

Shark Flotation Device
By Angelus

The hot summer sun beat down on the pavement as the wavebreak gave way to sand. Thudding footsteps were muffled as the ground softened beneath them. Mollusk surveyed the crowded beach from atop Holo's shoulders, upon which he was sitting to get both a good vantage and a free ride.

"Ah, there's a good spot over there! A bit close to the water, but I'd prefer that!" Mollusk pointed with one hand and used his other to turn Holo's head to look in the correct direction.

Holo nodded. "I see it. Got it." The towering dragon stomped through the sand, drawing curious glances as his red and scales and silvery metal arm glittered under the sunlight.

Despite his name, Mollusk was not a shellfish at all, but a land shark. Orange stripes along his limbs and tail added eye-catching splashes of color to his slate-gray body. Crimson swim shorts with a rose flower pattern covered his lower half, and his upper body was bare, showing off his trim white stomach and chest.

The pair reached their spot, and Holo got down on one knee to allow Mollusk to safely dismount. He spread his toes into the sand and slapped his tail against it, letting the dry warmth of it soak into his body. "Thanks for the ride Holo! Aahhh, I missed the sea. Winter was way too long this year."

"Agreed." Holo planted their beach umbrella in the sand and stood up, reaching to almost twice Mollusk's height.

"Alright, now that we have our spot, you ready to hit the water? I'm dying to get a good swim in." Mollusk was already stretching his arms and legs in preparation.

"Oh. I thought I'd stay here and save our spot." Holo shifted his weight.

"You don't really have to do that, we already staked our claim! Come on, you had a long walk and carried me the whole way here. Let's cool off!" Mollusk gave his best inviting grin and gestured to the water.

Holo looked away to hide a small pout. "I can't swim," he muttered.

"...Huh? Wait, what?"

"I said I can't swim," Holo snorted and frowned.

"What do you mean you can't swim?" Mollusk tilted his head and his ears splayed to the sides in confusion.

Holo raised his metal arm as though flexing his bicep, though there was no muscle to show off under the hull. "I know my organic skin covering is convincing, but I am almost entirely metal. I sink instantly. I don't need to breathe, so I can't drown, but walking along the seafloor isn't exactly... swimming."

"O-oh, right. Maybe I could carry you? I'm a strong swimmer, and it's only fair I return the favor!" The shark's tail swung in a waving motion, emphasizing his prowess in the water.

"Uh, I believe you, but I'm quite literally over a half ton of metal and I am not designed for buoyancy. I'll just take you down to the bottom with me."

"Hrmmm..." Mollusk furrowed his brow in thought. "Maybe... A floatation device? An innertube, or one of those inflatable rafts." He thought aloud and tried picturing the machine dragon wedged into an inflatable innertube, but even in his mind's eye Holo just fell through and

vanished under the glittering waves. "Actually, I don't think there's a floatie big enough to hold you up."

Holo's gaze fixed on Mollusk and his head slowly tilted to one side as his brain buffered a thought. "...There might be."

Mollusk's ears raised. "Really? What did you have in mind?"

Holo reached out and grabbed Mollusk's wrist.

"Hey, gentle!" Mollusk yanked his arm but failed to free it from Holo's mechanical grip. "Uh." He looked up to meet Holo's gaze and felt the dragon's shadow dwarfing him.

Holo lifted Mollusk into the air by his arm, leaving the shark twisting in his grip and kicking at Holo's stomach.

"Ouch, put me down! What are you-MRPH?!" Mollusk's complaints were silenced as Holo pressed his huge snout against theirs in an oversized kiss. The shark's cheeks bloomed orange and his tail and limbs went rigid in surprise. His fate was sealed in the brief moment he failed to act.

Holo's nostrils flared and his chest rose as he filled his lungs with the salty sea air. His teeth parted, just a crack, and he exhaled directly into the kiss.

"Ghrmpphh!!" Mollusk's cheeks puffed out from the pressure, stretching the orange stripes that brushed down his jawline. Warm air pushed against the back of his throat until it tripped his swallowing reflex. The moment he swallowed the first breath of air, the rest of it followed. His lithe white stomach pushed out into an oblong swell, and he felt a pressure like a massive belch growing in his stomach. He kicked at Holo's yellow belly scales, causing him to swing away from the dragon like a pendulum. Holo broke neither his grip nor that kiss as Mollusk swung away and back again. His ballooned stomach bounced off of Holo's with an echoing *bwoom* as it continued to fill with exhaled breath. His legs swung in the air and his tail whipped in circles, drawing agitated patterns in the sand.

Mollusk strained to restrict the warm air flowing into his body, but he couldn't generate enough pressure to push back. Every attempt to close his throat prompted Holo to exhale with more force. His white stomach filled the space between himself and the dragon and he could feel his skin stretching against Holo's scales until he was the wider of the two. As panic set in his struggled turned to desperate thrashing against the dragon's stalwart body. His kicks glanced off of hardened scales. His free hand struck blows against a firm chest until he could no longer reach beyond the breadth of his own stomach. Now unable to reach his target, Mollusk turned his attention to his own stomach. It was blown up beyond the reach of his arms, preventing him from reaching around his body even though he strained his reach to get his arms around himself.

A grumble from Holo preceded their muzzles finally parting, forced apart from how wide Mollusk had grown between them. Holo released Mollusk's wrist and let him collapse on the sand. Mollusk scrambled to his feet while holding his stomach with one hand as it bulged out, taut with air. "Ough..." Mollusk groaned and swung his arms out to try and keep his balance as his wide stomach caught the sea breeze and made him stumble. Grains of sand sprayed against his stretched skin and made it itchy, which was made all the more annoying because he couldn't even reach the right spot.

He brushed some clinging sand off of his arms and chest and snorted at Holo. "What are you doing! Uhrrppff...?" Some nearby eyes had turned toward the spectacle, and he found himself stifling a burp for their sake even though he knew he should let the air out.

"Well." Holo took a step forward. His toes spread to stop his paws from sinking into the sand. Mollusk took a step back and dragged his tail through the sand to help balance his freshly expanded stomach. "Well... A floatation device would do the trick, you're right. You're the only thing here that can hold enough air to offset my weight and density. Besides, you offered to carry me."

"I'm not a pool toy! And this is NOT what I meant when I offered that!" Mollusk hurried backwards a few steps, but Holo closed the gap in half as many strides. The sand beneath their feet turned from hot and dry to cool and damp as Mollusk was backed toward the water's edge.

"True. You lack the appropriate material composition. However, shark skin has surpassing elastic properties." Holo reached towards Mollusk again.

This time he was prepared. The shark ducked under Holo's swiping grab and turned on his heel to dash into the water. He had every advantage at sea, Holo would never be able to catch-

His foot caught on something and the ground rushed up to meet him. He fell on his ballooned stomach and it compressed against the firm, wet sand before springing back and bouncing him into the water. His head dunked under the shallow waves, soaking his head and making him sputter.

Holo's tail snaked away from Mollusk now that its job of tripping the shark was done. He grabbed Mollusk under the arms and lifted him up to eye level before wrapping him in a half hug that squeezed that ballooned shark belly around his slim body. Mollusk grunted as the air inside of him compressed and shifted from the squeeze. He didn't even get a chance to complain before Holo took in another deep breath.

The second kiss hit with more force than the first. Mollusk's eyes watered from the air pressure blasting down his throat and the extra pressure that Holo's hug was exerting on him. He writhed in their grip but could do little more than wiggle and squirm, unable to force even a single finger to give. The *FWWSSSHH* of air flowing through his throat rang through his ears, making them swivel erratically as they searched for a sound that was coming from inside his body. His arms clung to his expanding stomach and he hugged it with his knees, squishing it between his thighs as though trying to anchor himself to his expanding middle. He could feel his limbs being pushed apart as he took in more and more air, his stomach expanding until its width equaled his height.

It was only then that Holo broke the kiss again, though he kept a tight hold on his prized balloon. "Alright, time to see if you're buoyant enough yet." Holo shifted his grip to hold the shark around the waist and hoisted him overhead, exposing Mollusk's stomach to the sky. Mollusk felt his heart flutter from a combination of sudden vertigo and the feeling of how easily Holo hoisted his entire body overhead.

Holo walked into the water, letting the waves crash against his hull. His footsteps sunk into the muddy sand, and seaweed coiled around his legs and snapped free as he trudged deeper without breaking pace. Waves rose and crashed against his calves, then his thighs, his stomach, his chest... Until only Mollusk was sticking out of the water. Holo tightened his grip on the buoyant shark's waist and drew in his legs to lift his feet off the sea floor.

Mollusk felt a sudden weight on his hips, and his body sunk a couple of feet into the water before his buoyancy equalized against the anchor weight of Holo's body. The weight only lasted for a few seconds before Holo put his feet back on the sand and walked to shallower water with Mollusk in tow.

"Nope. Not quite enough lift yet." Holo grumbled as his head surfaced, leaving his black hair sopping wet and clinging to his face, covering his eyes. He spun his shark buoy so that he and Mollusk were face to face again. The shark was floating belly-up thanks to all the air packed into his sphere of a stomach. His tail paddled in the water out of habit, and his arms shoved on his stomach to keep it from pressing against his face. This left him without a means of defending himself, not that it mattered.

Holo puffkissed Mollusk once again. The shark's white stomach swelled above the waves, rising higher and wider like an air-filled iceberg bobbing just off shore. The increasing tension in his skin made him feel fuzzy and woozy as a sort of pressure drunkenness set in. His cheeks glowed with an orange blush as his resistance lessened, and he gave a strong sweep of his tail to push himself into that kiss. He relaxed his throat and chest and let the air flow into him without resistance. His skin creaked and hissed as inch after inch was added to his diameter. Even with his arms holding his stomach back, the swollen curve of his gut was creeping into his line of sight and blocking his view of the summer sky.

The influx of air slowed as Mollusk grew to nearly double their size. Their stomach was a sphere with a diameter exceeding their height, and all of that air kept them well afloat. The pressure daze had them blushing and giggling into the kiss, which caused air to hiss out from the corners of their mouth. Holo kept their muzzles locked for a few moments more before breaking the kiss and stepping back to survey the blimp he had created.

The top of the shark's stomach loomed over him, and even the tallest waves failed to rise more than halfway up his stomach before either crashing against him or lifting him atop them like a bloated surfboard. "That should do it. Let's see. This'll be a bit tough, but..." He dragged Mollusk to shallower waters and attempted to scale the side of him. Mollusk bobbed and rolled in the water, threatening to flip over completely as Holo clambered up his swollen side. Holo did his best to scale the shark without pushing his talons or claws too deep into the ballooned shark skin. It creaked in protest at his grabs, but held strong. Mollusk squirmed as his sensitive stomach was grabbed and shoved against. His tail cut the water, pushing himself and his passenger back into deeper water.

Somehow, Holo managed the unsteady climb up the smooth and wet surface of the shark. He flopped down on his stomach, laying belly to belly with the shark blimp as though Mollusk was an inflatable raft. His long limbs hung over the sides and he gave Mollusk's stomach a hug with his whole body. "Mmm... Buoyant enough, but not quite tall enough." He leaned over the top edge of his life raft's gut until he could see Mollusk's face again.

Mollusk's ears swiveled to attention as Holo's bright red visage appeared from the far side of his white gut. "Erk-! H-hi?"

"Hi~ Can you take a bit more?" Holo grinned down, flashing his bright white fangs.

Mollusk could feel Holo's excited tail whipping along his stretched stomach. He didn't have it in him to turn Holo down, and he *did* still have some more room anyway. "S-sure! Yeah! I can take a bit more-!" His tone was hesitant, but excited.

“Good. I just want to add another foot or two of diameter so you’ll support me better. Mwah~” Their snouts met in a last kiss, and this time Mollusk eagerly inhaled what Holo offered. His stomach let out gentle creaks and groans as it pushed wider than ever before. His skin pinched and stretched beneath Holo as it spread out around him. The sound of rushing air echoed in his hollow belly as it bounced between the taut inner walls. Holo spread his arms wide and felt them rise bit by bit as the curve of Mollusk’s stomach widened, causing it to flatten across the top.

He puffed into the greedy, blushing shark until his arms were spread flat, and only then did he stop. Mollusk was left panting, taking shallow breaths so as not to upset the great tension in his hide as Holo sprawled on top of him. The dragon drummed his fingers over the surface, sending rhythmic taps bounding through the trapped air.

“Ahhh... Now you’re big enough. Y’know, this isn’t exactly ‘swimming’ either, but it’s not a bad compromise.” Holo rumbled around the curve of Mollusk’s stomach.

“Hrrmmpph. Y-yeah, it’s fine~” Mollusk hummed as he let himself relax to drift and bob atop the waves. The stretch in his stomach felt like it was pulling all of the tension out of his body. He felt weightless, and didn’t have to move a muscle to remain comfortably buoyant on the surface of the sea. He could feel Holo’s heavy body pressing into him from above, the dragon making a long dimple in his taut surface. His blush renewed itself as he thought about the high-pressure kisses he had just gotten... It was a strange but more enjoyable experience than he would have thought.

With a pleased sigh, he threw his arms behind his head like he was laying in bed and idly kicked his legs and tail through the water to paddle himself and his passenger in wide, lazy circles. “Hey, Holo?”

“Yeah?”

“I uh. I wouldn’t *entirely* mind doing this again for you. Y’know as a favor. For a friend.” Mollusk let out an embarrassed snort at his own audacity for admitting that.

“Ooohh? I’ll take you up on that then, shark blimp~” Holo thumped his palm against Mollusk’s hide for emphasis.

Mollusk winced from the slap on his gut, but the dull sting quickly passed. He relaxed and daydreamed about the next opportunity he might have to do this again. This was a surprisingly nice start to the summer.