

Quantum Cupcake

By: IndigoRho

“Ok, so it's a cupcake.”

The disappointment on August's face was undeniable, the black-and-white goat slouching a little as he held up the pastry he'd spent days working to perfect. “Raf, it's not *just* a cupcake, it's a *quantum* cupcake! It's probably the most advance cupcake ever baked!”

The obese, pink-mohawked hyena in front of him didn't appear moved, though his perpetual scowl made it impossible to tell if he was actually annoyed. “A fancy cupcake then.”

August's frustration prompted a terse bleat that actually startled his large crewmate. “If you keep up the snark I'm not gonna let you taste-test it! My incredibly awesome quantum cupcake manages to produce the taste of *hundreds* of different cupcakes and pastries, one after the other in the blink of an eye. But the best part is, every single unique taste will stay fresh in your mind; you'd be able to eat one cupcake but feel like you'd indulged on a whole bakery's worth!”

There was doubt in Raf's face but also a noticeable hint of interest. “R-really?”

“*Really.*” August knew he had Raf won over at that point. The hyena had always struggled to handle his enormous appetite and tendency towards gorging on snacks unwittingly, and August's experimental cupcake had the potential to ease those urges. Maybe. To be honest August merely didn't want to use himself as the test subject for a treat that was more science than pastry. “*Now* do you want a taste?”

Raf stared at the cupcake for a hard, long minute, as if it were the holy grail and a vial of poison all at once. “This isn't just a trick to get me to eat more, right.” It wasn't so much a question as a vaguely paranoid accusation.

“If that's what I was after I'd have a whole plate of the damn things!” August said, truthfully. He'd fattened up the hyena for fun often enough to not be offended by the accusation. “So just eat it and reap the rewards of a thousand cupcakes in one!”

For as grumpy as Raf could get, he was woefully susceptible to peer pressure, and quickly caved. “Alright, alright, I'll eat your dumb magic cupcake,” he said as he snatched the pastry from August.

“It's not magic it's—oh whatever,” August mumbled, just thankful Raf had agreed to try the cupcake at all.

After a suspicious sniff of the cupcake Raf took a tiny bite out of it. His eyes widened in seconds. In a flash his taste buds were pelted with a barrage of flavors—chocolate, blueberry, banana, macadamia, cinnamon. All were crystal clear and wonderful, and a for a brief moment Raf's frown actually faded. He wasn't smiling, but not looking aggressively grouchy was rare for the hyena. As soon as he'd recovered from the initial shock he took another, larger bite, the flavors hitting him even more intensely than before. August was saying something to him but he ignored him, instead focusing entirely on the best cupcake he'd ever eaten until it was nothing but a few scattered crumbs on his paw.

“How as the taste?” August's voice was reaching Raf's ears again.

“A-amazing! It actually tasted just like you said it would!” Raf wiped out the last crumbs, his stomach already eager for more of the new treat.

August breathed a long sigh of relief. “Oh man I actually got it to work on the first try! I was worried I'd have to go through like a dozen batches before something edible came out.”

“Wait, you hadn't tasted it already?” Raf's scowl returned, the hyena glaring at his crewmate.

“Um...well, not really,” August sheepishly admitted.

“So this thing could've been dangerous!”

Raf took a heavy step forward while August took two back.

“N-no!” August insisted. “Just might've not tasted good! The simulations I ran were really promising, practically no weird anomalies or hypothetical...side...effects...”

The goat's eyes had slowly drifted towards Raf's massive belly, which he swore had gotten even larger without him noticing. Then he realized it was *still* growing. Raf couldn't help but follow August's gaze, but rather than look stunned or afraid he merely looked exasperated.

“What the Hell!” Raf growled, gesturing towards his swelling gut. The white bodysuit he wore could undoubtedly stretch to handle his unwanted expansion, but at the cost of clearly showing off the expanding mass.

There was a definite sag to the hyena's middle, and August guessed without asking that Raf was rapidly filling up with something solid. The reason why hit him soon after, prompting a nervous laugh.

“Oh, of course! When eating the quantum cupcake didn't just replicate the flavors of a thousand different cupcakes, but the *mass* of them as well!” He sounded proud at having figured out the issue so quickly, not that Raf got any less grumpy. “Guess that makes sense.”

“So I'm filling up with a thousand cupcakes!” Raf's rage wasn't necessarily directed at August as much as it was his consistently horrible luck.

The hyena grumbled and growled as his belly grew wider by the second. He stumbled and grabbed his gut firmly in both paws as the weight became harder to handle. The whole situation was so bizarre Raf couldn't think of even a single outlandish way to halt his expansion, already internally grumbling about how huge of a hassle the aftermath would be. The material of his bodysuit audibly creaked as it stretched, just another obnoxious reminder that he was getting massive.

Inevitably Raf was forced to his knees by his own belly, which jiggled as it hit the floor, still swelling. With little chance of Raf being able to enact retribution while grounded, August allowed himself to more openly enjoy the amusing side effect of his confectionery masterpiece. Sure he hadn't *intended* to blimp up Raf, but creating a cupcake that could stuff someone so efficiently was a wonderful accident as far as he was concerned.

Raf grew and grew, rising atop his mountain of a gut as he filled with more and more cupcakes. The bigger he got the more concern flashed on his face. The distant sides of his belly were pushing into cabinets and enveloping furniture, and he was starting to worry he wouldn't stop swelling until he'd literally filled the entire room. August was forced to steadily back away in the face of the doughy wall that was Raf's middle, the hyena's bodysuit dutifully keeping up.

Raf's back pressed against the ceiling and his belly smooshed against three walls before he finally felt the rumblings in his stomach cease: his meal was over. The hyena was speechless, his face flushed red and contorted in a mix between embarrassment and fury. He sighed and grumbled and growled but didn't say any actual words, at least none that August could make any sense of. He took up most of the room, narrowly avoiding blocking the one entrance with his bulk. Mobility wasn't a question of when, but *ever*.

August, meanwhile, was as elated as ever. The goat leaned back against the mass that was his crewmate, congratulating himself over and over as he considered how comfortable a bed Raf would make once he'd finished digesting the cupcakes. Perhaps he'd ensure the hyena remained on a steady diet of the immobilizing pastries...