

Becoming the Pool

By: IndigoRho

Indi let out a content sigh as he floated in the pool at the local gym, staring up at the ceiling and basking in the warm sun rays shining in through a row of large glass windows. The wide midnight-blue cheetah normally didn't enjoy swimming—he tired out quickly—which was why he'd opted for a lazier approach. Instead of fur he was sporting slick, shining plastic that mimicked his spots, and a nozzle where his belly button used to be. His limbs were more rigid than usual, paws round and puffy. Even the slightest movement on his part elicited creaks from his hide.

As a living pool toy Indi didn't have to worry about constantly treading water, his air-filled body bobbing on the surface of the pool effortlessly. Though he looked a little goofy the improved comfort was well worth it, and besides, people transformed into pool toys all the time. Some even opted to stay as inflatables almost full time.

The pool toy cheetah's relaxation was abruptly interrupted as something pushed against his back and lifted him into the air. Indi wobbled helplessly, and although he couldn't see the prankster he had a good guess as to who they were.

“Let me down Rho, I'm not a toy!” Indi insisted, squeaking as he struggled.

“Well you certainly *look* like a pool toy to me! Little bit heavier than a regular one, though.” The orange-striped zebra below Indi teased. Rho was fairly doughy himself—though still not as big as Indi—but unlike the cheetah he loved swimming. He bounced his friend on the tip of his hooves for a bit, ignoring Indi's chirps and squeaks of protest. Eventually Rho let Indi back down, setting the thick pool toy onto his belly.

Indi swatted at Rho, though the zebra didn't bother dodging the puffy bops to his muzzle. “Bounce me around one more time and you'll regret it, stripes!”

The threats lacked weight coming from a pool toy. “What are you gonna do, bump into me?” He laughed and poked at his friend some more.

Indi scowled at not being taken seriously, and in the heat of the moment he did what he knew best: ate. The vengeful pool toy lunged—maw open wide—and managed to stuff Rho's head into his mouth. The strike had happened so quickly Rho didn't react at first, giving Indi a few precious seconds to dunk his meal into the water and start swallowing. Rho tried to swim away, but with his arms pinned to his sides and a pool toy latched onto his head he was unable to do anything aside from poorly tread water.

As Rho was completely underwater his consumption went unnoticed by the others casually enjoying the pool, not that anyone would've made an effort to interfere; snacking on others was just as common as turning into pool toys after all. A couple strong gulps pulled Rho's head into Indi's hollow body, and the zebra made sure to voice his displeasure right away in the form of a series of curses. Very little air was lost as Indi gorged upon his friend, his belly swelling more with each swallow. He couldn't taste anything or even get hungry as a pool toy, but the sensation of expanding was still delightful to Indi, who began to aggressively purr as he filled up on zebra.

Despite Indi's buoyant nature the “passenger” he was taking in was hefty, and the pair began to slowly sink towards the bottom of the pool. Rho's persistent thrashing didn't dissuade Indi in the slightest. When the zebra's arms fully entered the pool toy's interior he punched at the plastic walls, wobbling his captor and provoking a few squeaks but nothing else. He couldn't believe he'd let himself get caught so easily by a pool toy of all things, and knew Indi would never let him hear the end of it.

Indi gently settled on the pool's tiled floor just as he completely sealed away Rho, eventually ending up on his back. The smug pool toy grinned and patted his bloated belly with both paws, watching his meal squirming within. The material that made up his hide was mostly opaque, but he could still see the imprints made by Rho. Though he was glad to have made good on his threat to Rho, he regretted being unable to speak underwater, which denied him precious teasing opportunities.

Rho, on the hand, could complain all he wanted. “You gluttonous floatie, I can't believe you ate me! When I get out I'm gonna deflate you and hide you in a closet for a week!”

The only response he got was a triumphant thump on his stretchy prison.

“Course I don't know what your grand plan is now that you've trapped yourself on the pool bottom; there's no way you're strong enough to move with me weighing you down!” Rho bitterly gloated, taking whatever victory he could.

Indi's grin faded. He hadn't considered what would happen *after* eating Rho, just how great it'd feel. The stuffed pool toy wobbled comically back and forth, but he couldn't get up at all, just as Rho had claimed. His failures were met with muffled laughter from within.

“Ha, now you'll *have* to let me out if you don't want to be stuck down here for hours!” Rho sneered, his mood already improving.

Victory snatched from his grasp, Indi was about to begrudgingly cough his friend up when an idea came to mind; he wouldn't be stuck in the pool anymore if he were to drain it. With a maniacal grin the pool toy opened his maw as wide as possible, and the pool's water began gushing right into him. Rho yelped as he was hit by the ensuing geyser, forced to struggle to keep his head above the rapidly rising water.

As Indi began to gulp down the pool his belly ballooned outward dramatically in every direction. A small whirlpool formed, like the drain of a bathtub. Inevitably a husky casually swam right into the funnel's path on accident, and the force sucked him straight down to the bottom. He thrashed in confusion as he was dragged towards the awaiting maw of a pool toy, but he was powerless to avoid getting sucked right in. Indi's gullet was like a pipe, so the unlucky husky raced right through it without any trouble at all, not blocking the flow of water for a second.

Bigger and bigger Indi grew, the pool toy willing to swallow the whole pool if necessary. As his plastic hide stretched and thinned it slowly became transparent, giving Rho and the husky a clear view of what was going on outside. The whirlpool strengthened, dragging two more swimmers into Indi's belly with ease, then another, and another. Soon the currents in the pool had spread to every corner, and no one could ignore something odd was happening. Some went the flow at first, more curious than concerned, but once they were pulled under everyone made a break for it.

Those closest to the edge were able to scramble up and out before the water level lowered too much, but even the strongest swimmers found themselves being slowly pulled towards the mysterious whirlpool, only able to prolong the inevitable. Indi's whole body vibrated as he purred up a storm, delighting in the feeling of swelling ridiculously. Within his massive middle the trapped swimmers were treading water and pushing at his sides, much to the pool toy's amusement.

When over half the water of the pool was gone the dome of Indi's now see-through belly breached the surface like an island. A few swimmers attempted to cling to the pool toy's middle for safety but none could get a solid grip on the wet plastic, their grabs prompting squeaks. As more and more of Indi was exposed the room was filled with the sounds of his pool toy hide creaking and stretching. His bloated sides pressed against those of the pool, water replaced by wobbling plastic.

A lone gator had managed to avoid Indi's maw for what seemed like an eternity, though he was quickly tiring out and had nowhere to hide. He vanished from sight just as Indi's head surfaced, the cheetah swallowing one last time before breathing a loud sigh of relief. Nearly every inch of the pool had been filled with water-logged pool toy, a dozen or more swimmers relocated to the new indoor pool inside Indi's mountainous belly. Those who'd managed to escape didn't seem interested in freeing the less fortunate ones, most simply grabbing their things and leaving.

Utterly immense and thoroughly immobile, Indi returned to what he'd been doing before Rho had decided to bug him: relaxing on his back and enjoying the warm sun...