

## Lazy River Floatie

By: IndigoRho

The sun was out in full force, as it had been all week, ensuring the Emerald Rapids water park was the popular place to beat the heat. August—a goat—and Tobias—a lion/goat hybrid—had finally found time to visit. They'd already hit up most of the water slides and the wave pools, and were now eager to relax in the lazy river before exploring the rest of the park. As they sheltered in the shade near the concrete river, though, a thought came to Tobias.

"I think I'm gonna be my own floatie today," the chimera said with a smile.

August laughed. "Aren't you worried about clogging up the whole river?"

"Real funny. There'll be plenty of room for the other inner tubes to pass me, and I plan on being light enough to be nudged out of the way if need be," Tobias said, retrieving a tiny bottle from his swim trunk pockets. "Besides, we both know how much you enjoy laying on top of me when I'm bloated."

August blushed, his initial attempts to respond failing comically. "It's comfortable!"

"Good." Tobias opened the bottle and gulped down the pair of pills rattling around inside.

The two stared at Tobias' slim, black-furred middle, anticipating change. Sure enough, the chimera's stomach suddenly began to round out, filling with air. Tobias smiled, lightly drumming on his swelling middle with his hooves. He adored inflating, the sensation of steadily growing larger and rounder, taking up space while being deceptively light. At party's he'd take any opportunity to blimp up a bit for the amusement of others, and in the past he'd spent the entire day essentially spherical and at August's mercy. His friends liked to joke that he'd become a balloon permanently one day; he didn't try to hide how much he'd enjoy such an outcome.

Once Tobias' gut had reached the size of a beach ball, other changes began to occur. A small plastic nozzle formed where his belly-button had been, and the fur surrounding it took on a glossy sheen. His inflation—and accompanying transformation—steadily spread throughout his body. The chimera's middle took on a round shape, while his legs, arms, and hooves all began puffing up. A long strip circling his body had completely turned from furry hide to rubbery plastic, just transparent enough to be seen through. Some guests nearby stopped to watch the spectacle, and while seeing someone transform into a living pool toy wasn't *that* rare, seeing them inflate at the same time was a bit more unusual.

Tobias spread his legs as the inflation continued, arms outstretched as they gradually became rigid. He chuckled as his skin tingled during the transformation process. His swollen, mostly spherical middle was completely plastic now, and the chimera's body squeaked as he worked to maintain his balance. Hooves fused together and poofed a little, his arms and legs swelled till they were basically inflated domes attached to his round form. The chimera's dark red mane grew rigid as his head finished transforming, his eyes reflective and unblinking, yet still very emotive. Tobias' round cheeks now squeaked whenever he grinned, which was fairly constant at this point. After only a couple quick minutes he been turned completely into an overinflated pool toy.

August gave his friend a teasing poke, watching Tobias wobble back and forth in response. "Ah, in your natural state now?"

"Well it would be if a certain *someone* would work harder to keep me a blimp," Tobias moved his hooves and head as much as possible just so he could squeak up a storm. "Alright August, your floatie's ready for ya."

"Hmm, I should probably run a few tests just to make sure," August grinned.

August gave Tobias' middle just hard enough of a shove to cause the chimera to slowly roll over onto his back, squeaking the entire time. The goat casually circled his helpless friend, poking his sides at random spots and squeezing his puffy hooves. Tobias giggled, tickled by the playful prodding. He tried not to blush *too* much, taking joy in being so defenseless. After teasing him some more, August pressed down hard on the Tobias' middle, leaning in with his full weight and causing other parts of the

chimera to briefly swell in response.

“H-hey, don't be so rough with your pool toys!” Tobias laughed.

“Just making sure there weren't any leaks before I sail you down the river,” August said, giving Tobias another firm poke to make him wobble.

“I'm way more durable than a store-bought floatie!” Tobias insisted. “Plus I've gotta life-time guarantee.”

August laughed. “Sure, sure. Well, time to put you to good use ya blimp.”

The goat lifted his bloated friend up with ease and carried him the short distance to the lazy river, delighting in the odd looks others gave the duo. He carefully lowered the pool toy chimera into the water on his back, holding him in place so the artificial current didn't immediately take him away. After a moment's hesitation August launched himself over the edge, landing right on Tobias' cushiony middle and causing the chimera to bob around wildly as he started drifting.

Tobias spurted out a mouthful of water once his head was back above the surface, smirking as he felt himself gently rotate down the river. August was relatively light, but Tobias could still feel the goat's weight on his rubbery middle, and of course hear the *squirks* made any time he shifted. As a pool toy he didn't feel the burden of the heat nearly as bad as usual, while the flowing water still felt just as soothing. He didn't need to worry about slipping from an inner tube or getting sunburnt, he could simply relax.

Atop the peak of his oversized pool toy, August sprawled out and sighed. He rather enjoyed treating his friend an object, especially since he knew the feeling was mutual. Trapping the chimera in this state for an extended period was definitely tempting, though there was always the tiniest fear he'd never turn him back. He'd need to find a new roommate, and caring for an inflatable couch was a big commitment, after all...