

Blueberry Hash

By: IndigoRho

At one of the many parks in the city a lean Geoffroy's cat triumphantly sauntered up a path onto a small hill. Hash stretched and spun a bit, doing everything he could think of to exaggerate how much the long walk from lunch wasn't effecting him. A moment later a midnight-blue cheetah and a red fox stumbled up themselves, panting up a storm. Both were rather hefty—particularly when compared to Hash—with faces as round as their bellies.

“Took you two long enough!” Hash chuckled.

Indi—the cheetah—frowned. “You could've slowed down a little. The walk's killer, especially in this heat!”

The last of the trio—Reggie—had already waddled over to a nearby water fountain, eagerly gulping down cold water. “I still think we should've taken the bus.”

Hash scoffed. “Could either of you even *fit* through the bus doors? Don't wanna risk having to call the fire department to sue the jaws of life to get you free, jumbo!”

“We're not *that* big!” Indi insisted, still catching his breath

“Tell that to all the broken chairs berry-butt,” Hash continued teasing, giving his friend's gut an accusing poke. “You're just jealous I can resist ordering seconds and thirds when I eat.”

Indi and Reggie tended to be apathetic about their weight, but Hash was prone to relentlessly bullying them about it. Normally Indi would've tried to quiet the smaller chatty cat by throwing his weight around, but a more devious idea came to mind.

“Yeah, I almost forgot you can live off a stick of gum a day you twig,” Indi said as he pulled one out, the light shining off its silver wrapper. “I'd offer you this, but you might just blimp up from overindulging.”

Hash wasn't about to let Indi get the last laugh and—just as his cheetah friend had hoped—he snatched the stick of gum right out of Indi's paw and popped it into his mouth.

“I think I can afford a cheat day.” Hash grinned smugly. “Hmmpf, fruity, why am I not surprised?”

Rather than grumble or snap back, Indi simply smiled. Hash assumed it was a ploy, pretending to not be annoyed. Oh well, he could just switch to teasing Reggie about how comfy a bed his belly made, that usually got him good and flustered. He was too distracted to notice how unusually juicy the gum was, or to pinpoint the suspicious flavor: blueberry.

Hash's pink nose abruptly turned a bright shade of blue, and his white muzzle soon followed. Reggie's eyes widened as he saw the changes. His mouth opened to warn Hash but he was swiftly silenced by a nudge from Indi, who winked at him. That was enough to tell the fox he was behind what was happening to Hash, and suddenly Reggie was smiling as well.

Little-by-little Hash's fur shifted to various shades of blue until not a single strand of fur remained his original colors. He was still dutifully chewing the blueberry gum, his full attention dedicated to trying to make his friends blush or grumble, preferably both. Then the *real* changes began.

Hash's flat middle started to gradually swell, the faint sound of sloshing echoing from within as it rounded out. His already-tight shirt soon clung to his new tiny belly. An odd look came upon Hash's face as he finally became aware that something was occurring, and the cat jumped and meowed in surprise as he looked down.

“W-w-what's happening to me!” Hash shouted in a panic, looking over his blue arms and growing gut.

“Wow Hash, you turned blue, just like a blueberry,” Indi laughed.

“Yeah, and you're starting to look as round as one too!” Reggie added.

Hash frantically pulled up his shirt so it wouldn't rip, now sporting a solid pot belly. The blueberry taste in his mouth became painfully clear, and he spat out the gum in a hurry. Unfortunately

the act was far too late. The bubbling of juice in Hash's stomach was only getting louder. He pushed at his ballooning middle in vain as if doing so might return him to normal, but of course it had no effect.

"Not cool!" Hash growled, though he didn't manage to come off as threatening at all. "Hurry up and give me an antidote before I end up as an actual berry!"

"But you look so good round!" Reggie said, prodding the swelling cat's side. "And maybe once you fill out some oompa-loompas will come along and sing a cheery song about how huge a juice ball you are now~"

Hash blushed, even more so once he felt his pants getting tighter. He was inflating frighteningly fast, his chest already swelling to join his massive beach ball of a belly.

"T-there's gotta be a public juicing station nearby, I'll just hide in there till this blows over!" Hash was trying his best to maintain control over the situation, but he was getting rounder and rounder every second.

The expanding cat began waddling off towards where he hoped a juicing station was, only to have his path blocked by Indi. When he turned to take a different route Reggie was in his way. The duo were grinning wide, not yet done having fun with their once-slim friend.

"Now now, Hash, if you go wandering off in your current state you might trip and pop yourself on something sharp, like a rock or a branch," Indi said.

"Or a fork~" There wasn't nearly as much sarcasm in Reggie's voice as Hash would've liked.

Hash was too full of juice to be nimble anymore, and was unable to evade the flabby walls that were his friends. "If I'm not juiced I might explode! L-let me through!"

By then Hash's limbs had begun swelling with juice, too, growing rigid and making movement all but impossible. The seams of Hash's pants and shirt ripped apart, falling to the ground in tatters all around him. His face flushed red. Effectively immobilized, Hash was now at the mercy of the friends he'd spent most of the afternoon teasing.

Hash's arms and legs steadily sunk into his expanding body along with his head, faint creaks emanating from the blueberry cat as his hide was stretched far more than normal. He winced at every one despite knowing he could end up as round as a ball and still hold together. Indi and Reggie were prodding him constantly from every direction, and in plain sight of strangers at the park.

"Getting nice and ripe there Hash." Reggie pressed a paw firmly against Hash's hide, treating him like fruit. "You know, you're basically Indi's doppelganger right now!"

Indi got a good laugh out of the joke. "I don't know about that Reggie, he's way too enormous to get mistaken for me! Though they might think he's my bigger bro or something."

"Please guys, I need to get to a juicing station!" Hash practically begged.

With his head partially sunk into his massive body talking took some effort. His flailing paws and tail were the only other things left sticking out of the berry he'd become. While the pressure inside him was enough to be uncomfortable the juice had thankfully stopped flowing; at least he wasn't going to keep swelling till he burst.

"I've never had the pleasure of seeing you so wide Hash, I'm sure we can hold off on the juicing for a *little* while at least~" Indi gave Hash a solid push, enough to cause the cat berry to roll onto his back.

Hash whined and meowed, flailing even more as the juices within him sloshed about loudly. Without warning Indi pressed both paws against Hash's taut side and gave him another push, rolling the cat across the grass in Reggie's direction. Reggie braced himself, but still let out a small *oof* as he stopped Hash.

"You're so heavy now Hash! I think Indi and I have started rubbing off on ya." Reggie gave Hash a teasing pat. "Hey Indi, now that I've gotten a better look at him, I think maybe we should consider entering Hash into the county fair. I'm sure he'd be guaranteed a few blue ribbons for biggest berry. Or juiciest~"

Hash's attempt to disagree was interrupted as he was rolled back to Indi, leaving the cat dizzy.

“Sounds like a swell plan to me! He'll be the hit of the fair circuit, the most award winning fruit in history.” Indi was leaning against Hash, much to the blimped up cat's dismay.

“You can't leave me like this for that long, it could become permanent!” Hash yelped.

Reggie waddled over, leaning into Hash as well and adding to the pressure. “I've always wanted a berry friend. A great source of free juice, fun for playing with at parties, a decent bed if they don't burst at the seams while you're sitting on them...”

Hash swore his two tormenters put even more of their weight into him after that, his hide creaking in protest.

“He might need to move into a place with wider doors and hallways, though,” Indi laughed. “Would have to cushion all the sharp corners, too. Can't have our good friend Hashberry ending up as a puddle of juice after all.”

“J-jokes over guys, I'm sorry I made fun of you for being fat, don't let me permanently transform into a berry!” Hash said in desperation.

The cat's pleas were promptly ignored.

“I was just thinking of having him installed in my kitchen,” Reggie said. “A good juice bar would do wonders for my health, and having a low-maintenance roommate would be great.”

“Honestly, I don't think he'd last a week in your place. You'd end up inviting me over to help you finish off the pile of blueberry pies you'd spontaneously made, and be coy about revealing who the secret ingredient was~” Indi grinned devilishly at Hash and licked his lips.

“I-I'm not a berry, I'm not food!” Hash whimpered, wiggling with all his might and managing nothing more than a useless wobble. He was simply too heavy to struggle.

As if in response both Indi and Reggie's stomachs growled audibly, causing Hash's heart to skip a beat.

“Don't get me associating the berry cat with food Spots, or I might start considering an early dinner.” Reggie's persistent prods and squeezes suddenly felt ominous to Hash.

“No being greedy Reggie!” Indi added a few sinister pokes of his own. “There's plenty of Hashberry to go around.”

Hash's whimpers were drowned out by the splashing of his internal juices as his gluttonous friends rocked him back and forth. The unlucky cat wasn't sure how his day was going to end, but he was feeling less and less confident the answer was being back to his happy slim self. Suddenly just being a permanent berry didn't seem so bad, at least when compared to the alternatives...