

The Pool Snack

By: IndigoRho

Perched on his lifeguard tower, Kai kept a casual eye on the swimmers still hanging out in the pool. The blue-and-white koi dragon always enjoyed his summer job at the Emerald Rapids Water Park, considering it a good excuse to be close to water. Once he'd figured out the best ways to deal with troublemakers the job had become a breeze, too. Just sitting under an umbrella in the shade, mixed with the occasional warning to guests running or diving where they shouldn't. On top of it all he was usually allowed to swim in the pools after closing.

A loud belch and a chorus of familiar laughter suddenly caught Kai's attention. Nearby stood a rabbit, a jaguar, and an otter, a trio who'd been a collective annoyance all afternoon. Running, splashing, cursing—none had done anything truly worthy of getting kicked out of the park, but they'd been skirting and bending the rules far too much for Kai's liking. They'd also been throwing their weight around, literally.

The rather doughy rabbit and jaguar both sported bulging guts that bounced from the movements of recent prey. The belch had come from the jaguar, who must have made a snack out of another park guest only moments before. Of course eating others wasn't against the rules either—vore was far too widespread for such a thing. Regardless, Kai wasn't fond of the three using his pool as a buffet, especially when *he* was the one who had to deal with any swim trunks, goggles, or flip-flops they belched up.

The brown-and-white otter was still as slim as ever, though. While Kai couldn't hear their conversation, he got the impression the otter's two friends were trying to pressure him into glutting as well. Shrugs and head shakes were countered by laughs and belly slaps, the otter growing increasingly frustrated. Eventually he prodded the middles of both and stormed off towards the pool, gracefully diving right in. Seemingly content, the rabbit and jaguar waddled off to find lounge chairs to relax on.

Kai sighed. The otter was bound to find a suitable meal soon enough, and his ease of movement in the water would give him a solid edge. Quite a few amphibious and aquatic preds hunted at the water park for just that reason. There'd be more junk for the koi dragon to retrieve from the pool and less time to enjoy a relaxing swim of his own. Unless...

Kai was just at home in a pool as the otter was, perhaps even moreso. His slim profile and long back fin allowed him to dart through the water, while his gills ensured he never had to go up for air. He was also admittedly experienced with eating people underwater, though he tried not to indulge *too* often; being hefty tended to make his job harder.

Eating the otter so close to closing time wouldn't have much of an impact, but it'd certainly improve Kai's mood. And maybe the otter would think twice about eating in the pool once he re-formed. With his mind thoroughly made up, Kai slid down the tower and approached the pool, finding his prey after a moment's search.

The faintest splash accompanied Kai's dive. The koi dragon headed straight towards the bottom before racing in the direction he was certain the otter had been in last. He swam undetected, eyes shifting from one pair of kicking legs to the next. Kai couldn't help but grin as he thought of himself as a shark searching for prey, though if all went as planned the otter's sudden disappearance would go unnoticed.

Fortunately the otter hadn't drifted far, either because he was being picky about his coerced meal or just plain lazy. Kai lurked directly below him, crouched on the pool's bottom, waiting for the perfect time to strike.

When Kai finally launched upwards, it was practically on instinct. He waited until the very last second to open his maw wide, a torrent of water pouring down his throat right before he felt the otter's footpaws slipping in as well. The otter's slim, soaked body provided almost no resistance. Ankles, knees, hips, waist—all taken in by a single, powerful gulp.

Kai's flat belly ballooned rapidly outward as the otter emptied into it. His white tank-top clung to his chest as it was pushed up to make room for his new gut. As the koi dragon felt his momentum slowing he reached up and grabbed his prey's sides with both claws, pulling him down beneath the water's surface. The otter didn't even have a chance to shout in surprise before going under.

The added weight of the water and otter caused Kai to slowly sink. He aggressively continued swallowing his prey, taking in his chest with ease. The otter was flailing futilely, barely aware of what was happening and unable to stop it. Eyes wide and cheeks puffed out, he was frantically holding onto what little breath he had left as he slid deeper and deeper into the voracious lifeguard. Getting pulled into Kai's warm gullet didn't improve his situation.

Kai was happily slurping up the otter's arms as he settled onto the pool bottom in a sitting position. He made the final gulp with a grin. His belly jutted out before him, a massive ball of white-and-blue that wobbled constantly. Occasionally the faint imprint of a paw or head would break its smooth surface.

A small pocket of foul air gave the otter some relief, but he was also neck deep in the water Kai had swallowed along with him. His struggles were mainly for show, as even he knew there was little chance he'd be able to escape his wet prison *and* swim away before being caught again. He didn't know whether to be thankful or worried the mysterious pred who'd eaten him hadn't begun belching out what little air he had left.

Resting at the bottom of the pool was tempting to Kai, but the koi dragon still had a job to do. Kai shifted until his bloated belly was hanging downward, then began carefully swimming towards the shallow end of the pool. Dragging a full gut wasn't easy. He had to expend a great deal of energy, and by the time Kai waddled up the steps and out of the water he was panting.

Kai shook the water off his face and sighed in satisfaction, gulping down plenty of fresh air for the troublemaker stewing in his stomach. The sight of his bulging belly drew the attentions of quite a few guests. Some nervously distanced themselves, others snickered. Most simply shrugged off Kai's predation as nothing worse than hearing a loud belch in public.

The complaints of Kai's meal were barely audible, and easily silenced by the koi dragon giving his middle a solid, teasing shake.

"Don't worry dude, you're nice and safe in there!" Kai laughed as he slowly made his way back to the lifeguard tower. "And you should consider yourself lucky, you get to hang out with me for the rest of my shift!"

Kai's meal instantly grew rowdier, though a couple shakes and burps quelled the rebellion quickly.

Getting back onto the lifeguard tower was a strenuous chore in of itself, but Kai managed to succeed eventually. The whole tower creaked and groaned beneath his weight, music to the koi dragon's ears. There were plenty of hefty lifeguards at the water park so he was certain it'd hold, despite the protests. He just hoped he wouldn't need to climb it again while stuffed.

As Kai stood watch he occasionally glanced over to where the otter's friends had settled down. Every time they checked their phones or scanned the pool he smiled, guessing they were gradually getting more and more impatient with the missing otter. Inevitably they grew tired of waiting. They gathered their belongings and waddled off, the rabbit belching up a flipper while his friend laughed.

"Oops, looks like your friends decided to leave you," Kai teased, kneading his round, squirming gut. "They probably realized you ended up on the menu instead~"

He swore he could hear grumbling as a paw thumped against his stomach.

"Now don't be that way! You should just sit back and relax in your VIP pool," Kai said. "Maybe if you behave I'll let you nap once my shift ends. Otherwise..."

Kai let the threat hang on the otter's mind, and the squirming ceased for the most part. Perhaps he'd need to consider eating troublemakers more often...