## Toon It Up: Gator Cheers

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Knock. "Can I come in?"

Alice slowly shifted herself up in her bed, the covers slipping past her chin for the first time in what felt like hours. She hadn't been doing much and didn't feel like doing anything either. No drive, no energy.

Though, she could make a small effort for this. "Sure."

The door opened. Her husband, Barry, was there. "Hey, hun. How are we doing?"

"Okay... I'm fine. It's fine. Everything is fine." She didn't sound convincing. After how many times she had said that one would think she would've gotten better at it.

Alice just had to rest. Though, she had been resting for a long time now. Things had been rough, so many unfortunate incidents all piling up at once. Between the car accident and the loss of her job of so many years, she just had no energy, no drive for anything.

The worst of it though was how guilty she felt. Her family said they understood, but looking at them, it hurt. Just watching as Barry nodded now, like he always did, hurt. She wanted to do something about it, but couldn't. Just something within her held her back.

"Listen, the kids wanted to say hi," Barry spoke, giving her a faint smile, "It's an early Christmas present; something about helping you and stuff like that."

Alice's heart sunk even harder than before. It was that time of year, everyone's favorite time. Their kids, Connie and Danny, had been so excited and hyping each other up. Alice had done nothing to prepare or spend time with them. No cooking, no helping set up decorations, watch all the fun Christmas specials. She's just been stuck in this bedroom, unable to will herself into fully wanting to leave.

She took a deep breath and sat higher up, the blanket at her lap. No reason not to at least make an effort. They deserved to see her looking somewhat okay.

"Sure, send them in." She gave a small smile, brushing her hair behind her back.

Barry nodded and stepped to the side. Two kids, a young girl named Connie and a young boy named Danny, poked their heads in soon after. They looked concerned, staring long at their mother without a word.

Connie gulped ["Hi, mommy."] and was the first to step forward. In her hands was a large Christmas bag. It had been awkwardly stuffed with paper that threatened to fall right out. The eight-year-old spoke, "I-I-we got you something!"

Danny stepped into the room then. "It's to help make you feel better!"

Barry chuckled. "All the kids' idea before you ask. Didn't put them up to this at all. Got the bag, paper, and even the present all themselves."

Danny nodded. "Ah-huh! This pink dog gave us this gift on our way home from school!"

"She was really pink and really BIG!" Connie added, nodding her head faster than her brother. "But she was super nice!"

Alice gave them an odd look, but this wasn't all that odd to her. Her kids loved their silly stories and lies when covering something up. Barry probably just bought whatever they picked out at some store. Though... he did look a little weird when they mentioned the dog.

Connie came up to the bedside and held the bag up to Alice, who took it with the warmest smile she could give. She pulled out the paper, most of it just a big, crumpled-up ball at this point. At the bottom, she found a curious item.

It was a stuffed alligator plushie. Alice pulled it out for a closer look. It was very chubby with bright green fuzz, black eyes, and a thick tail. It had a bright smile sowed into his muzzle.

*Cute, I guess*, she thought. Admittedly, she wasn't into alligators all that much. However, the thought is what counted the most. She looked down at her two kids, huddled against the bed, looking up at her with big, bright eyes. She smiled, and they lit up.

Barry smiled as well. "Well, I leave you three alone. Gotta go whip us up some lunch."

The door closed as he left, but the kids didn't notice. They were too transfixed on their mom smiling. Alice reached down and ruffled Connie's hair and pat Danny on the head. "Thank you so much, I really like it. It's... cute~."

Connie bounced up and down. "Oh oh oh! Do you feel better now, mommy?"

Alice flinched. *Keep it cool.* She took a deep breath and kept up her smile. "Y-yes. I feel better now... ish. Your present hit the spot."

"Oh... is that it?" Danny's words were like daggers. It was hard to lie to them, especially when it was to help them and wasn't even working.

Still, she had to try for their sake. "I'm okay," she cooed softly, "I'm just feeling-"

## **GUUUUUUUUUUUUUURGLE!**

The kids nearly jumped a foot in the air. Alice's face went completely red. Her eyes slowly looked down, almost making a comical door creak. Her stomach had loudly rumbled and bellowed. It yearned for something.

Alice chuckled, looking and feeling awkward. She had to quickly switch topics. "Umm, you see, I feel... I feel..."

Guuuurgle. Her pupils dilated. Something was brewing inside her.

"Ah feel hungry likah a dog! Booooy howdy, sure hope hubby can whip us somethin' up quick-like before we start eatin' the cushions~."

The kids this time just stared. Stared and blinked. Alice's face couldn't get any redder, so she just shook it. *Where the hell did that come from?!* 

She gently rubbed her stomach, but only twice. Something was off.

Not with her stomach though. She lifted her hands up and gasped. Her mitts were covered with mitts. Each wore a rather thick, pudgy, four-fingered white glove. It almost looked like leather, but the material was even softer.

She wiggled her fingers, their dexterity unchanged at least. They were heavy, yet also...

"They look so squishy!" Connie cheered, her eyes sparkling.

"They look cool!" Danny added, reaching over to poke them.

**Tha-THUMP.** Alice's heartbeat sounded loud in her head as she looked at her new gloves. They did look really squishy now that Connie mentioned it. Squishy and... nice. They were pretty nice, weren't they?

She gulped and grinned, her teeth looked sharper and whiter than before. "Yeah... they do feel squishy. And they look pretty cool, don't they?"

**Guuuuuurgle.** Her stomach answered her again, a slight groan leaving her mouth. She felt so hungry... and oddly heavy.

She reached down and rubbed her stomach again. However, her hand hit it early. Looking down, her stomach looked bigger, stretching her shirt subtly. That couldn't be right, right?

Pulling the shirt up lightly beneath her covers, her tummy really was pudgier. More importantly, it was green. It was bright yellow-green, her skin both smooth and slightly rough at the same time. Running up from side to the side, there were ridges, like a reptile.

"Mommy, are you okay?"

Alice flinched, letting go of her shirt. It didn't do much good at covering. Her stomach swelled further, hanging over her sweatpants' band and poking out just enough from under her shirt. Her belly button was almost visible now.

"Something wrong?" Both of her kids looked at her. Thankfully, they hadn't noticed her new shade of green. Alice could feel her heart race a mile a minute now, pulling her blanket up higher. She couldn't worry them. There was too much of that already.

She gave them a calm smile. "Heh, 'course ah'm fine, lil's ones~. Big momma is just feelin' a lil' tired and green, is all. Don't worry ah **thing, y'all. Ah'll be right as** rain 'n a sec!"

Connie and Danny flinched but bounced back right away. They looked so excited and giddy. Alice only grew worse on the inside.

What's happening to me? This ain't right... I don't understand what's goin-

**GAAAARGLLLLEEEEEE**. Alice's mitts tightened on her stuffed toy as she shook. Vibrations rocketed down her back, through her butt, and down her legs, which bounced and kicked the blanket around. Eventually, **pop-pop!** 

Popping right out from underneath the covers, two feet appeared. They were as large as Alice's gloved hands. They were bright lime green and chubby. Four toes on each of them, very stubby and safely trimmed silver claws at the end of each digit.

The kids' neck snapped in the direction of her feet, gasping. Alice's world went still and quiet. They found out. They found out something was wrong with her. Well, something even more wrong with her she thought. They were going to scream, run. Everything was going to go wrong. Everything was over. Another crappy incident to toss onto the-

"WOW! They're so green!" Connie gasped, her eyes lighting up.

"They're so cool!" Danny cheered, looking even more excited.

And just like that, something changed. That horror, that dread, that sadness within Alice shifted. Those words, those compliments, those approving, happy looks on her kids' faces. She felt something new now. Something big, something pleasant... something self-assuring.

Alice cracked another smile, bigger and more real than before, 'You... you really think so? You think they're cool?"

"Ah-huh!" Danny cheered and nodded in a blur. "You're like a cool superhero or a mutant!"

One of those wasn't so hot, but she did like the compliment. She wiggled her pudgy, scaly toes and chuckled deeply. They were cool. She was cool~.

She brought an arm up to her son. "Ah don't know 'bout bein' one of 'em heroes despite dem cool toesies. Don't heroes have ta be strong-like? Ah, ahem, while I appreciate the compliment, look at me. I don't think I'm all-"

She playfully flexed her scrawny arm to prove her point. **WOOMP.** Her arm almost instantly turned as green and scaly as her feet. Then it ballooned, followed by her non-flexed arm too. Thin and scrawny became thick and chubby, nearly tripling their old size.

"Woooow!" Connie gasped, before smiling. "Sooooo cool!" She proceeded to poke Alice's arms repeatedly.

The mom didn't react to that, too spellbound by this new change. She tried moving her limbs, finding them so heavy and dense. A small shake of them made their blubber jiggle.

Despite that though, she felt something deep within. She clenched her hands and slowly flexed her arms again, which tingled with delight.

They were fat, but also strong, powerful. Despite their soft, squishy appearance, they were incredible. She gently bit down on her bottom lip, excitement pouring into her.

Her shoulders slightly broadened and thickened as she moved her arms. Still heavy, but easier to move around. *These boys are goooood*~. *Ah think I'll like*-

"Do that again!" Danny shouted.

Alice snapped back to reality. "What again?"

"With your arms!"

"Oooooh!" Alice chuckled, "Ah dunno..." She looked at her arms, taking in their silly, thick shape. "Ah don't think I can just make mah arms all small 'n' then big again."

The kids sighed. She felt sad again (though not as before). If there was only something she could do in this situation. Maybe she could...

**Rrrrruuuuuummmble.** Alice bit her bottom lip, which was looking a tad thicker and greener now. Something was coming. Something that would work.

With a big, toothy gator grin, Alice threw caution to the wind and pulled her covers off. "Yah know, how 'bout seein' sum legs plump up instead?"

**GUUUUUURrrrrrGLLEEE!** Her stomach swelled instead. It pushed further out, dipping slightly on her thighs. **Pop.** Her belly button turned into a cartoony outie.

The kids ooooed, applauding. Alice, instead, just huffed. "Darn legs, **ah** was talking **'bout you boys** swelling up!"

She lifted her legs and brought them down. **THWOOOMP!** That did the trick as her last set of limbs took on hefty proportions that matched her feet. Her poor sweatpants never stood a chance as her legs fattened right up, tearing open holes all over.

Bright green skin peering through the holes, the kids gasped and cheered. Alice just grinned. They were so happy... and she felt pretty happy too. Sure, her problems weren't gone, but despite all of the figurative and literal heft, she didn't feel weighed down at all.

"Are you feeling better, mommy?" Connie asked.

**Guuuurgle~. BUUUUURRRP!** Alice laughed, patting her stomach. Just crude behavior, yet it felt right to let it out. "Well, **ah don't** feel all gloomy anymore. In fact, **ah feel grand! It's** all thanks to you and **dat there** present~."

That wasn't an exaggeration either. Getting that gift had certainly led to an interesting past couple of minutes. However, it also led to her feeling better, great even!

Danny jumped, pumping his fists into the air, "She was right! The pink dog was right. That present did help mom!"

"Oh oh oh!" Connie declared, "Daddy should see mommy's happy too!" Danny nodded and rushed out of the room.

Alice trembled and yelled to him, "Make sure **lil' daddy** is cookin' up lots of stuff down there! **Big** momma is starving~!"

Connie hopped onto the bed then, poking Alice's legs. She giggled, "Soooo soft!"

Alice laughed, her voice cracking, "Heh, yeah they are! Thanks for th' present. Big momma is feelin' a-okay now thanks to y'all's gift!"

Connie blushed, looking slightly embarrassed. She opened her arms and inched over to her mom on her knees for a hug. Alice smiled and opened up for a big hug too.

**GUUUUUUUUUUUUUURGLE! FWOOOOMP!** Her belly massively in one big burst, blowing out into a large, cartoony gut. Such a growth slammed against Connie and bounced her away down the bed.

Alice gasped, "Oh dear! I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to-"

"Yaaay!" Connie cheered and giggled, "That was fun! You're like a bouncy castle!"

The "mom" felt a swell of joy, her worries being buried, along with her old voice. "Heh! you're welcome, lil' one!" She slapped her belly, making a drum sound. "Tis here gut is pretty bouncy 'n' soft." Ooooh, it felt nice to touch her belly~.

She smacked again, shivering. It felt really good. She started smacking and patting her stomach, having a whole drum solo. Connie was awestruck.

Meanwhile, Alice's hair started falling out with each smack, scaly skin slowly engulfing her head. It was just as green as her arms and legs, her appearance more and more reptilian.

Alice shivered. *Soooooo good!* Everything felt fantastic. Why, she even felt up for anything and everything right about now... including eating! She was starving!

"Umm, mommy?" Alice stopped and listened to her daughter, "Umm... if you're feeling better... do ya wanna help decorate the tree? We... we didn't start yet! I didn't want anyone to do it until you were all better!"

Awww! Such a good lil'sweetie pie. Alice chuckled, ruffling Connie's head. "Heh, 'course ah can help! Now dat ah'm all guuud, y'all can expect me trudgin' 'n' waddlin' 'round dese parts, doin' mah thing again for y'all, and that includes Christmas stuff!"

Connie cheered. Alice smiled but blushed. Something felt off. She looked over her shoulder, inching away from the headboard on her bed. Pushing out from above her behind, a nub was growing... and **GROWING**.

She scooted further away, letting the fat tail grow out long and wide. Connie, curious, bounced off the bed and looked behind her mom. She gasped and lept at the tail, grabbing hold of it. "Oooooh, tail! It's so green and fat!"

Mommy chuckled, "Sure is, hun~."

Connie tried to lift the tail, but it was impossible. It was packing on the pounds, growing two feet long. "Mommy's got a big gator tail! It's big, green, and fat like the plushie!"

Plushie. Right, she had completely forgotten. Looking at the stuffed animal that had fallen beside her. Huh, well ah'll be! Does have a same tail, don't it? Hmm, thankin' 'bout it, all of 'is started happunin' 'round th' time th' tykes gave me that thang. Ah wonder if-

There was a creak. "Oh! See, see? Mommy's all better and happy!" Danny had returned, his eyes wide with wonder as he looked upon his enlarging mother.

With him, Barry had entered. His expression was less happy and more shocked. His eyes were wide, his jaw hanging.

Awww, he's so gosh dang cute when he's stupefied~. Alice felt her heart aflutter. For the first time in a long time, she eagerly hopped out of bed. Everything in the house bounced when she landed, several extra pounds added on to her.

She waved at Barry cheekily, green scales slowly engulfing her full form. "Heeeeya, big daddy! How mah hunka man doin'? Makin' good grub down here?"

"Al-Al-Alice?!" Barry could only stutter. "Wha... what happened... what happened t-to you?!"

Alice laughed, smacking their belly, which wobbled like Jell-O, "The' kids' present, is what happened!" Her shirt ripped right off, revealing her scaly, chubby, manly body with pride. "Those kids of ours sure got one gosh darn guuud present! Ah ain't felt th's fine in a long, looong time!"

The kids grinned and high-fived one another, Alice smiling. They were such good kids. This parent was gonna make sure Santa got them extra good presents this year!

Alice's tail grew and grew, becoming extra wide and almost as long as her body. They didn't care, merely continuing on as their face also grew forward, "Now th't ah'm all beddah, ah'm gonna make up for sum lost time!"

GUUUUUUUURGGGGGLLLEEEEE! Alice laughed, their ears vanishing as their head smoothed out into a reptilian one. "'N' ah'm gonna make up for lost meals too! Taday, ah'm gonna start helpin' decorate this here house 'n' make it proper festive... after lunch~."

"YAY!" The two kids cheered and ran from the room, no doubt to get everything ready for decorating after a nice meal.

The two adults were left alone. Barry slowly inched back, unintentionally towards a wall. Alice just looked at him with their reptilian eyes and smiled. There was a hunger in their expression, one that made their hubby gulp.

Alice strolled over, their belly pressing against Barry and pushing him against the wall. Alice placed a gloved hand over him, the former wife now towering. "Now, while dem tykes are outta here, how about sum sugah?"

The gator leaned in, their face leaning forward more, stretching out a few more inches to form a full muzzle. Barry didn't move, too shocked as the big toon mouth smacked against his own. And there, they kissed.

Barry fidgeted and shivered, especially as Alice's arms wrapped around him. However, after a while, Alice felt him back. He began to kiss, his arms wrapping around his "wife" s new flabby figure.

The kiss went on and on until they separated. The husband rubbed his head, his face beet red. "Whooooooa... that... that was... that was kind of fun!"

The gator laughed, smacking him on the back, "Just kinda? Shoot boy, ya know you liked it more than just kinda~."

Barry chuckled, "Okay, it was fun! Man, you're... you're something else Alice~."

"Now den, 'nough of 'is mouth suckin', ah'm hungrier than a dog."

"Are you hungry as... a gator?" Barry playfully asked, getting caught up in his new husband's radiating enthusiasm.

"...AHAHAHA! Yah, th't sounds 'bout right ta me! Let's get sum grub 'n' then we can help 'em rugrats gettin' this place lookin' all good like!"

The two parents left, Alice lingering a little behind. He was deep in thought. Everything felt so different, so new, and not just because of all the added weight he was in love with.

His mind felt awake for the first time. He saw and felt things in a new way; a way that was frankly better. He had energy, excitement, joy, and silliness for days! He wanted to make his hubby happy, he wanted to make his kids happy.

But what was most important was that he, himself, finally felt happy. Happy for the first time in a long time. Sure, there would be new challenges, along with the old ones. However, he felt hope for the future. He felt that this would be the very best Christmas season he ever had.