

A slight grumble and a mild growl escaped Jake's muzzle as he peered out the window of the store he was in, his ire particularly directed at the bright light that was smothering the entire outside with heat and knowing that he'd have to briefly venture back out into the hot exterior to return home. He then shook his head and went back to grabbing the supplies that he had gone inside to get.

"Air freshener refill, mustard, aloe vera drinks, cereal...oh right! Garbage bags." He smiled happily as he snatched up a box of lavender scented ones into his paw and expertly dropped them into the basket before he walked off toward the front counter to check out. As he did, his eyes naturally wandered over to the sections up front next to the registers that were packed to the brim with all sorts of things designed to snatch a potential customer's attention in order to buy something at the last minute. He normally didn't fall for such things (what would he need with a lighter that functioned as a USB charger as well, anyway?) However, the puppen's gaze then fixated on the cooler that contained various sodas, energy drinks, bottled water and other beverages. He tilted his head as he leaned down to see a new brand of sports drink titled 'Shrinking Thirst' that was completely clear but advertised that it was filled with electrolytes like many of the sports drinks that he would get sometimes when plain H2O wasn't enough and Jake needed that extra little flavor to keep himself hydrated. Deciding to give it a try, he pulled the door open and looked between the two available flavors, Tropical Mango and Cucumber Lime, before finally settling on the yellow labeled former and picking it out. The top of the bottle had what appeared to be a nozzle with a closable flip top that resembled an actual water bottle. His curiosity (and hopefully soon to be thirst) sated, the puppycat proceeded to pay for his items and then exit the store, groaning audibly as the air conditioning of the store vanished and he found himself out in the elements once more.

"Alright, let's do this." He said, reaching into the plastic bag and taking the bottle of Thirst out. A small tab removed and a claw to flip the top up later and Jake was now sipping from the bottle.

And it was goooooooooood.

He took a couple big gulps from it before pulling it away and letting out a satisfied sigh. The consistency was very much like that of water with the slight flavor of the fruit it was emulating and the telltale light salty flavor of the electrolytes it advertised. It was a very delicious and satisfying taste, made even better by the fact that he noticed the drink itself contained no sugar (a good thing as the hybrid was trying to cut back on the amount of sweets he was ingesting.)

"*Very nice surprise! Go you, Shrinking Thirst people.*" He thought while continuing his way home. It wasn't long before he crossed the road and got onto the sidewalk that led towards his apartment complex. A few steps in, however, and Jake almost tripped and fell flat on his face. Thankfully, he managed to catch himself but the shock was enough that his tail fluffed up and he glared down at his feet. He thought at first his sandals might've caught a misplaced block of concrete and caused the near-accident. As he did, though, he noticed that they seemed to not fit his paws as well as they were before, feeling a bit loose. While Jake's initial thought was that

the heel strap had come loose when he'd tripped, the tightness of his shirt around his shoulders fading away and the slowly increasing weight from the bag he was holding indicated something much different.

"Oh, crapbaskets." Jake said aloud as he used his free hand to grasp his quickly growing shorts and started to run down the sidewalk. His stride was becoming harder and harder to maintain from both his reducing height and having to fight with the cumbersome nature of his too-big clothes that were starting to feel like a loose dress on his body. As he turned a corner to head to his complex, the hybrid flexed his paws and stepped out of his sandals while also dropping the bag of items vowing to come back for both later. Luckily the complex's ground was in the shade so he didn't have to worry about burning his bare paws on the ground (a good thing which at how quick he was going down in size would probably be like walking across molten steel.) Now with both hands holding his shorts up as he was now half what his original height had been before his current situation. While having a lighter frame normally would've made moving easier, his shrinking limbs were carrying him less and less further the smaller that he got. The pint-sized puppen eventually threw caution to the wind and slipped out of his shirt and finally abandoned his shorts once he got to the bottom of the stairs leading up to his front door. Jake then used a few long strides to reach the top, instinctively reaching out to grab the doorknob only for another quick burst of minimizing to hit him and his paw to catch only air.

Green eyes widened and mild panic set in. Suddenly remembering a scene from an old animated movie he'd watched, Jake jumped up and wrapped both his paws around the knob and used his momentum to turn it and open the door. As he became about a foot and a half tall, he quickly bounded across the apartment floor and dashed over to his computer chair. The very small puppycat leapt up and grabbed the arm rest and, after some struggling, managed to pull himself up onto it and it was only a small skip to climb onto his desk. A whine escaped his muzzle as he looked around his desk, noticing he was now about the same size as one of the plastic miniatures he'd been putting together. Thankfully, he breathed a sigh of relief as he realized that he'd at least stopped shrinking after the quick acceleration he'd had before entering the apartment.

The downside, though, came from realizing he was stuck on his desk at a mere three inches tall...and that he'd left his phone outside in the pocket of his shirts. He turned around to find himself staring out at his keyboard that now resembled a parking lot from his perspective.

"Definitely gonna' need to grab some help now." He sighed as he stepped on one of the arrow keys to wake up his monitor. He then put his shoulder into the side of his mouse to move the arrow on the screen down to his taskbar, opening up Discord and clicking on the avatar of a dumpling with blonde hair next to a username of "Pandartist#4564." Once the DM was open, Jake steeled himself and began walking around on the various keys to type out a message to his friend JJ the pandacat. The process itself took about five minutes (mostly from Jake trying to fix a few typos before rolling his eyes and giving up) before he finally padded over to the enter

key and stepping down on it. Taking a deep breath and sitting down cross legged on the floor, the puppycat sighed and waited for JJ to respond as he glanced over his shoulder.

*"Y'know...maybe a movie night like this wouldn't be so bad."* He thought with a smile before turning over to an open bag of Starburst he had on his desk, a grin crossing the micro's face as he resigned himself to settle in.