

## Wrestling Against the Odds

By: IndigoRho

A chorus of cheers echoed throughout the modest arena as a highly-anticipated heavyweight wrestling bout continued to live up to expectations. Reggie “The Kitsune Balloon” and Indi “The Blueberry Boulder” had been feuding for weeks, the massive fox and cheetah both throwing their considerable weight around in backroom altercations and interrupted interviews, but neither actually facing each other in the ring. Fan-favorite Reggie had been demanding a match ever since their first argument, though Indi had managed to heelishly avoid a fair fight until tonight. Of course the cheetah had no intention of having a “fair” fight.

With a barrage of convincing elbow strikes Reggie dazed his opponent, then backed up to prepare his next attack. He sprinted the short distance between them—his singlet-clad belly swaying wildly with every heavy step—slamming his round gut into Indi with all his might. While the cheetah was just as large as his rival, his balance was poor, and the force of the impact was easily powerful enough to knock Indi off his paws and onto the mat with a boom that seemed to shake the stands themselves. Reggie didn't let up, jumping up and delivering a ring-rattling splash. The crowd roared as Reggie positioned himself for the pin, expecting an easy three-count from the ref and a decisive victory. No count came.

In the heat of the moment, few had noticed the ref—Ottsetl—tossed to the mat from the sheer force of Reggie's splash. Those who did, though, were painfully aware the small otter-weasel hybrid's fall had conveniently only occurred *after* Reggie tried to pin. Reggie finally realized something was amiss and turned his head, spotting the downed ref. With a huff he lifted himself off his opponent and waddled over to rouse Ottsetl, but the ref abruptly stood back up as soon as he arrived, unfazed. By then Indi had also recovered, and took advantage of the distraction to attack The Kitsune Balloon from behind, resulting in thunderous boos from the audience.

The match continued, but as time went on it became obvious that any time Reggie gained the advantage, the ref would interfere in some manner. Ottsetl would “accidentally” stumble into the potential path of attacks, forcing Reggie to avoid him, or count his pins suspiciously slow. Indi had bribed refs in the past, and both the crowd and Reggie quickly realized the cowardly Blueberry Boulder had tried to set-up a match he couldn't lose. The Kitsune Balloon did his best to persevere despite the odds being stacked against him, sticking to his morals and letting the chants from the crowd fuel him on. After a particularly glaring attempt to ignore his most recent effort to pin Indi, though, Reggie had finally had enough.

While Indi lazily recovered from Reggie's strike, the hefty fox surprised the much-shorter Ottsetl by grabbing the ref by his tail and lifting him high into the air. Ottsetl flailed about as the crowd cheered.

“Let me down you blubbery oaf, or I'll disqualify you for attacking the ref!” Ottsetl growled, trying but failing to reach around for the paw holding his tail.

Reggie grinned. “If you insist!”

The Kitsune Balloon lifted Ottsetl even higher, opening his mouth wide in the process. Ottsetl's eyes went wide as he realized what the fox was planning, and yelped in fear as he was dropped straight into Reggie's awaiting maw. Reggie's cheeks bulged wide as his mouth filled with ref, Ottsetl's white tail and footpaws all that remained outside. A roar of laughs and cheers burst from the crowd in response. With one, long gulp Reggie swallowed Ottsetl whole, the squirming lump of the ref sliding down the fox's throat before landing in his cavernous stomach. Ottsetl's defiant struggles were barely visible beneath Reggie's considerable bulk.

Indi had finally gotten back onto his footpaws, and immediately grinned smugly at his rival...until he noticed the suspicious absence of his special ref. The cheetah's eyes darted from one side of the ring to the other in search of Ottsetl, until eventually they settled on the slightly wobbling belly of

Reggie. Now it was time for The Kitsune Balloon to grin. Before Indi had any chance to react, Reggie charged him, belly-bumping his opponent hard into the corner ring post. The strike was enough to knock the wind out of Indi and elicit another round of cheers from the crowd, but the two follow-up charges did him in completely. After Indi's attempt at cheating, though, Reggie wasn't going to be satisfied with a simple pin.

Reggie grabbed Indi's arms and opened his mouth wide once more, swiftly closing it around the cheetah's head. Indi squirmed in panic as the fox began to swallow him whole, but he was too exhausted from the rough match to properly defend himself. The audience was whipped into a frenzy as they celebrated Reggie's choice of a finishing move, their chants of "Eat him! Eat him! Eat him" booming throughout the arena. Little by little Reggie managed to gulp down his immense opponent-turned-meal, using the ropes and corner as leverage to lift the cheetah off the ground.

The initial belly-bumps had bounced Ottsel around inside Reggie, and the ref was just recovering when Indi's head pushed into the stomach. Ottsel's eyes went wide at the possibility of sharing such a cramped space with the enormous cheetah, and he desperately shoved at Indi in a failed attempt to halt his descent. A few strong gulps swiftly ended his plot, and Ottsel found himself pressed hard in between the fleshy stomach wall and Indi.

Despite Indi's size, Reggie was able to stretch his lips around the cheetah's hefty middle, allowing gravity to handle the rest for him. His belly ballooned outward in all directions as it filled with obese cheetah, testing the limits of his strength but fortunately not his durable expandex singlet, which continued containing his bulk with ease. Indi's chunky legs and footpaws gradually vanished down Reggie's throat, and his tail was slurped up to an applause from the crowd. With his opponent fully trapped within his gut Reggie collapsed in the corner, letting out a thunderous belch upon landing. His gut wobbled about in dismay, but Indi's many attempts at escape all ended in failure.

A new ref made his way to ring just as Reggie finished up his meal, a large zebra almost as wide as the wrestlers themselves. Panting heavily from his jogging waddle, the new ref nonetheless hurried over to Reggie and lifted the fox's arm into the air, declaring him the winner by "submission". Reggie let out another belch before basking in the cheers and praise from the crowd, gleefully patting his bloated belly. A filling meal was the perfect way to end a hard-fought wrestling match.