

His question was answered when fluid started to leak out of the walls of the belly, pooling at the bottom and covering the lizard's feet. It made his skin feel tingly and weird . . . oh no. Was he going to . . .?!

"HELP!" Slick shouted again, bringing up his hands and banging them against the stomach walls, hoping it would give Regus indigestion. "I'M BEING DIGESTED!"

The panther man laughed and slapped his stomach again, which splashed the liquid onto Slick's body. "Why, of course you are," he teased his prey. "You're food, and food digests. Now relax and settle in, my little traitor. Because my gut is a relentless ecosystem, and you'll want to save your energy.

"Oh, and thanks for punching the walls—makes for a great interior massage~!"

Slick gulped. Was there really no way out of this? Maybe if he sat still and didn't move, the belly wouldn't react to his presence—

Regus's gut responded by squeezing inward, squishing the poor lizard and rubbing stomach fluids all over him. By the time the stomach let go of him, his whole body was tingling all over, but his feet, which were still submerged in the liquid, had it the worst. They were tingling like crazy, but at least it was just them—

He spoke too soon. More fluid poured from the sides of the belly and landed on the ground, filling up the space. It didn't stop until it had reached Slick's hips, making everything below there tingle. "Please!" the lizard begged. "Master, I'll do anything; just don't digest me!"

"So desperate," teased Regus. "Let me think about it for a moment. . ." The stomach squeezed in again, pressing around Slick and making him cry out in pain. ". . . Nah. I want food right now, so food you will be. Plus, if I let you go, there's a good chance you'll just betray me again."

"I won't!" screamed Slick. He was starting to feel woozy. . . "Please, master! Have mercy!"

"Mercy is something I do not have," replied the panther man, laughing. "Sorry, but you're just my meal now. Get used to it."

The belly filled up with more liquid, going up to the lizard's neck this time. His whole body was tingling, and he could practically feel it breaking down. Plus, the wooziness was taking him over. This was it.

Slick passed out inside the stomach, and digestion truly began.