

An Air Mattress for Christmas

By: IndigoRho

Rho stretched as he sat at his desk, slowly working on a story. The flabby orange-striped zebra wasn't in any real rush, merely trying to pass the time, only barely paying attention to his screen or keyboard. As a result he welcomed the sound of the automated door sliding open. He turned to face the chimera sauntering in—his boyfriend Tobias—chuckling as he realized he'd dressed down to just a white, sleeveless bodysuit. Tobias was a stark contrast to his better half, slim thanks to his more active lifestyle with black fur and a dark red mane. Though he mostly took after the lion side of his family his goat features were undeniable, sporting hooves, two curved horns, and rather distinct horizontal pupils.

“So you *were* hiding from me in here!” Tobias said. “You still haven't told me what you want for Christmas, and I'm not taking 'I'll get back to ya' as an answer this time.”

The zebra frowned. He was a bit of an impulse shopper, and honestly couldn't think of anything he wanted that he hadn't already bought. Obviously Tobias wouldn't accept such an excuse. “But hon, being with you's the only gift I need.”

Tobias snorted. “Adorable, but even if it's undeniably true you're still getting something, so start thinking!”

Rho considered making a snarky response, until he suddenly thought of a much better plan. He stood to face his boyfriend. “You know what, an air mattress would be nice.”

“An air mattress?” Tobias gave him a goofy look, assuming the zebra was just lying to get him to go away.

“Yep, and it won't cost you a thing,” Rho said, a wide grin forming on his face.

Rho poked Tobias in the chest, bringing up a display screen with menus he deftly navigated. The chimera had the slightest inkling of what his boyfriend was planning, but decided to simply stand by and let it happen, looking down in an attempt to read the screen. After a bit of searching Rho came across the “structural modification” section and selected one of his personal favorites. Almost instantly Tobias felt a tingle surge throughout his body, giggling at the odd but painless sensation. The feeling lingered around his midsection and slowly spread, the transformation he was enduring hidden momentarily by his bodysuit.

Tobias and Rho both had a good idea as to what changes were occurring, though. The chimera's fur was matting and fusing together, taking on the form of glossy rubber. A nozzle grew from his navel, the indent faintly noticeable under his suit. His whole body was growing lighter as the transformation spread, until the rubber finally crept out from his sleeves, reflecting the light in the room and allowing Tobias to finally act “surprised” by what his boyfriend had done to him.

“Turning me into a pool toy?” Tobias said with a fake frown. “You *do* know I can still bug you while I'm made of rubber, right?”

“Hey, you asked me what I wanted for Christmas and this is what I want!” Rho insisted, giving the chimera another poke just to feel the changes for himself. “Besides, you look wonderful as a pool toy, it suits you.”

Tobias couldn't help but blush, his fondness of being rubber rather well known. “True, but I was still hoping you'd ask for something a tad more permanent.”

He watched in awe as the rubber reached his hooves, fingers merging into barely usable, puffy imitations of their usual selves. His bushy mane solidified and rounded, its lack of flow always somewhat off-putting to the chimera at first. Horns turned from pointy to harmless, tail from flexible to rigid, eyes from half-opened to nearly expressionless. Over the course of a few quick minutes Tobias had been completely transformed into an air-filled imitation of himself. Still, the chimera retained a degree of mobility, able to walk, talk, and show basic emotion. Tobias had become a pool toy often enough to be comfortable in the form, and understood his limitations well.

As soon as Tobias' transformation had finished Rho began messing with his bodysuit's display

again, much to the chimera's surprise. "Hey, what are you plotting!"

The zebra chuckled as he made a final poke. "Well I said I wanted an air mattress, and this one needs more filling to suit my needs."

A loud hissing noise started echoing from within the hollow chimera, whose eyes would've grown wide had they not been solid plastic; Tobias was inflating. His flat middle swiftly rounded out, the rubber that'd replaced his hide creaking as it was stretched to accommodate the influx of air. Becoming a pool toy was fine—ideal even—but Rho was prone to letting inflation get out of hand, and Tobias didn't trust him to hold back at all. He frantically bapped his swelling belly with both puffy hooves in an attempt to halt the process, but he lacked the dexterity in his new form to properly operate the touchscreen of his own bodysuit. Thankfully there was a voice control system.

"Suit, stop inflation." The hissing continued. "Suit, stop inflation! Stop!" Tobias shouted at his middle some more, to no avail.

Rho could hardly keep from laughing. "Did you really think I wouldn't turn off that feature? Can't have my new air mattress 'accidentally' deflating on me before I get a chance to enjoy it."

Tobias frowned as best he could, suddenly wishing he hadn't given his boyfriend the passwords to his suit. While the bulk of his inflation was occurring in his rapidly rotund gut, the rest of the chimera swelled slightly as well, impairing his movement and making it difficult to resist his unwanted expansion. He prodded his belly in frustration, stumbling about as he was forced to widen his stance to avoid toppling over, and made sure to glare at Rho as often as possible. The chimera was nearly three feet wide when Rho decided to give him a gleeful shove. Tobias yelped in dismay as he fell onto his back with a squeak, unhurt but thoroughly immobilized. Rocking back and forth did nothing, and the bloating chimera was forced to accept the fact he was grounded until his boyfriend deemed otherwise.

Rho leaned heavily into the inflating chimera's middle, testing its comfort and grinning at every creak and squeak made by the rubber. With a bit of effort he lifted himself atop his new mattress, which grimaced at the sudden dramatic increase in pressure. Fortunately Tobias' odd form was suitably durable, and even with the zebra's considerable weight pushing down upon him he wasn't in danger of bursting—yet. Tobias could still *feel* his seams straining more now, though, a sensation that became clearer and clearer as he grew. His chest and belly were now a solid dome, covered by his extremely stretchy bodysuit and topped with a rather smug zebra. Rho's weight helped pin the chimera down as well, immobilizing him even further.

When Tobias' spherical middle was nearly six feet high the hissing finally ceased, the creaks of wobbling rubber taking its place. The chimera's tail was angrily slapping against the floor, and he wiggled frequently in protest despite how ineffective the action was. Meanwhile Rho was beyond content. He'd sunken slightly into the inflated middle of his boyfriend, sighing in delight as he settled in. Rho's fingers lazily tapped Tobias' puffy surface, as if to constantly remind the chimera he was merely a mattress now. There was still one thing left to do, though. His free hoof brought up the display once more, skimming through menus until he discovered the option titled "Emergency Detach". A simple quick caused a few key seams of the bodysuit to unseal, and in an instant the entire suit snapped right off Tobias and dropped to the floor, reverted to its standard size.

Tobias heard and felt his disrobing, glimpsing the bodysuit flying off from the corner of his eye. "W-why did you do that! I can't turn back to normal without it on!"

"*You* were the one who said you wanted me to pick out something a bit more permanent for Christmas, so I did," Rho smirked. "Honestly I could get used to having a chimera bed, will be a nice change of pace for a few months."

"I-I was joking!" Tobias insisted as he wobbled furiously. "There's no way you'll leave me like this for months!"

"Months, years, it all depends on how relaxing you are," Rho said with an uncomfortable amount of seriousness. "Don't worry, I'll promise to deflate you in a few weeks as long as you promise to behave and revert back to a mattress afterward."

Tobias let out a stressed whine in response. In the back of his mind there was an undeniable shred of desire for such a fate, and he struggled with the reality of it. For now there was little he could do, though, fated to be an overinflated bed until Rho decided to return him to normal...if ever.