

Tuck's Burger Challenge

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On a wall of the popular restaurant Burger Bonanza was a series of framed photos and plaques with a large sign reading “Burger Champs”. While it wasn't uncommon for a place to have a special food challenge or annual eating competition, Burger Bonanza was well-known for having numerous of both, and the special wall immortalized the gluttony of many customers. The most prestigious challenge, though, was the Buckle Buster Endurance Test, which was also the simplest; just eat as many burgers as you can till you give up. There wasn't a monetary prize, but reaching the top five guaranteed you a fun novelty shirt and your photo on the wall for as long as your record held.

Tuck—a hefty purple dragon—looked up at the champ wall with a smile on his face and a rumble in his stomach. He'd wandered into the restaurant by chance while searching for a lunch that'd satisfy his immense appetite, and tackling an eating challenge was an added bonus in his mind.

“I'd like to have the Endurance Test for lunch!” Tuck eagerly told his server before they'd even reached his table.

The server didn't seem shocked by Tuck's request, and cheerfully brought the dragon over to a special booth just for the occasion. The challenge booth was obviously sturdier than anything else in the restaurant, with larger cushions and a table with more than enough room for even a large dragon like Tuck to squeeze in front of. Tuck slid himself onto the bench as his server went to alert the kitchen, and was pleasantly surprised to not hear a single groan or crack afterward. He couldn't remember the last time he'd actually sat on something designed to handle his bulk.

The first platter of five burgers was carried out faster than Tuck had expected, a delightful spread of different options from the menu. He began digging in the moment they were placed on the table, taking only a moment to acknowledge the server's mention of a second platter being on the way shortly. The burgers were just as delicious as Tuck had hoped, and he was already making plans to return again after the first, large bite. Within minutes the platter was wiped clean save for some stray bits of lettuce and tomato.

Tuck instinctively went to grab another burger, only for his claw to scrap at the cleared platter instead. The dragon looked down in disappointment, still as hungry as when he'd first arrived. Fortunately the next platter arrived moments later. His server was obviously surprised Tuck had finished the first portion so quickly, and rushed off back to the kitchen as soon as he'd delivered the food, though not before giving a friendly smile.

Burger after burger vanished into the hungry dragon's mouth. The first server was joined by a second for the next burger run, then a third. A small, fluctuating crowd of curious staff began to gather, awed by the dragon's seemingly insatiable appetite. Tuck's already considerable cream-colored gut was gradually swelling with every defeated burger platter, pushing up against the table in no time, not that he seemed to care. He was in pure food bliss, ignoring the rest of the world in order to focus solely on savoring the wonderful flavors of his feast. There must have been at least a dozen different burgers amongst the hoard presented to him, and Tuck found himself enjoying each and every one of them.

A cheer rose up from the audience when Tuck succeeded in eating enough burgers to get onto the wall of champions, but the dragon's consumption hadn't slowed down at all. Tuck's belly was spreading over and around the table itself, and the servers were forced to start bringing out burgers on rolling carts for lack of space. The kitchen in back was in chaos. No customer had ever eaten so many burgers so fast, and the cooks were fighting to keep up with both Tuck's burgers and the normal orders for the handful of others in the restaurant. To make matters worse, an attempt at the challenge earlier in the day had cleared a large portion of their food stock. If Tuck kept up his pace, there was a distinct chance he'd wipe out everything else.

Tuck passed the next few champions with ease, and—with great fanfare from those around—finally beat the fairly ridiculous record for most burgers eaten. He only just barely seemed aware of

that. Though not nearly as hungry as he'd been upon arrival, Tuck was enjoying the burgers too much to simply stop, and his appetite was supporting him one hundred percent. Tuck's massive belly managed to knock the table over outright, pushing it away from the booth as his growing form continued to fill the space. Low creaks began emanating from the bench as Tuck's size tested its limits, an unseen, dragon tush-shaped indent forming. The once steady stream of burgers was slowing down noticeably as the kitchen ran low on supplies. Three servers were reduced to two and finally back down to one, and even the size of the platters was shrinking.

Inevitably the original server walked back to the kitchen solemnly with merely a single, emaciated burger upon a plate, which Tuck gobbled up practically in one bite.

The server patiently waited for Tuck to finish before getting the dragon's attention with a cough. "Congratulations sir, you've beaten the old record for most burgers eaten in one sitting! We didn't think anyone would unseat that hyena any time soon, and your new record is rather astonishing itself."

"Oh, I ate that much?" Tuck asked, as if his booth-filling gut wasn't evidence enough of that.

"Y-yes. And unfortunately you ate so much we're going to have to shut down the restaurant for the rest of day while we order more ingredients."

Tuck seemed genuinely disappointed. "Darn, I could've gone for a few more at least."

The server tried to hide his surprise as best he could. "We apologize for the inconvenience, sir. We've taken the liberty of calling you a ride considering your...um...mobility situation."

Tuck seemed almost confused at first, and obviously made an attempt to stand before realizing his belly was not only touching the floor, but covering a considerably portion of it. He swiftly blushed in embarrassment before thanking the server, who went off to retrieve his bill. Despite his wonderful meal being cut short, Tuck was still rather content, and new for certain he'd be visiting again once he could fit back through the doors. For now, though, the dragon found himself distracted by thoughts of what to do for dinner...