelling, growing taut and shiny as his form shifted. His hips started to widen, giving his body a pleasing curve as the air crept into his torso.

"Errrkkk..." He tried to refocus, but his head was spinning. He shifted his legs apart to balance his stance as his puffy thighs pushed together. The pressure in his body built at the base of his spine, pushing and making his tail slowly elongate before even transforming it. "D-dizzy..." He stumbled backwards, barely managing to stay on his feet.

With a loud FWOOMPH, the transformation that was lingering at his thighs and shoulders rushed into his torso, changing it all at once. His slim body rounded out, becoming chubby and smooth with air. His height shot up, his body now matching the increased size of his limbs and leaving only his head and tail lagging behind. He felt his already-changed ears brush the ceiling.

"Whoa!" Arador leaned forward and looked over Mollusk from paws to head, taking in the shark's new height. He had grown an easy two or three feet, making him taller than Arador. "I uh, forgot you were so big in this form!"

"I didn't plan to *be* in this form!" he replied with an indignant huff. His tail whipped in annoyance and he returned to trying to move Sal. He wrapped his arms around the vinyl dragon and tried to push him away from the control panel, but Sal didn't budge. "Why won't you move!!" he gasped, putting his all into the attempt.

"Hmm, I think you've lost a little too much mass there sharky! You don't have any leverage!" Sal smirked and squeezed Mollusk's hips, making air push up into his body.

"W-wait, don't squeeze-MHRPH!" Air pressure bulged at the base of his neck and held for a moment, before pushing through. Moll's snout pushed out, and his features became painted on. The little stripes on his cheeks stretched as they puffed out, and his eyes flattened and grew round and wide. His orange pupils bounced around the white canvas that now contained them, and his mouth hung open as he adjusted to the looseness of his now synthetic, hollow jaws. At least his body was well proportioned again, aside from his lagging tail that yet resisted the pool toy form the rest of his body had succumbed to.

"Oooohh, almost there Moll!" Sal leaned against Mollusk, who tried to back away, only to bump Arador who had taken the liberty of getting "unstuck" from the door to help corner the shark.

"Yeah, one more push should just about do it!" Arador grabbed his shoulders.

"N-not if I can make it to the door before I'm totally changed, mhrf! L-let go!" Mollusk tried to wiggle out of Arador's grip, but even though he was taller, Arador's big hands were able to grip him firmly.

"Door is right there, I'm not even blocking it!" Arador pulled Mollusk back against him.

"Yeah, go on, bounce yourself right out of here!" Sal pressed against his front, sandwiching the shark between two dragons.

The air in his body displaced and concentrated right at the base of his long tail. "Erk, stop squeezing-! You two...!!" He tried to push them away, but his arms scrunched up like accordions as he shoved, and the air pushing out of his arms and into his body only made the pressure at his tail worse. It stuck straight out, past Arador's legs, and trembled as the base of it started to take on a creeping vinyl shine.

BWOOMPH! Arador and Sal were both launched to the far walls of the room as Mollusk's tail suddenly bloated to twice its length and puffed up with air until it was thicker than his thighs. His stripes stretched, and his orange-tipped fins became thick and rounded as they changed from skin to synthetics. Seams ran down the length of the tail on both sides, from base to tip, completing his look.

His body creaked a little with every movement as his vinyl body rubbed against itself. He let out a dejected sigh as he looked himself over. His tail whipped about with an audible shifting of the air inside of it. "Fiiiiiinee, you two win."

Arador bounced to his feet as he recovered from the launch. "Well good, because this is a cute look for you!" he said as he looked up at the taller shark with a grin and a swish of his massive tail. He lifted Moll's long tail in both hands. It wasn't as thick as his own, but it was just as long, if not longer. If it had been any thinner, it could have been draped over his shoulders like a scarf. He ran his hands along the side seams, admiring the thick quality of Mollusk's pool toy body. This drew out a snort from the shark, but he made no effort to pull his tail away.

"Agreed, you're adorable." Sal waddled over to inspect Moll's look, admiring the shark's enhanced and puffy proportions. He only came up to about Mollusk's stomach, so he occupied his fins with rubbing and squeezing the shark's wide and round hips, making both of their bodies creak together.

Mollusk tried to play off the compliments and attention, and he turned his head to one side to try and hide the faint blush that managed to creep over his cheeks. "*Wehhhhh*, thank yooooou..."

"You're welcome~ Let us know next time you want to end up like this!" Arador offered.

Mollusk squeaked, and his blush intensified, causing him to stammer out his reply. "Squrrk! M-m-maybe I'll do just that, then!" He buried his face in his paws, making his paws squeak. "Well, now that we're done gaming and all looking pool ready..." He managed to wiggle free from the dragons and he shimmied towards the unguarded door. "Summer is almost over right? Last one to the pool gets deflated! Squrrk!" He ducked under the doorframe and bolted down the hallway as fast as his featherlight form could manage.

"H-huh? W-wait!"

Sal flailed and flopped after Mollusk, and Arador followed behind, briefly getting his tail stuck in the door for reals. They shouted after Mollusk, but their shouts soon turned to laughter as they caught up and all three got wedged into a corner turn side by side. As their bodies squeaked and creaked against one another, Mollusk thought about how being a pool toy wasn't so bad. It was something he would never admit to the other two, and he had no idea that they could already tell how much he enjoyed it.