

WITH LITTLE PAWS WE TODDLE AFAR

A Babyfur Regression Adventure

CHAPTER 7

A Pack of Mall Rats

PAGES
147 - 148



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Now realizing that Daniel called me by my name earlier, I begin to worry a bit. *Does he know it's me? If he does, why is he so nonchalant about treating me this way? Na... he can't possibly know. It's too far-fetched of a scenario for him to believe.* My mind swiftly reverts to its childish side as I clap my spaghetti-covered paws with each forkful of pasta Daniel feeds me. My diaper crinkles loudly as I bounce up and down in the highchair while continuing to giggle at Daniel's airplane noises. As I bounce, I notice my underside become warm and squishy once more. It's then that I realize I've wet my diaper without any warning of needing to go. I quickly shrug it off and continue to bounce. After a short time, my plate is empty and my tummy is full. By now, both myself and the highchair are completely covered in noodles and pasta sauce. Luckily my bib seems to have caught the brunt of the mess. Daniel smiles, "All done Kiddo! You're such a big boy! You finished all of your nom noms!" I feel my face turn red as Daniel speaks to me childishly. However, I love every bit of it. I get a funny sense of fulfillment and pride from Daniel's words. I clap my paws together again, "YAY!!! I'm a big boy! Thanks, Daniel!" Daniel nods and grins as he wipes my face clean with my bib. Jenn then hands him some baby wipes from my diaper bag, which he uses to clean off my paws as well. As he wipes my paws, I remember Jess's promise and begin to blurt out, "Ice Cream! Ice Cream! I want ice cream! Jess promised ice cream!" Jess begins to laugh, "Alright, I'll go get you some ice

cream. You've been a good boy. I'll be back in a minute" As I watch her stand up from the table and walk away, I'm startled by the nipple of my baby bottle being shoved into my mouth. My babyish instinct kicks in as I automatically begin to suck it without thought. It's then that I realize Daniel is holding it up for me. He can tell that I'm surprised by his actions and laughs, "You should finish your baba up before your ice cream, Asher. Milk will make you grow up to be big and strong." I'm astonished that he has used my name yet again, but quickly forget as I nurse the bottle babyishly and enter an emptier infantile headspace.

A few minutes later Jenn returns with my ice cream just as I'm sucking the bottle dry. Still sitting in my highchair, Daniel begins to pat me on the back. Within moments of him doing so, I let out a loud burp and giggle as a little spit-up runs down my face. Daniel begins to laugh and wipes my face with the bib once more. Now seeing Jess standing next to him holding my ice cream, I begin to make my grabby paws as I yearn for the frozen treat. She hands it to me and I happily begin to lick the top of it as I awkwardly hold the waffle cone. Daniel sees that I don't need help, so he turns his chair back towards the table and begins to eat his now cold lunch. Between bites of spaghetti he chuckles, "You know, it's really funny that Asher's little cousin is also named Asher. I wonder if his parents named him after our Asher? Maybe they just liked the name? Don't you guys think it's bizarre?" As I sit silently continuing to lick my ice cream cone,

I see the two tiger twins' expressions turn to ones of relief. Jenn replies, "Yeah it's weird, but that's the little guy's name." Daniel then gets a sad look on his face, "I wish our Asher was here. I really miss him. I hope returns soon. There's been something very important I've been wanting to tell him. Maybe once classes start back up, I'll see him on campus. If not, I'll have to ask Mr. Lionel about him since I signed up for one of his classes." The two twins pretend to agree with my pudgy Labrador buddy before quickly changing the subject. Not wanting to talk about me anymore, Jess asks, "Did you two find anything good at the clothing sale? I see that you came out with a bag, Daniel. I'm still interested to know what you wanted so badly from such a girly clothing store," My little ears perk up upon hearing her question since I'm curious as well.

Daniel's face begins to turn beet red. Well... uh... it's kind of embarrassing. Jenn begins to laugh, "Oh just tell her, Daniel. You should know by now that this is a judgment-free zone. Besides, you'll look so adorable wearing it!" Daniel's face turns an even brighter shade of red. "Well... okay, but you have to promise not to laugh" He then reaches down beside him and grabs the bag sporting the Fashionable Feline's logo. He digs into it for a moment, then pulls out his treasure. I'm stunned to see what he bought. As he blushes and embarrassingly grins with that goofy Labrador smile that I've come to love, he holds up the apparel in front of himself. It's a pair of denim shorts just like the ones Jenn gave me for my birthday! Jess giggles, "Okay,

Jenn was right. Those will look cute on you." Now as red as a tomato, Daniel replies, "Hey! You said you wouldn't laugh!" Jess shrugs as he continues, "After seeing the pair that Asher got for his birthday, I just had to get a pair for myself. Asher never knew it, but just like him, I had been wanting a pair for a long time. I used to have some when I was little, but I outgrew them a long time ago. I had no clue until the birthday party that they even made these in adult sizes. Maybe one day after Asher gets back, both he and I can wear them together. You know... like twins. I... I'd really like that. I wonder if Asher would enjoy it as well?"

Hearing Daniel's words causes my eyes to tear up. For the first time in weeks, I wish I was an adult again. I push back my tears and continue to lick at the chocolate ice cream as my mind wanders. *Oh Daniel, I wish I was big again so we could both wear our shortalls together. It'd be so much fun! We could go to the park and check out an animated movie at the theater. Maybe we could just hang out at home and play with our DinoCats action figures together? We would make such a cute pair.* As my rambling thoughts conclude, Daniel places the shortalls back in the bag and returns to eating his lunch. After a short time, he finishes the spaghetti and begins to pat his round tummy with satisfaction. "Well, I should get going. I have a few more stores to stop at and I'm sure you guys want to get back to your shopping as well. Thanks again for treating us to lunch Jess" Jess smiles and nods her head. He then turns to me,

who is now covered in chocolate ice cream. Daniel happily smiles as he once again wipes my face off with my bib. He drops to my level, boops me on the nose and looks me straight in the eyes. "I really enjoyed our lunch together little guy. Maybe we can all go out together again sometime. Do me a favor, Squirt. Tell your big cousin Asher that I... I miss him a lot. Please tell him to call me when he gets home. It's important. Well, have a fun rest of the day at the mall and be a good boy for Jess and Jenn. Okay?" Both blushing and holding back tears again, I nod my head. "OKie Dokie Daniel! I'll be a big boy and tell him. I had fun too! Thank you for helping me with nom noms!" He then smiles wide and ruffles my mane with his paw. As he begins to walk away, he turns one last time and waves. "Bye Bye, Asher!" In return, I babyishly wave my little paws back at him. "Bye Bye, Daniel!"





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