

Birthday Bloat
by Holo

Zeek's ears twitched as he heard the doorbell ring. It was immediately followed by a series of knocks. He got up from his desk and made his way to the front door. He wasn't expecting any company this weekend.

The door opened to reveal a man from UPS standing with a clipboard and a pen. "Are you Zeek? We've got a package for you," he said, holding the clipboard out.

"Yeah, that's me..." He looked over the clipboard. Correct name, correct address, but he wasn't expecting any orders either. With a shrug, he signed, and passed the clipboard back. "So where is it?"

"One sec." The delivery man walked back to the truck and disappeared into it, emerging a moment later with a package so big he needed a ramp and a dolly to get it to the door. It almost didn't fit inside. The package was left in Zeek's living room, and Zeek was left in privacy.

He used his claws to tear open the tape that held the box together, and the cardboard fell away. Inside was a five-tier cake, as wide and tall as his doorway, and covered in intricate frosting patterns. His eyes bugged out. It had to be twice, maybe even three times his size. One side, a small card was wedged into the frosting, and he tugged it out to read it. It was straight to the point. "Happy Birthday, Courtesy of Glacier Technology."

He shrugged. GlaceTech was a big name in consumer-grade products, and that included kitchenware and cookbooks, but that didn't explain why they would send him a cake or how they knew that his birthday was tomorrow. He leaned in towards the huge cake and gave it a sniff. It smelled like cake. Curious, he decided he would cut out a slice just to see what it was like on the inside. Zeek went to his kitchen and grabbed a big knife, and approached the cake. When he dipped the blade into it, the entire cake wobbled.

He let go of the knife and backed up as the cake started to quake. The quivering pastry took on a translucent sheen; he could see the spongy, chocolate cake bread through the frosting, and a moment later, he could even see partway through the bread. It lurched forward suddenly and ran into him, smothering Zeek in its sugary mass.

He was caught too off-guard to react. He was absorbed into the cake, or whatever it was, and floated half suspended inside of it. The consistency was almost familiar. It felt like... slime. It forced his jaws open and began to pump itself down his throat, making his cheeks and neck bulge. His lithe yellow stomach immediately started to swell, stretching like a water balloon. It seemed like slime, sure, but... it really *really* tasted and felt like cake bread covered with frosting. It was baffling, but it was oh so delicious.

His demeanor changed from shock to relish, and he opened his jaws a little wider and began to pump his throat like a siphon. That bizarre cake slime was more than eager to play along, pushing itself down the kitsuragon's throat in sync with his own swallowing. He was bloating up fast, his stomach already beach ball sized. The slime was imploding on itself, collapsing from the inside out as it pushed into Zeek.

Much to his relief, the top of his head was freed from the slime, letting him catch his breath through his snout. The front of his stomach was also starting to peek out from under the slime as it inched larger; a heavy, slightly-sagging orb of yellow halfway suspended in a

goo-based pastry. He was already as big as a yoga ball, and his tail would have been wagging if it wasn't stuck like the rest of him.

The slime was receding from his limbs as it piled into him, sacrificing its grip to give him more girth. It had no reason to keep him pinned anyways, he was more than happy to gulp down the chocolate cake. His gut gurgled, now spread beyond the reach of his arms. His middle was looking more and more like a globe, and he was starting to feel like one too.

He was grown too big for the remaining slime, and he was lowered onto his back with his stomach wobbling above him by several feet. With a few last gulps, the rest of the slime was slurped into his jaws. Zeek let out a satisfied burp, one that smelled of chocolate and frosting. His insides churned, slow and lethargic as the slime cake swirled itself around inside of him. The kitsuragon's yellow belly was over eight feet in diameter, making it wider and taller than the rest of him.

Something clattered to the ground beside him; a small plastic bottle with a paper folded inside of it. He managed to snag it in his claws and open it up, pulling the paper out. He unfolded it and read it. "Thank you for testing Glacier Technology's newest product: The Pastry Slime. All the taste and consistency of your favorite pastry dessert, all the fun of living slime! Please fill out the attached survey and mail it in when you regain your mobility. Happy Birthday again, from Glacier Technology and CEO Angelus Glace."

Zeek snorted and chuckled. He had no idea what had gotten him into this testing bracket, but he was more than happy to write a glowing review of the crazy company's new product. He wondered if they might be willing to set him up to test future products just like this.