After eating her breakfast, Cream informed her mother that she was going to go visit Tails at his lab, and Vanilla made sure to let her know to be safe. Once outside, Cream started flapping her ears and took off flying with Cheese flying beside her. “Well, guess we better go tell Tails what happened.”

“Chao chao chao, chao chao?”

“I’m ok Cheese…but, can I tell you something?”

Cheese nodded. “Chao chao.”

“I don’t know why…but I think part of me was hoping the apple made us grow after all…sometimes it’s no fun being the smallest of our friends.”

“Chao chao chao.”

“Yeah, I know…I DID say only PART of me was hoping we grew. The other part is really happy that we’re not in any danger.” Cream smiled. “Thank you Cheese.”

“Chao chao!”

“Come on! Let’s go tell Tails so we can tell him his Growinator worked perfectly and he can get his Nobel prize!” The two raced through the air and in no time they were landing in front of the fox’s lab, and as soon as they did, the door opened and revealed a very agitated looking Tails. “Um…hi Tails.”

“What happened? Is everything ok?” he asked hastily.

“Yes I think so.” Cream replied. “May we come in please?”

“Huh?” Tails blinked a couple moments before shaking his head. “Sure, sure. Sorry about that. Come in.” He gestured for the two to enter, and the rabbit and Chao did just that. Once they were inside, Tails closed the door and walked over to them. “So what happened?”

“Well…Mommy measured us last night, and I’m a little bigger than I was last month. Cheese isn’t though.”

“Ok…” Tails nodded to try and encourage Cream to continue.

“And then when I woke up this morning, I got her to measure us again before breakfast…and I’m not any bigger than I was last night.”

Tails sighed in relief and even gave a little laugh. “Thank goodness. I was so worried that you and Cheese would grow out of control or something. Looks like the first test is a success, although let’s try to avoid using ourselves as guinea pigs next time, ok?”

Cream smiled faintly. “Ok.” She said quietly.

Tails went to his computer and typed in the results of the test, and when he turned back around, he saw Cream’s back was turned to him, and she seemed to be staring intently at something. “Cream?” When he didn’t get an answer, he walked over to her and looked at where she was staring…she was staring right in the direction of where the Growinator was sitting on a workbench. “Cream…are you…upset…that the experiment was successful?” He asked incredulously.

Cream blinked and looked up at Tails. “Huh? Oh!” She blushed in embarrassment as she realized she’d been caught staring at the invention. “No Tails! I’m happy that your Growinator worked! But…” she looked away and blushed deeper.

“You…WANTED the apple to make you grow…didn’t you?” The fox boy asked in shock.

“A little.” Cream squeaked almost inaudibly. Her embarrassment was at its peak now.

Tails said nothing for a few moments, then his eyes landed on Cheese who had picked up a screwdriver and was looking it over curiously. “Does Cheese feel the same way?” He asked gently. Cream just shook her head. Not wanting to answer verbally. “I see.” Tails took a few steps away and scratched his chin in thought for a few moments. Then his eyes landed on his invention, then on the dejected rabbit, and back onto the invention again. “You know…” he said somewhat hesitantly. “There ARE other applications for the Growinator besides enlarging food…I also theorize it could be used on PEOPLE.”

Cream looked up with her eyes wide in shock. “Really?”

Tails blushed a bit and nodded. “Yeah. Of course, it’s only a theory until I get a chance to…test it.”

The rabbit girl’s eyes began to sparkle. “Are you saying what I think you’re saying?!”

“Maybe…” Tails replied nervously. “Before I do anything though,” he walked up to her and looked down at her. “Tell me…why were you hoping the apple would make you bigger?”

Cream blushed again and looked away. “Because…being the smallest makes me feel sometimes that I can’t do anything. You’re all bigger and stronger than me, you always have to protect me when Dr. Eggman attacks!” Cream looked into Tails’ eyes with her own shimmering with unshed tears. “I want to be able to help you and the others! I don’t want to need protection when danger is around just because I’m the smallest!”

“Cream you KNOW that’s not true!” He grabbed her hand and squeezed it. “You’re not useless, you’ve done a lot to help us since we became friends. I mean, you’re the one who taught Emerl when HE was with us that sometimes NOT fighting is just as important as fighting.”

Cream began to cry. “But he was almost destroyed when I refused to help him fight! And even when I DID help, if Cheese hadn’t been there I wouldn’t have been able to do ANYTHING!”

Tails had no real response to that. What she was saying wasn’t inaccurate. “Cream…you’re not useless. You AREN’T.” he stressed with a squeeze of her hand.

She looked down at their hands for a moment and used her free one to wipe her tears. “Maybe not…” she admitted. “But I wanna be able to do more.” She looked back up into his baby blue eyes. “I had a dream last night Tails. I dreamed that I was BIG! And I was able to help all sorts of people because I was big! I want to grow and help people!”

Tails sighed heavily and rubbed the back of his neck before locking eyes with her again. “Ok Cream…it’s against my better judgment…but I’ll try and make you a LITTLE BIT bigger. Not too much. You understand?”

That was all she needed to hear. “THANK YOU TAILS!” She squealed and lunged forward, wrapping the fox boy into a hug that made him turn beet red. “You’ve made me so happy Tails. Thank you thank you thank you!”

“Heh heh, ok.” Tails got her to let go and smiled down at her. “Get over to where the apple used to be, and I’ll make you grow.”

With an excited squeak, Cream rushed over and stood in front of the device, jumping up and down for joy as the anticipation overcame her. “Hurry Tails!”

“I feel like I’m gonna regret this.” Tails grumbled to himself as he pressed a button on the console. “Project: ‘Growth Spurt’, test one initiating.” He then walked over to a nearby wall and rolled over a portable measuring wall. “This measures things in feet and inches, so now I’m gonna measure you and see how big you are so we have a point of reference.”

“Ok!” Cream stood against the wall and tried to make herself as tall as possible for her measurement, minus the tiptoes that she used last night. “Should I take off my shoes?”

“Yes.” Cream obliged and placed her shoes neatly over by the front door before smiling at him and returning to her position. “Heh.” Tails chuckled in amusement. “Even when she’s super excited she stays polite.” He said to himself. He measured her and made a note in a nearby notebook which he took over with him to the Growinator pistol. “Your current height is 2 feet, 4 inches tall…I’m going to activate the Growinator at its lowest setting…I don’t want you blowing the roof off my lab.”

“Whatever you say Tails…I’m ready to be big!” She exclaimed.

Tails sighed and powered up the gun. “Ok…activating Growinator…now!” He pulled the trigger, and weak, green waves of energy hovered over to the little rabbit, who closed her eyes when the waves hit her. “Are you ok?!”

“Uh huh.” Cream nodded, “It feels warm. Like Mommy’s hugs!”

“I’ll make a note of that.” Tails mumbled to himself. After a few more moments, nothing had happened yet. “I wonder if it’s not working.” He said quietly enough so Cream wouldn’t hear him. He was just about to give up when he heard Cream give a surprised squeak. “What’s the matter?!”

“I felt something…it felt like I stretched or something!”

Tails went over to his console while still holding the trigger, and despite the previous success of the ray, he couldn’t help but be surprised. “You did.”

“Really?! Oh!” Cream felt the sensation again, and then again, and then again. Finally after about five more times, Cream looked around and a huge grin spread across her face. “It’s working! I’m GROWING!”