

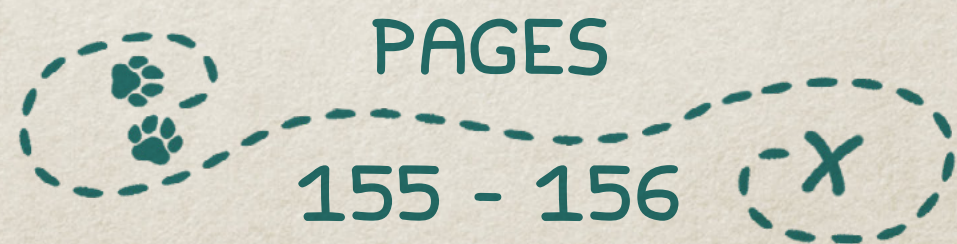
WITH LITTLE PAWS WE TODDLE AFAR

A Babyfur Regression Adventure

CHAPTER 7

A Pack of Mall Rats

PAGES
155 - 156



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With my knees tucked under my arms, I anxiously rock back and forth on the carpeted floor of the clothing store. My now saturated diaper squishes with every rock as I suck my pacifier and try to calm down. My mind wanders as I tremble in fear while awaiting my savior's arrival. *What the heck is wrong with me?! Everything seems so much scarier now that I'm little. Twenty-one-year-old me wouldn't be scared of this! I know it's silly, but I just can't help myself. I remember Dad's story during my birthday party. It's just like when I got lost in the furniture store as a kid! I can't believe this is happening again after all these years! I guess it could be worse... at least this time they aren't announcing my name over the intercom.* I clutch Raz under my arm tighter as I await my savior. I continue to yell out from the center of the circular clothing rack as though I'm playing Marco Polo with my soon-to-be rescuer. I hear them getting closer as they yell, "Asher! Asher, where are you?" I wail out once more, "I'm here! I'm here!" After another minute or so, my cries for help are finally answered. As I wipe away tears, I hear rustling from outside the clothes rack. The outfits begin to shift around violently as I see two tan paws reaching through them. Suddenly, the head of a big goofy Labrador pops through the line of clothing. It's Daniel! My Knight in shining armor is Daniel! My tears dry up and I instantly feel better as I see him smile at me. He then gets a perplexed look on his face, "What the heck are you doing in here, Asher? Jess and Jen are freaking out! They ran into me and told me that you had wandered off at some point. They're really worried about you!" I can tell Daniel is upset with me. I sniffle a bit as I reply, "I'm sorry Daniel. I know it was wrong of me to wander off." Daniel shakes his head in agreement as he crawls into the clothing rack along with me.

Now crammed in the clothing rack together Daniel looks around, "So, why are you hanging out in the middle of a clothing rack, you silly little cub?" I giggle a bit at the sight of my chubby Knight sitting on the floor inside the rack with me, his legs crossed like a big kid. I smile with a hint of embarrassment, "Well... I went on an adventure with Raz. There was this temple... a temple made of clothes! I was curious, so we went exploring. It was really big and dark and we had to light torches and I had an explorer's outfit and Raz had one too! But we got lost. Then it got really scary!" Daniel begins to chuckle, "Well that's quite the imagination you have, Asher. Maybe you should have gone into Creative Arts instead of Paleontology. You should check out a class when you get back to college... someday. I think you'd be good at it, Asher!" My jaw practically drops to the floor after hearing Daniel's words. I look up at him with shock, "So... So you know it's really me? You know I'm Asher? Well, your friend Asher... not my cousin Asher?" I almost begin to confuse myself as I try to unwind Dad's lie about me. Daniel begins to laugh hysterically, "Well of course I knew silly! First off, who the heck names two cousins the same name?" He continues to laugh, "I had a hunch it was you when I first delivered that pizza to your house. I mean it was crazy. I didn't know how it was possible, but there you were. A little boy in just his diaper being held by your Dad. I knew it had to be you. Little details like your freckles and eyes. The embarrassed expression on your face and the way you reacted. Then there was your smile. Even behind a pacifier, I could tell it was YOUR smile. It was all of these little things that I've noticed in the past and come to..." Daniel pauses for a moment before continuing, "Uh... admire about you. They were a total giveaway. There was also the reaction today from the twins, followed by our talk about dinosaurs and our time together at lunch. I just knew it was you!" My cheeks grow red with embarrassment as butterflies flutter in my stomach. Sitting in disbelief I can't help but ask, "But, how can you even believe this? It's so far-fetched!" Daniel laughs again, "Are you kidding me? After all the lectures in your dad's class? All he ever talks about is the Huedorians and their mythology. I'm sure a lot of it's fabricated, but what if there were some truth to it? If there's one thing I've learned from your dad's classes, it's to keep an open mind. History can be crazy sometimes." I nod my head as I scratch it, "Yeah, you're telling me! Look at me! I'm eight years old again!" Daniel laughs harder, "Yep, eight years old and a little crinkle monster. It's just like your parents described from when you were originally a kid. I guess even the second time around you still managed to be a late bloomer. I look away as I become self-conscious once again. He can tell that I'm embarrassed by the subject. Before I can reply Daniel continues, "Come on, let's get out of here, Asher." I smile, nod my head, and grab Raz. Daniel leads as we both crawl our way out of the clothing rack. As he crawls in front of me, I hear a crinkling sound. For once it's not me. I then see a bit of white peeking out from his jean shorts. Is he wearing a diaper?! Na, he can't be. It's just my imagination again.

Once outside the rack, we both stand up. By now my soaked diaper is practically sagging down to my knees. I look up at Daniel and suddenly get a rush of childish emotions. For some reason, I throw my arms up into the air and begin to make my grabby paws. I yell from behind my pacifier, "Up! Up! Uppies Daniel! I want Uppies." Judging by the expression on Daniel's face, it's obvious he's about to melt from my cuteness. He smiles as he lifts me onto his hip. Now feeling secure, I lovingly wrap my little paws around his neck and give him the biggest hug I can muster up. I lay my head on his shoulder, "Thanks for saving me, Daniel! You're the pawesomest!" Daniel blushes a bit and smiles. No problem, Kiddo. After all, that's what friends do!" He hugs me back and continues, "Well looks like you're seriously in need of a change again, Asher. We should get you back to Jess and Jenn. I know they'll be relieved to see that I found you." I nod my head in agreement, then lay it back down on Daniel's shoulder. As he carries me through the corridor of the mall, I think to myself, *You're truly the bestest pup in the world, Daniel. One of these days I'll get back to my normal age, but honestly I'm okay with this for now.* My thoughts pause for a moment as I hear a familiar noise. *Why the heck do I hear crinkling again?*

