

Pool Toy Keg

By: IndigoRho

Rho closed yet another storage hatch in frustration, unable to believe his poor luck. The orange-striped zebra had spent nearly two hours searching in vain for kegs in the cargo hold of his ship, but with his last failure he'd essentially run out of places to look. He was supposed to be bringing a large haul of apple cider to a party that night, and of course he'd waited till the last minute to track them down since he'd been certain he had them. Without them there was no way he could find a replacement on short notice. He ignored the hold door sliding open, too busy trying to think of where the kegs could have possibly wandered off to. The slim black and white goat who entered gave him a smile that was missed.

"What are you digging around in here for, shouldn't you be prepping for the party?" the goat asked, walking right up to Rho to get his attention.

"I *am* trying to prep for it, August, I just need to find these stupid kegs and I'm good!" Rho grumbled. "You haven't seen them lately, have you?"

August gave him a confused look. "You mean the kegs that got all banged up in a fall a few months back? They were useless so I tossed them."

"Those were still good, why didn't you tell me!" Rho covered his face with his hooves, distraught over how much time he'd wasted.

"They had giant dents in them and leaked. A lot. They were definitely not good," August said. "Why do you even need kegs, there'll be plenty of booze at the party."

The zebra was becoming uncharacteristically grumpy. "Well there'll be two kegs less booze now, I said I'd bring cider."

"It's not the end of the world, hon, I'm sure they'll understand." August tried to comfort his boyfriend. "I mean if you *really* want to you can always chug a couple kegs worth of cider and waddle it to the party."

What was meant to be a joke unintentionally gave Rho an idea, and he eyed up August, grinning. "Or *you* could be the keg for me."

August had just started to frown when Rho quickly brought up a display screen on the goat's bodysuit, zooming through the menus in a flash before his boyfriend could swat his hoof away. Unfortunately a tell-tale tingling sensation still spread throughout his body shortly after. "Rho what did you do!"

"Just turning you into a suitable keg for cider," Rho grinned. "Don't worry, it's nothing you aren't fond of."

The goat scratched at his bodysuit as something began to happen to his hide underneath, his eyes frantically examining his body for signs of change. He had a slight suspicion as to what Rho had selected, but he wasn't able to confirm until the fur around along the edges of his suit finally started matting and gaining a shiny gloss, like latex; August was turning into a pool toy. The goat genuinely loved transformation—in the past he'd spent days at a time either as a different species or even thing—and pool toys were his passion. Still, August wasn't very fond of the idea of being used as cider storage if that's what Rho intended.

August gradually grew lighter as the transformation continued, and his body took on a smoother form. His hooves fused into puffy, almost useless digits, his stubby tail going from fluffy to solid. A small nozzle grew from his navel, the imprint faintly visible beneath his bodysuit. The goat's horns were inevitably blunted as they became air-filled plastic and his eyes flat and somewhat limited in expression. Thankfully he remained conscious rather than becoming inanimate—August wouldn't have put such a thing past Rho. After only a few short minutes August was shinier, squeakier, and grumpier.

"You owe me," was all the goat cared to say, following his boyfriend to the nearest food replicator.

Rho happily messed with August's bodysuit again, causing an opening to appear over his belly button and exposing the nozzle that'd replaced it. He pulled a hose from the replicator and flicked open the nozzle, swiftly plugging it with the hose before much air could escape. As August patiently stood by Rho activated the replicator, a steady stream of cider gushing through the hose and into the pool toy goat. August winced a little as he felt the liquid cascading within his hollow body. Though he wasn't *completely* translucent the rising level of the cider was easy enough to track, swirling around the chamber that made up his torso. Being fairly lean, August was filled up relatively fast, but obviously Rho wouldn't be content with such a modest offering.

The latex hide of August's middle began to stretch and creak, expanding to contain the continued rush of cider. Rho looked on in glee as the goat inflated. He made no secret of his constant desire to see August rounder—no matter the cause—and squeezed his boyfriend's swelling sloshy belly. August blushed as his growing gut was adored, for a moment almost forgiving Rho for the ridiculous task he was being stuck with. As his latex stretched the golden, bubbly brew within became clearer and clearer, leaving little doubt as to what the pool toy contained. His body warped and bloated admirably, August stumbling somewhat as his rotund torso grew to dominate his form, practically threatening to immobilize him.

Fortunately Rho didn't want to deal with the hassle of rolling him to the party, turning off the flow of cider while he was certain his keg of a boyfriend could still waddle at least. Being filled with heavy liquid as a pool toy made August feel rather awkward, and he took a few minutes to adjust to strange balance of his body and the constant sloshing within. Rho couldn't resist teasing his much-wider middle, patting and prodding him often.

"I'm pretty sure you managed to hold more cider than the two kegs, honestly," Rho mused. "And you're a whole lot easier to transport."

August gave a halfhearted glare in return. "Yeah, real easy wobbling around as an overfilled water balloon. Everyone at the party better be going for the cider first, cause I really don't want to spend the whole thing as the squeaky keg."

"You'll be fine," Rho insisted. "I'm sure you'll end up as the center of attention at least!"

"Joke all you want, but I'll force you to chug it all yourself if it isn't going fast enough for my liking," August said. "Now let's get going, it's a bit of walk."

The couple left the ship and gradually made their way through the station to the party. Of course August drew the gaze of nearly everyone they passed in the crowded corridors, many stopping to either gawk or take pictures of the cider-filled pool toy waddling around. Cider was constantly splashing and fizzing inside August's rotund middle, emphasizing his heft. He blushed non-stop from the attention, combating a mix of embarrassment and delight in being able to walk around in public transformed. Sure, he wasn't the only pool toy on the station, but being a keg added to the oddity of the situation.

Regardless, August was relieved to finally arrive at the party, where he would at least know most of those in attendance. The host—a plump eastern dragon named Kai colored like a koi—was obviously caught off-guard both by his appearance and use as a keg. "Hey guys. I knew you were bringing cider but I can't say I was expecting the method."

Rho shrugged. "August is a goat of many talents. Got anywhere specific I should keep him?"

"You can just sit him down near the rest of the kegs if you'd like," Kai laughed, welcoming the couple inside.

August rolled his eyes. "Real funny, if I can still waddle I'm gonna mingle."

"Well let's still head over there first so I can get a cup and some cider of my own," Rho said, grabbing his boyfriend by the puffy hoof and leading him over.

While the apartment's food replicator technically made the kegs of outside liquor unnecessary, many had still been brought solely to add a classic party atmosphere to the event and prevent long lines from forming as revelers filled cups one at a time. Some of the booze was also traditionally brewed, a craze that'd recently become popular. Rho himself had decided to bring the replicated cider mainly to

encourage others to try the drink out, but a mobile August had the possibility of impeding such curiosity, especially if the goat tried to shoo away anyone curious wanting a sample. He'd come up with a novel solution on the walk over, though he knew August wasn't going to be very happy with it.

Rho replicated a special spigot for August's nozzle, but also stealthily grabbed a hose to go along with it, making sure to keep it behind his back and out of the goat's sight. "Alright hon, gonna put a spigot on ya so you're officially on tap."

"Sure, sure." August was too busy scanning the room, oblivious to the new scheme brewing.

As the goat was nice and distracted, Rho swiftly stuck the spigot into August's nozzle—with the hose already attached. August became aware something was wrong the second his middle started rumbling, surprised to find himself filling with even more cider. He gave Rho a rather unimpressive shove with his inflated hooves before futilely attempting to pull the hose out, though of course as a pool toy he couldn't really gain a solid grip on such a thing. Having already been on the verge of immobility August soon lost his balance, falling backwards onto his inflated butt and causing waves in the pool of cider within. Standing back up proved to be impossible, and August quickly gave up trying once he realized how goofy he must have looked.

Creaking and bubbling filled the air as August swelled further, half the room glancing over to watch the filling of the party's most unique keg. August pleaded with Rho to stop, making every threat and promise he could think of before simply resorting to guilt tripping him. Unfortunately the zebra endured his boyfriend's verbal onslaught. When the pool toy's body was almost spherical Rho finally turned off the flow of cider and pulled out the hose, giving his massive living keg a satisfied slap.

"August here's holding onto some of the best apple cider in the sector, I'd really recommend you all try it!" Rho announced, getting the attentions of everyone who hadn't turned to face them yet. "Besides, the more you drink the faster he'll be mobile again!"

There were plenty of laughs from the crowd, not to mention quite a few takers. A group of friends and acquaintances gathered around August like he was an office water cooler, filling their cups with his fresh cider and lingering to chat. Though thoroughly embarrassed, August admittedly appreciated the opportunity to join in on conversations, even if it did come at the price of being used as an armrest at times. His contents were also being drained steadily, so he knew he'd be mobile again soon enough to enjoy the party to its fullest. Still, August planned on getting Rho back eventually, the goat spending every quiet moment thinking of what embarrassing thing he could turn his boyfriend into, and for how long...