

The Tortoise and the Haremione

It was early afternoon. In a small house in toontown, in a bed that's way too big, the titular haremione, Repsej, slept peacefully.

Hrm? "What's a haremione?" It's a half-hare, half-ermione, obviously. A small, scrawny creature, with the legs and paws of a hare, the torso, arms and head of an ermione, and long, stiff rabbit-ears. It looks even more goofy than you'd imagine.

ANYWAYS, he was sleeping soundly, sprawled out in his huge bed, when a sudden loud knocking at the door startled him. Following a brief moment of panic, wherein he quickly scanned the room for potential threats, he calmed down, and tried to go back to sleep. But once again there was a knock on the door, even louder than the first time.

Knowing there's only one person who'd come knocking, and that this particular person is very insistent, Repsej sighed to himself and reluctantly stumbled out of bed. Already dreading what's to come, he slowly made his way to the front door, and opened it.

And sure enough, Draygo the draygon was standing outside. A self-described wolf-dragon-slime, his body above his waist has the form of a blue-furred wolf, while his lower half is yellow and scaled, like a dragon. He's also got a pair of dragon-wings, a long spade-tail, and a pair of crescent-shaped markings by his eyes.

Most importantly though, he's also much bigger than Repsej, whose long ears only barely reach his eye-level.

"Hey!" he said, smiling and waving down at the haremione, who looked quite displeased.

"What do you want? You know I don't like getting up this early."

"Yeah yeah, I need you for something. A race, to be exact."

"Uh huh. Well I'm not interested, so goodb- "

But before he could even finish, Draygo lifted him up and started to carry him under one arm, swiftly moving away from his house.

"H-hey, where are you taking me? Put me down!"

Surprisingly, Draygo did exactly that, having carried him all the way to his own house...which was right next door. Draygo placed Repsej behind the white starting line drawn on the street, to make sure he was in the right spot.

"Alright, now just wait here while I fetch your opponent!" said Draygo, already running into his house. Repsej briefly considered running off, but from past experience he knew it wouldn't end well for him. So instead he just waited impatiently, tapping his foot, and wishing he was still asleep in his bed.

FINALLY, after almost 2 minutes of waiting, Draygo returned.

"Here's your opponent!"

"...that's a turtle."

"Tortoise, actually."

"Are you kidding me? You want me to race a turt- "

"TORTOISE! And yes, I do" said Draygo, placing the reptile behind the starting line, next to Repsej.

"Alright, let's not waste any more time. You guys ready?"

Both contestants simply stared at Draygo, one in utter disbelief, the other with a look of determination.

Draygo quickly shifted his right hand into a starter pistol, before pointing it straight up into the air.

"On your marks! Get set!"

The tortoise got into its ready stance, bending its knees slightly, and leaning forward...as much as a shelled quadruped can.

BANG!

The tortoise immediately began to move, crossing the starting line, and slowly but surely gaining a lead on the haremine...who hadn't moved at all, simply staring first at his opponent, and then at Draygo.

"HEY! GET GOING!"

"Why should I? This is stupid!"

"It is not! It's an experiment to test the predictive quality of fables."

"Just race him yourself, and leave me out of this."

"I can't, it has to be a hare!"

"I'm NOT a hare!"

"You're close enough. You have the ears, legs and paws."

"But you're a shapeshifter!"

"...that's a good point. I'll just use you as my insole during the race then!"

"A-alright, alright, I'll do it!" said Repsej, looking back on the route, and noting that the tortoise hadn't gotten far. "The route can't be that long anyways if you're expecting this guy to finish. And at least YOU won't be bothering me during the race, right?"

"No I won't. I WILL be observing you though, and intervene if necessary."

"That's fine I suppose."

"And just to give you a bit of motivation, I'll squish you if you lose the race!"

"...I'm not surprised. And with this opponent I'm not worried about losing."

And with that, the haremine finally crossed the starting line, walking casually, soon overtaking the tortoise, despite the poor guy doing his best to move as quickly as

possible.

Not too far along the route, the haremine came upon a large, isolated tree. It had a huge crown with dense leaves, providing shelter from the sun. Slowly coming to a halt, Repsej stared at the tree for a bit, feeling strangely drawn to it.

Why was he stopping? He was in the middle of a race! But then the tortoise was nowhere to be seen. There was no rush, right? He could easily take a quick nap in the shade. It WAS really hot after all, and his sleep had been rudely interrupted earlier...

Some distance away, from a high vantage point, Draygo was observing the haremine through a pair of binoculars. He had planned the route of the race very carefully, trying to make it mimic the fable, with this tree being the first point of interest. And sure enough, the haremine seemingly couldn't resist napping in the shade, just like the fable predicted.

While Draygo was scribbling down his observations, Repsej had made himself comfortable, sitting down with his back leaned up against the tree, and was soon sleeping soundly. Neither of them expected what happened next though.

Jogging along the road, dressed in his finest sweatpants and a shirt three sizes too small, was a big bear. It was a really nice day, so he'd decided to go for a run, to get some fresh air and hopefully burn some fat in the process. Of course, he wasn't exactly used to this sort of thing, so he was understandably exhausted when he came upon the tree. So exhausted that he didn't even notice the small creature already napping in the shade...

Repsej awoke from his nap just in time to note the big bear butt right in front of him, but not in time to actually do anything before it descended upon his body. With a SQUELTCH, the haremine was reduced to a thin furry sheet, his upper body squished between the tree and the bear's rear, while his lower half was similarly flattened against the ground by the bear's bulk. His muffled attempts to get the bears attention was only met by the bear grinding down on him, further flattening and spreading the haremine in an attempt to make himself more comfortable in his chosen resting spot.

Draygo had been observing the whole thing very carefully, taking notes on this unexpected development. Nothing like that happened in the fable, or at least not in any of the versions he was familiar with. He'd need to figure out what it meant later though, now observing the tortoise slowly coming up on the tree, and eventually overtaking the crushed haremine, who was still stuck underneath the now-sleeping bear.

Not long after the tortoise passed by, the bear woke up from his nap. He hadn't meant to sleep at all, but for some reason he'd become very sleepy after sitting down. He allowed himself to relax a couple minutes more, enjoying this oddly comfortable spot, before finally getting up, and continuing with his jog.

Repsej felt incredibly relieved as the bear got up. Sure, he was still stuck, flattened to both the tree and the ground, but at least he could see something other than a

really close-up view of a bear's butt. Now he'd just have to wait for someone to help him out, and luckily Draygo was already on his way. He knew he'd have to intervene if the race was to continue as planned.

As he came upon the tree, he couldn't help but smile at the sight of the flattened haremone, who looked very displeased at his current situation. Draygo always enjoyed seeing the haremone flattened and stretched. It was adorable, especially combined with his annoyed expression.

"You need some help there?" he asked.

"Oh no I'm great, thanks" replied the haremone, rolling his eyes at the stupid question.

"I could just leave you like that you know. It's cute. And I'm sure the next person passing by wouldn't mind either."

"B-but you promised to intervene! What about the race?"

"We could always try again tomorrow."

"...I'm s-sorry, alright? P-please just help me out"

"Fiiiine. You're always so whiny"

And with that, Draygo began the slow process of peeling Repsej off the tree. He grabbed both his ears, one in each paw, and pulled. With each tug, the haremone whimpered and whined as his ears were stretched, while more of the haremone's head came free.

"Ungh. Did you have to pull my ears?!"

"Well what would you prefer?" Draygo replied, giving one last tug, Repsej's head stretching a bit before finally peeling free completely.

"Hnngh! Anything else really."

"Okay then" said Draygo, letting go of the haremone's ears, causing his head to flop down against his upper torso, hiding his face, and muffling any further complaints. Then Draygo grabbed the tip of his tail instead, pulling and tugging on it 'till the rest of Repsej's body was free, leaving him hanging upside-down in the air from his tail, and looking pretty angry.

"MY TAIL, REALLY?"

"You SAID anything else..."

"I MEANT LIKE MY ARMS OR LEGS!"

"Then say that next time! Do you want to stay flat?"

"...n-no."

"Then shush."

Draygo then proceeded to give Repsej a couple of hard flaps, his body billowing in the air, before finally popping back into 3D! ...but still hanging from his tail.

"T-thanks. Could you put me down now? Please?"

Without replying, Draygo just let go of his tail, letting him drop to the ground face-first.

"Ugh! Was that necessary?" asked the haremine, rubbing his face, and trying to clear his head.

"Nope! I gotta get back to observing though. And YOU should probably get going, if you want to win. Or if you want to not get squished by me" replied Draygo, before walking off.

Being reminded of the cost of failure, Repsej immediately got up from the ground, and sprinted along the road. He soon passed the tortoise again, which wasn't exactly an accomplishment considering its speed. Beginning to feel pretty confident in his ability to win, he started to slow down a bit, before eventually going back to a casual walk. There was no rush, so why run?

While walking, he came upon a pair of toons playing basketball. It was a casual 1-on-1 half-court game, between an albino snow fox and a green croc. Repsej stopped walking, and turned to stare at the toons, compelled to watch as they enjoyed themselves. Maybe he could join them? N-no, he hated sports! And he was way too small to play basketball! But it looked so fun...

While Repsej fought his inner battle, the snow fox noticed the odd creature staring at them. Pointing it out to the croc, they paused their game. Did that guy want to join? They already had even teams though. And he was barely half their size! But then it was just a casual game, did it really matter?

"HEY! You wanna play or what?" shouted the snow fox.

Repsej DID want to play. Didn't he? Confused, he decided to just go with it. He had time, after all.

"Yes! I do" he replied, quickly sprinting onto the court.

Draygo was observing the events, completely baffled. He hadn't expected the fable to be so powerful. He knew Repsej was incredibly lazy, more or less sleeping all day, and rarely leaving his house unless he was forced to, usually by Draygo. And yet there Repsej was, playing BASKETBALL of all things, 2-on-1 against the croc. None of it made sense.

Repsej was just as confused. Why was he playing with these two toons? He didn't know either of them. But wasn't he enjoying it? The others seemed to like playing with him, even though he was completely useless at basketball. The snow fox had been doing better alone than with him.

And then he saw it. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw the tortoise, still doing everything it could to speed towards the finish line. That's right, he was in the middle of a race! He didn't have time for this. He turned to the snow fox, and opened his mouth to speak...

"Sorry gu- MPHH! *pop*

The other toons hadn't noticed him staring at the tortoise, and as the fox passed the ball to the distracted haremone, he'd caught it in his mouth, and subsequently punctured it with his sharp teeth. And now there he was, a deflated basketball stuck in his mouth, completely frozen in shock.

"...dude, that was our only ball. Not cool man" said the fox.

"GRMPH..." replied Repsej, trying to get the basketball out of his mouth, but his teeth were stuck firmly in the rubber innards of the ball.

The croc just stared at him as he struggled with the ball, until he realized something: The haremone would make a great replacement ball! He was small, so it wouldn't take too much work. He was red and black, so he even had the right colors for it. Besides, he was terrible at the game, and it WAS his fault they didn't have a ball anymore...

Feeling justified in his actions, the croc slowly crept up on the distracted haremone, grabbed him with both hands, and crushed him together between them. Repsej had been too busy with his current problem to notice anything, and only managed to utter a confused "HMPH?" before he was squished. The croc then began molding him into an approximately basketball-sized sphere, while ignoring the muffled noises coming from between his hands.

Once done, the croc tested out the new ball by doing a couple of dribbles. Each time the ball hit the ground, it flattened out on impact with a muffled groan, before bouncing back into shape, and up in the air.

Satisfied, the croc passed the ball to the fox, who subsequently attempted a shot. The ball flew towards the basket, SLAMMING into the backboard, before falling into the basket, and landing on the ground with a THUD.

The haremone's eyes were spinning rapidly after the ordeal, but he didn't get much time to recover before the fox picked him back up. Repsej looked up at the white fox with pleading eyes, but he just stared back uncaringly, before dribbling the ball a bit.

"What do you think?" asked the croc.

"It's alright, y'know?" replied the fox. And with that, they continued their game from earlier, seemingly unaware of how unpleasant the experience was for their new ball.

Draygo continued to watch them play for a bit, before making his way over to the end of the route. He then patiently watched the tortoise slowly come up to, and then finally cross, the finish line. After congratulating it on its deserved victory, and giving it a medal that was way too big for its small neck, he simply left the tortoise, making his way over to the court.

"Heyo, are you guys done soon or what? I'd like to uh, borrow your ball" shouted Draygo.

"Sure thing man, you can have it" replied the snow fox.

The croc made one last shot from the three-point line, the ball going perfectly through the hoop, before smashing into the ground with a loud SPLAT.

“Thanks for playing with us!” shouted the croc, before he and the fox left to hang out somewhere else.

Draygo made his way over to the slowly-inflating harem, before lifting him up, his eyes two large, spinning spirals. Draygo poked him, trying to get his attention, before simply waiting for the ball to recover from his latest ordeal.

“So, how do you feel?”

“MPH! GRMPH!”

“Oh right, let me get that ball out of your mouth for you...”

Draygo started tugging on the basketball, but it was pretty well stuck.

“Hrm. I'll need to pull a lot harder, which means...”

Grabbing the ball-shaped harem, Draygo quickly made his way over to the fence surrounding the court. He placed him on one side of the fence, and went to the other side. He then grabbed the deflated ball through a gap in the fence with both hands, and PULLED!

Immediately Repsej's snout started stretching through the gap, with the rest of his body pushing against the fence, giving Draygo some much-needed resistance. He put both his feet up on the fence, and leaned back as far as he could, tugging and pulling at the basketball. This of course pushed Repsej even harder into the fence, his body now starting to flatten out a bit, while his snout stretched even further.

Finally though, the deflated ball came free, causing Draygo to fall down on his back with the former basketball clasped tightly in his hands. Meanwhile Repsej's snout snapped back into his face with a THWAP, the force sending him flying away from the fence.

“Alright, there we go! NOW how do you feel? ...uh, Rep?”

Draygo looked around a bit, before spotting the harem ball as it slowly rolled onto the road, coming to a halt with his face staring straight up into the late afternoon sky...

At which point he was IMMEDIATELY run over by a speeding car, the driver being too busy looking at his phone to notice anything as he drove over the small 'bump'. The front tire flattened the harem ball out into a round disc, at which point the rear tire then smeared him into a longer, more oval-shaped sheet.

“Huh. I really didn't expect that” said Draygo to himself, before swiftly making his way around the fence, and towards the now “deflated” harem ball.

“...now how do you feel?” asked Draygo.

“How do you think I feel? I'm a roadsmear. PLUS I lost the race. To a tortoise.”

“Aw, don't feel too bad! I DO have a consolation prize for you~ “

Repsej's eyes immediately widened in fear, having a pretty good idea of what this 'prize' might entail.

"N-no, that's okay, I don't need it..."

"Oh but I insist!"

Smirking, Draygo raised one of his feetpaws above the haremينة sheet.

"P-please don't! I just want to go home..." said Repsej, looking up at Draygo's face with pleading eyes, or as much of Draygo's face that he could actually see, since his vision was partially obscured by the looming paw.

"Well don't worry, I AM bringing you home!"

And with that, he stomped down hard on the haremينة's face, his paw covering Repsej entirely as he let out a muffled squeak. Draygo then proceeded to slowly grind his paw, steadily spreading the squishy haremينة out across its underside.

"Let's make sure you're firmly secured, we wouldn't want you to fall off on the way home!" he said, giving his newly-made insole a few more hard stomps, which produced increasingly muffled whimpers from beneath his paw.

"Alright, I think that's good enough. So let's get going then!"

Then Draygo began the half-hour long jog home. He made sure to stomp extra hard on the paw with Repsej stuck to it, with his soft and malleable form providing Draygo's paw with both comfort and support throughout the entire trek.

THE END