

Blithe's Fairground Feast

By: IndigoRho

Indi looked up at the large sign above a tent at the County Fair, unimpressed. “Blithe: The World's Largest Horse” was written in overly elegant text, flanked on both sides by portraits of whom Indi assumed was the horse in question. The obese blue cheetah frowned, and turned to his two friends. “Why would anyone pay to see a really fat horse again?”

The large orange-and-white rabbit beside him—Kyler—spoke up first. “Biggest doesn't always mean fattest you loaf. Besides, seeing a famous prize horse up close might be fun, I guess.”

“Yeah, really fun,” the grumpy hefty hyena with them grumbled. Raf was still bitter about being dragged to the County Fair, especially since he'd been unable to resist the allure of practically every food stall they passed. He was secretly thankful they'd be away from fattening treats for at least a bit.

“Not like there's much left to eat after you cleared them out!” Indi taunted the hyena, who growled in response.

Kyler rolled his eyes. “Quit it you two! And Indi, you've somehow eaten more than Raf has today, don't think I haven't noticed you sneaking around grabbing snacks every few feet.”

Before the argument could continue, a sizable rat in a bright red-and-white pinstriped suit made his presence known. “I see the grandest attraction this or any County Fair has ever known has gotten your attention! Blithe is a wonder of the equestrian world, proud winner of more trophies, awards, and accolades than any of you could imagine!”

“Hmph, bet they're all for eating contests,” Indi mumbled.

“Blithe is in fact a very prestigious consumer, and could eat your weight in food without breaking a sweat,” the rat said with a grin, gently poking the cheetah's gut with his cane. “Though this one-of-a-kind steed is best known as an unequaled show horse! Not to mention he's been the star of numerous movies, commercials, ad campaigns, you name it! He's been grand marshal of more parades than you can count.”

“That's not saying much.” Raf had to get a little shot in at Indi.

Again a potential argument was stalled by the rat continuing his spiel. “Well at the very least I'm sure even he'll be understand just how good the deal I'm about to offer you three is! By sheer coincidence you've arrived at our Lunchtime Happy Hour, so tickets are a fraction of the normal price: only two dollars!”

“Why does a horse show have a happy hour?” Kyler asked, hoping the other two wouldn't be able to snap at each other if questions were being asked.

“Well Blithe needs to eat a hearty lunch just as much as we do,” the rat laughed, giving his gut a heavy slap. “Happy Hour discounts ensures he's got plenty of visitors to feed him, and I'm sure he'd love nothing more than for you three to help fill him up!”

“If this fancy horse is as big as you claim he is, he'd probably need a whole room full of food to be content,” Indi said. The cheetah was still obviously not sold on the attraction.

The rat's grin widened, though the trio weren't paying close enough attention to notice how sinister it was. “Trust me, you'll find his room filled with Blithe's absolute favorite treat.”

Kyler wasn't necessarily excited about seeing the illustrious Blithe, but he hoped doing so would help Indi and Raf calm down a little. Besides, what risk was there to tossing away a couple bucks? “Sure, we'll buy tickets.”

“Speak for yourself,” Indi and Raf both said almost simultaneously. The pair grimaced when they did.

“Indi, it's probably a lot cooler in the tent than out here, especially since it's almost noon,” Kyler insisted. “And Raf, do you *really* want to linger outside within sight of the fried twinkie stall?”

Indi frowned at the glaring sun above, while Raf cowered at the obnoxiously tempting food stand nearby. They soon begrudgingly nodded in agreement with Kyler, retrieving money from their

wallets and handing it off to the gleeful rat. “You’ve made the right choice gentlemen! I guarantee you’ll enjoy the show so much, you’ll never want to leave.”

The trio walked through the entrance curtain of the tent, then down a winding corridor that was longer than any of them expected. By the time they reached the next curtain, the ambient noises of the fair outside were surprisingly faint. Despite the numerous advertisements and the rat’s boisterous claims, the group was still not prepared for the sight that awaited them. Standing proudly in the middle of the main room of the tent was an absolutely massive Percheron horse. At a little over seven feet tall, Blithe easily towered over his newest visitors. His light gray mane and tail were immaculately groomed, as was his white coat. Aside from being tall, Blithe was also fairly wide, his round belly already sagging to his knees. He whinnied as the three entered, and Raf swore the horse was actually grinning.

After a brief minute of silence, Indi burst into laughter. “Ha, he really is just the world’s fattest horse!” the cheetah taunted, not noticing the short glare Blithe aimed in his direction.

“Real clever coming from the world’s fattest cheetah,” Kyler shot back. As he glanced around the room for Blithe’s food he spotted a basket filled with apples, along with a sign encouraging guests to feed them to Blithe. He was surprised by how little there was considering the horse’s size, but didn’t linger too much on the thought. The rabbit quickly waddled over and snagged one, before bringing it to the horse as a peace offering. “Sorry about that fat jerk over there. I’m sure you’re...uh...normal weight for a horse your size?”

Blithe looked down at the rabbit’s outstretched paws and the apple held by them. He appeared to cautiously examine the gift, then licked both the apple and paws as a test, smiling afterward. Kyler smiled back, convinced he’d made amends, at least until Blithe’s mouth opened wide and the horse lunged forwards. He yelped in surprise as his arms were swallowed up to his elbows, but before he could even attempt to pull them free a second, bigger gulp engulfed his entire head. Indi and Raf watched in terror as their friend abruptly began to vanish into Blithe’s maw, Kyler’s muffled cries for help barely audible. Another horribly strong swallow managed to lift the flabby rabbit off his footpaws, causing him to kick his legs frantically.

Raf was the first to snap back to reality, impulsively rushing over to Kyler and trying to pull him out. The horse’s grip on Kyler was unexpectedly firm, though, and Raf didn’t even feel as if he were slowing Blithe down. Within the horse’s gullet, Kyler continued yelling as he gradually slid further in. He knew someone was pulling at him—likely anyone *but* Indi—and desperately hoped they’d start winning soon, before it was too late. Unfortunately, Blithe’s jaws were soon stretching around Kyler’s ample gut, despite Raf putting his full weight behind halting the horse’s indulgent meal.

Indi, meanwhile, looked on in delusional amusement. In his mind, being gobbled up by a fat horse would do Kyler some good, and ensure Indi would have plenty of opportunities to mock him in the future. Suddenly he was very glad they’d bought those tickets.

“Indi you idiot, help me over here before Kyler gets eaten!” Raf growled, rapidly losing ground against Blithe.

“He’ll be *fine*. It’s not like the horse is biting him or anything,” Indi insisted. “Just let him get swallowed and we’ll go grab the rat or something.”

Raf wrapped his arms around Kyler’s legs as tightly as he could, Blithe’s lips closing in. “That’s a stupid plan! Who knows how long it’d take to find him, I’m not just gonna let Kyler stew in a horse gut while we doddle you—Oooooomph!”

The hyena had been so distracted chewing out Indi he hadn’t noticed Blithe going for a long gulp. In a flash Raf’s head and arms were all pulled into the horse’s maw, the hyena still holding onto Kyler. Of course Indi only found greater amusement in the escalation of his friends’ predicament, laughing up a storm as he watched Raf frantically squirming before lifting into the air. As Kyler’s footpaws slipped from view, the horrified rabbit finally entered the immense horse’s stomach. He tried to brace against the slick stomach walls to halt his descent, to no avail. Blithe’s swallows were simply

too strong for him to fight off, and now he was beginning to feel a heavy weight pushing him further down.

Indi watched in fascination as Blithe's already massive gut started to slowly swell, bouncing from side to side as his friend emptied into it. He could see faint bulges here and there, made by the rabbit's paws, elbows, and even his head as he struggled against the inevitable. Curious, the cheetah crept over to the gorging hoss—knowing he was thoroughly distracted—and gave Blithe's belly a few teasing prods and rubs. Kyler's pleas for assistance were easier to hear now that he was closer. Indi couldn't resist taunting his friend a little, still not taking the incident seriously.

The inside of Blithe's stomach was growing increasingly cramped as Raf slid in, the obese hyena pinning his equally hefty friend more and more with every gulp. The pair shifted and grumbled as they attempted to both get comfortable *and* upset the voracious horse's stomach, hoping they could force him to regurgitate them. Blithe had plenty of experience handling excessive meals, though, and merely whinnied happily as he continued gulping down the tasty hyena. Up to Raf's waist, Blithe skillfully lifted his head to raise his second course, opening his mouth wider to allow gravity to aid in the process. Raf's own considerable weight caused him to glide down Blithe's gullet horrifically fast.

Blithe's gut ballooned outward as the hyena swiftly finished emptying into it, hovering just inches above the ground. Indi delighted in the expansion, pushing at the horse's gut with both paws just to watch it sway as his friends wiggled within. "I can't believe you two got caught by such a blubbery horse!" he laughed, ignoring their muffled curses. "Guess it's up to me to rescue you two dummies now. Would be a shame if I got distracted on my way to the trainer and you both ended up as horse pudge, though!"

Unfortunately for the trio, Indi's unnecessary taunting had proven to be the perfect distraction for the still-hungry Blithe. With dessert in sight, Blithe greedily swallowed the oblivious cheetah's head, causing Indi to go into a blind panic. Just like with the previous two meals, Blithe effortlessly slurped up his mouthwatering prey, each gulp making it increasingly impossible for Indi to fight back. Raf and Kyler knew something was wrong the moment Indi stopped yapping, and the sounds of his whining echoing down the gullet above them only renewed their struggles. When the cheetah's saliva-soaked head eventually slipped into the stomach, his two friends didn't know whether to punch him or push him. In the end, all three were squished together inside the horse, unable to do much else than blame each other for their fates.

Blithe's bloated belly pushed against the ground as it filled with dessert, the horse delighting in the squirms of his hefty prey. He hadn't been able to properly indulge this well in a while, and Blithe felt a horse of his stature and renown deserved such meals far more regularly. Perhaps he'd even eat a few less stable hands then! For now, though, he was content, as the three course meal would at least hold him over till the post-lunch crowds wandered in. As his stuffed middle bounced and wobbled, Blithe let out a loud yawn, eager to enjoy a much-needed nap as he added three new admirers to his bulk...