

Bubble Gum Tiger

By: IndigoRho

With the school year over the Zeta Nu Delta frat house was practically deserted. The only frat members still around were those who'd enrolled in Summer semester courses, often to make up for less than stellar performances in earlier classes. JD was just one such student.

The plump tiger lazily headed down the stairs to the frat house's main floor, dressed in nothing but a pair of pink swim trunks. Though he should've been studying for a test later that afternoon, the allure of the wonderful weather had proved impossible to resist. As far as JD was concerned a relaxing dip in the pool wasn't going to hurt.

While passing through the kitchen JD's attention was caught by a bright pink package wedged in between the fruit bowl and some bottles of liquor. Curious, he pulled it free, discovering it was gum. The packaging seemed a bit generic, "Mega Bubble" written in silver letters with an appropriately large bubble in between the words. He didn't know how long the gum had been hidden there, and he really didn't care. Free gum was free gum.

JD tossed a piece into his mouth and continued on his way, happily chewing away at the gum. The taste was decent but not spectacular, and the tiger wasn't too surprised it'd just been abandoned by the original owner. At the very least it was juicier than most. As he chewed a light chill surged through his body, shrugged off as a breeze from the air conditioner.

JD's nose suddenly turned brighter to a shade of pink matching his swim trunks. The pink then spread in all directions, covering up any orange and white but leaving the black stripes intact, if a hint paler than usual. With no convenient mirrors along his route JD had no way of noticing the changes once they started. Even when his belly was bright pink he remained oblivious, attention focused on the clear blue skies and shimmering pool as he walked outside.

No one else was taking advantage of the pool—thankfully—so JD was set to have the whole thing to himself. As he stretched in anticipation, though, he finally caught sight of something unexpectedly pink. JD nearly jumped when he looked down and saw that his fur had changed color, the tiger still mindlessly chewing on the bubble gum. He swiftly dipped a paw into the pool in a useless attempt to wash away the pink.

Eventually he remembered the odd gum and spat it out in frustration. Another frat member must have left the prank gum there as a joke, and there was no way JD would be able to hide the fact he'd fallen for it; his bright pink fur would ensure that. Once he figured out the culprit he'd shove the rest of the gum right down their throats till they glowed bright. Unfortunately the preemptively vengeful tiger's transformation had only just begun.

JD's plump middle abruptly started swelling, rounding out and expanding at a steady pace. He immediately ceased all thoughts of revenge as he tried to deal with the newest crisis. Pressing down on his ballooning belly with both paws did nothing, the tiger cursing up a storm. His fur was also matting together and getting slick. Sunlight reflected off him as he gained a noticeable sheen, and confusion rapidly took over.

A wave of dizziness came over JD. He stumbled, his body feeling far lighter than normal. By then his fur was solid and shiny, almost like latex. JD's eyes widened in fear when he realized he could faintly see through his own puffy gut, the surface of which was translucent.

The tiger tried to yell for help, but his jaws refused to open, as if something sticky was holding them together. The next time he frantically prodded his swelling middle his paw pushed in deeper than expected and he almost couldn't retrieve it. It was as if his whole body was turning into...gum.

JD let out a muffled whimper as he expanded bigger and bigger. He widened his stance and stretched out his arms to avoid them getting stuck either together or to his massive middle. His bubble of a body was mostly spherical, gradually enveloping his inflated limbs in its seemingly ceaseless quest to grow huge. All the bubblegum tiger could do was wobble and whimper. He didn't have a way to alert

any of his fellow frat brothers, and he was increasingly unsure any of them would even know how to help him if they happened to wander by. They might even find a way to make things *worse*.

The pressure building within him was beginning to dominate his thoughts, preventing him from thinking clearly and demanding his full attention. He was disoriented and in a daze. It was like being drunk. As the tiger's body ballooned over his limbs—leaving just a pair of wiggling paws jutting out—JD became completely incoherent. His gaze drifted aimlessly and he groaned, incapable of focusing on anything aside from the terrible pressure.

The sun shone through the translucent tiger whose hide was stretched thin, nearly to the breaking point. He creaked and moaned nonstop. Eight feet wide, nine feet wide, ten feet, eleven feet. A person on the second floor could have looked out the window and right into JD's dopey eyes.

JD had been fortunate enough to start inflating far from any furniture or branches that would've burst the bubblegum tiger early on, but that wasn't of much help as he continued swelling. As the pressure became too much JD let out a long, final whimper, followed by a loud *POP!*

In an instant the tiger was gone, globs of pink gum hurled in every direction. The gum rained upon the pool and the patio, pelted the trees and the walls, rattled doors and windows alike. It created a terrible mess of sticky gunk but left no signs of who the gunk had been. Everyone would simply assume a rival frat had played an obnoxious prank. In the pool a pair of pink swim trunks floated about lazily, ensuring at least some part of JD succeeded in enjoying a nice, relaxing swim...