

Helium Hacker
By Angelus

The hallways of the Sapphire Citadel were quiet today as Ross walked the halls to stretch his legs. After a long morning of relaxing, it felt good to get moving, if only for a few minutes. Most of the residents were out or occupied with their own tasks, which made the walk a bit more boring than usual, at least until he felt a familiar tingle of energy zip up his spine. He turned around and spied a friend of his, Holo, a red and yellow dragon that stood at about twice Ross' height.

"There's a door, you know," Ross said plainly.

"Hello to you too, big blue," Holo replied as a smirk cracked his face and he looked over the stout blue dragon before him. "Doors are for mortals, you really think I'm gonna walk when I can fold space? Feh."

"Yeah yeah, showoff. What do you waaannttt?" Ross asked, knowing that Holo showing up here usually meant that the big beast wanted a favor.

"Nothing!" Holo started. "Just wanted to give this back! Catch!" Holo said as he flicked a wireless helium injector onto Ross' pale blue belly. It stuck to his skin and latched on, and the red light in the center lit up, indicating it was ready for operation.

Ross scoffed and pulled a remote for the device out of the pocket of his form-fitting black shorts and pressed the release button on it. "Nice try, but thanks for giving it back." He reached down and grabbed at the injector, but it stuck fast to his skin. Ross scowled and pressed the release button and gave another tug, but it held tight, and he winced from the sharp tug on his skin. "What the hell?"

Holo chuckled, his voice growling and booming. "So, while that one was stuck to me, I downloaded the firmware and made myself an override program for that one in particular. I can control it all from the comfort of my HUD." Holo's dark eyes glowed, and the helium injector made a soft "beep" as it activated and began to pump helium from an unknown source into Ross.

"Hey! Th-that's proprietary software!" Ross complained as he felt helium slowly flow into his body. Ross' broad frame didn't show signs of expansion right away, but he could feel the growing pocket of gas in his guts. "It's uh, illegal to hack that, so quit it!"

"Nice try, but Angelus couldn't find a copyright for this thing anywhere. You're lucky I didn't let him have it for GlaceTech! You can probably guess what he'd do with something like this." Holo paused. "Or, probably not, neither of us are as evil as he is. Oh well." He shrugged and looked over Ross. Displeased with the fact that Ross wasn't visibly ballooning, he turned up the flow rate.

Ross squeaked as he felt a bigger rush of helium from the injector flood his body. His stomach rounded, losing its hefty look as it became taut and light. Ross could feel his center of gravity shifting, and he had to lean forward as his body tried to fall back. "I'm gonna uninstall that remote you made, come here you!" Ross ran at Holo and tried to grab at him, but Holo just lifted one leg and braced it against Ross' stomach. Ross flailed his arms, but could barely reach past Holo's ankle.

“Hey, have I ever told you how much I LOVE that you’re so short and stocky compared to me?” Holo said as he gave a shove, bouncing Ross away. And Ross really did bounce! He stumbled back and landed on his butt, then bounced off the floor and skidded another couple feet away. He wasn’t floating yet, but he was losing his grounding.

Ross groaned as he struggled to his feet. His middle had ballooned out considerably by now, and was bulging past his sides and jutting out in front of him a good couple of feet more than it usually did. He could feel the gas inside him trying to rise, pulling on his stomach and lifting the top curve of it up against his chest. He used his arms to try and hold it down, but it pushed back like a beach ball underwater.

The air was localized in his stomach thanks to the injector, but retaining the mobility in his limbs wasn’t doing him any good. The top of his stomach stretched past the reach of his arms, and it bobbed up and blocked his view. He could feel the weight of his body lifting off his legs, and he started to lean back as his body was pulled upwards from the front. Now, Ross was heavy, so it would take a lot of helium to get the lift he needed to actually float away, but there was no way to get that big in the hallways of the Citadel where Holo had caught him. The usually spacious halls were feeling much smaller.

“Come on Holo, quit it, seriously! I can taste helium already, that’s enough!” Ross shouted, hoping to be heard past the balloon of gut that was now between him and the dragon. He cursed under his breath as he felt his sides bump the walls. His skin creaked gently as it stretched. There was no stress, but he could feel all that lighter than air gas trying to find a way up and out of the belly balloon it was pumping into.

“Ross, I would leave you in a helium-scented crater of your own scraps if I could. And I could! But I won’t~ You were SO generous with the helium you let me siphon, I just wanted to return the favor!” Holo teased as he brushed his claws against Ross’ hide. Ross could feel those sharp claws against his skin and he shivered. His stretched gut was extra sensitive. Holo dragged those claws over and around the swell of Ross’ still growing stomach, before swirling a claw around the rim of his stretched navel. Ross grit his teeth, but his tail wagged.

“Frrnngghh... Fuck.” Ross cursed, but didn’t let Holo hear. The pressure in his body grew, but he could take this much gas easy. More concerning was the way his stomach was flattening against the walls and touching the ceiling. As it filled the space above him, it pushed back down until it flattened against the floor. His stomach was looking like a huge, pale blue wall of rubbery skin blocking the way.

With Ross thoroughly wedged, Holo finally cut the air flow and gave that huge stomach friendly pat. “Looking good dude! I’m gonna upload a photo of this to Twitstagram, our friends are gonna LOVE it. Really, this is your best side.”

“What? No, nonono NO DON’T YOU DARE!” Ross roared, though his voice had become light and squeaky as his shout mixed with the helium rising up from his belly.

“Sorry, already up~” Holo slapped the side of Ross’ gut with his tail, making the whole thing boom like a drum. “It’s getting likes! You’re so popular!”

“I hate you so much,” Ross squeaked as he crossed his arms over his chest the best he could.

“Love you too, see you when you finish deflating, blimp!” Holo retreated with that, or at least, Ross assumed he did. He grumbled to himself as he dreamed up all the ways he could get back at Holo, once he was unstuck from the halls of his own Citadel.