

Pool Toy Tailmaw

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Summer was probably Jet's favorite time of the year, even if the cheetah's black fur tended to heat up easily. Thankfully he had plenty of ways to comfortably enjoy the weather without feeling like he was stuck in an oven. Relaxing in the pool was the most obvious choice. Sometimes Jet preferred taking more extreme measures, though.

As the cheetah floated atop the surface of the pool the sun shone off his translucent, vinyl hide. All his features were more rounded, his white spots painted on. While not exactly heavy to begin with he was now light enough to get pushed over the water by a stiff breeze.

Jet was a pool toy.

In such a curious form he didn't feel the full brunt of the sun's warmth, and didn't feel like he needed to drain the whole pool just to stay hydrated. Sure he was too buoyant to truly swim, but that could wait for another day. A day when there were more friends around who were likely to take advantage of the cheetah when he was a pool toy. With just Indi around he didn't have to worry.

There was a loud splash followed by the drumming of water raining down on Jet's hollow surface. Indi had done *another* cannonball, about all the chubby midnight-blue mouse was capable of doing in a pool since he was incapable of diving. He resurfaced and swam over to Jet, using him as a flotation device.

"Hey!" Jet growled as he wobbled in the water. "I'm not your raft!"

"Well duh," Indi said back with a snicker. "You're way too small to be a comfy one! If you'd just let me bring over a pump we could turn you into a *proper* pool toy."

"No way, you'd have me bigger than the pool itself if I let you get anywhere near me with a pump or an air tank or even a damn bellows! I already have to keep Chomps away from that stuff as is."

"Can't blame Chomps for having good taste!"

Hearing his name, Jet's tailmaw turned around, the vinyl creaking as it did. Chomps was Jet's more mischievous half, and the cheetah couldn't escape him even transformed. While Jet did his best to stay fit and trim so he could indulge in a plethora of athletic pursuits, Chomps just wanted to get bigger. He'd sneak snacks whenever he could, and had gotten distressingly good at ordering delivery if left alone next to a phone for too long. He'd also quickly discovered that the fastest way to get big was to simply eat people.

Jet himself *did* like eating others on occasion, but it was a rare treat and always someone small enough to not cause too big a dent to his waistline. Chomps, meanwhile, would gobble up the fattest person he could grab ahold of. The tailmaw was a menace as far as Jet was concerned, but there really wasn't much he could do about his rampant gluttony. Aside from practically living at the gym anytime Chomps scored a hefty haul.

At least as a pool toy Chomps couldn't make him fatter. He hoped.

After some thoroughly ineffectual squeaky growling Jet managed to shoo away Indi. His attention returned quickly to the clear sky above, the cheetah eager to be lazy again. Chomps' had shifted to Indi.

Though the mouse certainly wasn't what Chomps would consider a filling meal, there really weren't any other options. He just needed to wait for the perfect time to strike.

Utterly unaware he was being eyed up by the tailmaw, Indi continued swimming around the pool, carefree. He glided under the water, plotting to come up under Jet and flip the pool toy. As Indi approached Chomps abruptly swung around into his path, maw opening wide.

Water rushed into Chomps' mouth, through Jet's tail and into his hollow middle. Already darting right for Chomps, the sudden flow of water pulled the shocked mouse right in. Indi was no stranger to getting eaten, but that didn't make him any good at escaping a determined pred. The inside of Jet's tail

was like a slide. His shoulders and chest slipped past Chomps' lips with ease, and wiggling only seemed to pull him in deeper.

Jet himself was completely oblivious to what was happening within him. He didn't see or hear the water filling him, or the weight building in his tail. When Indi's consumption caused him to bob about on the surface he merely mumbled at the mouse to stop making waves, gaze never leaving the sky.

Far too late Indi began to shout for help, his voice echoing up Jet's tail and into his belly. It was just muffled enough for Jet to ignore. Indi was already up to his knees in pool toy. As he emptied into the stomach he pushed at the vinyl sides of his prison, which he could just barely see out of. He cursed himself for encouraging Chomps' gluttony only minutes before.

Eventually the combination of water and mouse began to sink Jet, and he could no longer ignore Chomps' snack. He wobbled wildly as he tried to stay afloat. "Chomps you'd better not be guzzling water! Shut your mouth this instant!" The pool toy fumed. Then he saw the imprint of a paw pushing out from his side, and grew even more furious. "Indi!? How were you dumb enough to get within grabbing range of Chomps! Get out of me!"

"I would if I could!" Indi whimpered back, the water level rising around him.

As Jet sunk beneath the surface he could no longer yell at his clumsy friend. All his efforts to pull out Indi were doomed to failure, the pool toy too bloated with water and mouse to reach the end of his tail. He watched Indi's footpaws slip fully into Chomps' mouth, the tailmaw grinning in triumph as he finished swallowing his modest meal.

All Jet could do was frown as he gently landed on the pool bottom, his middle wobbling in slow motion on impact. Sitting up proved impossible, Jet thoroughly waterlogged. Inside the rounded dome of Jet's belly, Indi wasn't in much better shape. He kept his head above water in a small pocket of air, trapped in a pool within a pool. It wasn't how he'd expected his day of relaxation to go.

Unable to talk, Jet simply glared—first down at Indi, and then over at Chomps. The tailmaw let out a small burp, bubbles erupting from his mouth. Once again he'd won. Jet grumbled and looked straight up, where the sky could sort of still be seen past all the water. He didn't want to think about how long it might take for him to escape the pool...