

## An Inkling's Intense Weight Training

The announcement of the latest Splatfest had sent the town into a buzz of activity. Immediately all of the inklings, octolings, and other creatures that dwelled there got into heated debates over which side would reign supreme. Anyone that would be willing to actually defend their opinion was already starting to plan out how best they would train for the turf wars that would decide the winner. Whether it was through old-fashioned training or getting the latest in inking weaponry, everyone was preparing to give it their all to come out on top. This especially rang true for an inkling woman named Sakura.

Sakura's red eyes glittered as she looked up at the enormous screen in town square as the announcement finished up. Whipping about the cerulean blue tentacles on her head, her pointed ears twitched as her mind began to brim with plans for the turf wars. Crossing her arms and pressing them against her green jacket, she couldn't help recalling how she had missed out on the last Splatfest due to some issues outside of her control. Considering that she had finally gotten down to a small enough size to fit into her black pants, she was determined to claim victory for her team this time around. The only thing that could get in her way was the usual obstacle of her closest friend.

The inkling woman's training plans were put on hold as she heard something running towards her. Spinning about on her heels, she instantly recognized the maroon hoodie and blue shorts adorning the person approaching her. With her red tentacles swinging around like crazy as her sprint came to a jarring halt, Ruby the octoling was sure to greet Sakura with a beaming smile.

"Hey Sakura, did you hear the news?" Ruby asked.

“Yeah, and I’m more than ready to take back my glory,” Sakura replied. “I might have messed up last time, but this is going to be different. I’m going to stick to my training routine, do daily weapon practices, and maintain a good diet to make sure I’m prepared.”

“Funny you should mention diet,” Ruby said, the mischievous grin on her face giving Sakura a feeling of unease. “There’s something special I got for you to make sure you’re in tip top shape for the Splatfest.”

Reaching into her pocket, Ruby pulled out a bundle of fried shrimp wrapped in plastic. Placing the greasy meal into Sakura’s hands, Ruby waited for the moment that her friend would open it up and begin to eat. Instead, her smile turned into a frown as Sakura placed it back in her hands.

“Sorry, but this is the last thing I should be eating right now,” Sakura explained. “I can’t go eating junk food if I want to stay in shape for the Splatfest. Besides, I’m still a little wary after that stunt you pulled back at the spa.”

“Come on, that was just a bit of harmless fun,” Ruby replied. “And for your information, this isn’t just junk food. It’s part of a line of special supplements meant to help your performance in turf wars.”

“Is this some kind of prank?”

“No really. They’re called Splat Supplements. Look them up.”

Keeping an eye on Ruby and the questionable food, Sakura pulled out her phone and looked up the brand. Her skepticism diminished as she went through article after article that praised the supplements’ ability to improve a person’s body and provide energy. Various celebrities from the Squid Sisters, to Off the Hook, and even Deep Cut were giving high praise

that made Sakura's concerns diminish. Looking away from her screen to glance over at Ruby, Sakura begrudgingly took the fried shrimp out of its wrapper and popped it in her mouth.

"Well, how is it?" Ruby asked as Sakura chewed.

"The taste is pretty good," Sakura remarked before swallowing. "Don't know if it'll do anything yet though."

"Oh don't worry. In time, this stuff will help you become the best you that you can be."

"What do you mean by that?"

"No time for questions like that," Ruby said, pushing Sakura forward towards the training area. "We have a lot of training ahead of us."

"Yeah, let's do it," Sakura said, holding up a fist to pump herself up, ignorant to mischievous smile on the octoling's face.

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Gritting her teeth, Sakura was determined to push her body as far as possible to make herself ready for the Splatfest. Keeping her form straight and her eyes on the prize, she managed to finish her final lap around the running track. Coming to a halt, she hunched over to catch her breath. As tired as she was, the first thought that came to her mind wasn't to rest her weary body, but to check on her progress.

"Ruby!" Sakura called out to her nearby friend.

"A solid ten seconds off your record!" Ruby shouted back, making a proud smile appear on Sakura's face. "Now, come over here and get some water before you pass out."

Still running on adrenaline, Sakura saw no problem with jogging her way back over to Ruby. This movement further toned her weary leg muscles, making sure she wasn't wasting a

single moment without getting some training in. However, the running motion had the unintended effect of giving Ruby a chance to look at the potbelly that stuck out from the inkling's mid-section to push out her coat. Rather than point it out, Ruby merely kept up her grin as she handed off a bottle of water laced with Splat Supplement powder.

"How are you feeling?" Ruby asked as she watched her friend down half bottle in a few gulps.

"Better than ever," Sakura replied, putting the water to her mouth again to finish it off in a few sips. "I've never felt so energetic before. Feels like I could run a marathon ten times over. Thanks again for introducing me to these supplements. They've been a big help."

"That's what friends are for. Which is also why I brought this."

Reaching into her bag, Ruby pulled out a small paper box. Holding the box up to Sakura's face, Ruby opened it to reveal a recently cooked burger. Though Sakura's initial reaction was to push the sandwich away, she was stopped as she saw the familiar branding of the Splat Supplements printed on the side of the box.

"They make burgers too?" Sakura said, lifting up the burger to examine its contents.

"Pretty amazing, isn't it?" Ruby replied. "Feels like they're coming up with new ways to better your body every day."

Assuredly convinced by her recent performance, Sakura showed no hesitation as she sunk her teeth into the burger. The mixture of grease-laden meat, veggies, and a variety of condiments rewarded Sakura's daring with an explosion of flavor. Dealing with a ravenous appetite brought on by her recent exercise, she managed to completely devour the burger in a matter of a few bites. Licking her fingers clean of any lingering drops of sauce, she was almost immediately offered another burger by Ruby.

“Go on, eat up,” Ruby said as Sakura accepted the sandwich. “You’re going to need all the strength you can get.”

With a nod of her head, Sakura once more sunk her teeth into her burger to make up for her lost calories. Looking away from Sakura’s face, Ruby focused her attention on the status of her friend’s belly. Each bite further pushed out the growing orb, making it take up more and more of Sakura’s jacket in the process. Seeing her opportunity as the inkling continued to indulge herself, Ruby dared to reach out her fingers towards her friend’s belly. She managed to make a single swipe of her hand against Sakura’s gut moments before the inkling swallowed the last chunk of meat.

Reeling her hand back before Sakura could notice her, Ruby put on her typical wide grin. “How was it?”

“It was excellent,” Sakura replied, brushing off the leftover crumbs and sauce as she got up. “That was just what I needed. Let me do one more lap around the track and I’ll head back home.”

“You be careful out there,” Ruby remarked, reveling in the sight of Sakura’s stuffed belly jiggling with each step. “Wouldn’t want you pushing yourself too far.”

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The enthusiasm that had been pushing Sakura through her training had begun to diminish after about a week. She was still getting bursts of energy here and there from the Splat Supplements, but it came with constant crashes that struck her after every work out session. Wanting to mitigate all of her down time, she pushed herself that much harder to ensure she was more than prepared for the upcoming Splatfest. Unfortunately, her body wasn’t cooperating.

Sweat beaded down Sakura's forehead as she took a moment to catch her breath. These droplets slipped down her cheek to caress her two chins before diving between the small hole created by her swollen breasts. Taking a deep breath, she once more lifted her head up for a crunch and winced at the feeling of her belly rolls scrunching up together. Pushing herself to finish the 20<sup>th</sup> rep, she brought her head back down. Rolling over onto her doughy belly, any satisfaction she got from the brief exercise session was undone by the sensation of the extra chub attached to her buttocks straining the seams of her pants.

Just as Sakura was about to turn back over for another set of crunches, her nose picked up something heavenly drifting through the gym. Clambering to her feet, the aroma sent her into a sprint that reignited her adrenaline and hunger. Too focused on finding the source, she barely paid attention to the way her extra chub jiggled with each step.

Rounding the corner, Sakura spotted Ruby walking towards her with a white box. Coming to a skidding halt that accidentally let the bottom portion of her belly slip out from beneath her jacket, Sakura watched as her friend gradually lifted up the top of the container. A burst of the same delicious smell came forth to herald the reveal of a greasy pizza that looked fresh from the oven. On instinct Sakura began to reach out towards the delectable meal, only to stop as she felt her gut slip further out from her jacket.

"While I do appreciate you bringing me food," Sakura began, gently closing the cover of the box to avoid temptation, "I don't think this is the best thing for me right now."

Though Sakura turned away to try and return to her training, she was stopped as Ruby ran forward to block her path.

"This isn't just some ordinary pizza," Ruby explained. "It's a special version I made using the Splat Supplements. I'm sure that it will--"

“I said no, Ruby,” Sakura said, trying to get back to her exercises only for Ruby to block her way once more.

“Come on, just a bite?” Ruby asked.

“Ruby, this isn’t healthy.” Chewing on her lip, Sakura nervously lifted up the hem of her coat to momentarily reveal the chubby flesh around her mid-section. Her intention may have been to prove her point, but the reaction she got was a longing stare. Watching as Ruby slowly reached towards her stomach, Sakura pulled her coat back down. “I think you see the problem here.”

Pulling her hand back, Ruby scratched her chin until an idea popped into her head. “I know you’re worried about carrying around a few extra pounds, but is it really wise to be exerting yourself on an empty stomach?”

Sakura paused for a moment. “Well no, but that doesn’t mean I should be stuffing my face with junk food. I’m already plump enough as it is. Last thing I need is me blowing up like a balloon before the Splatfest.”

“This isn’t just junk food,” Ruby said, opening up the box once more to show it off the multitude of topping adorning it. “You’ve experienced first hand the rush you feel after taking the supplements. Considering how there’s only a few weeks left until the Splatfest, you’re going to need all the help you can get.” Noticing a sign of weakness in the form of a twitch Sakura’s eye, Ruby held the pizza close to the inkling’s face. “So come on. Eat up. A champion needs her energy.”

Assaulted on three fronts by logic, Ruby’s pleading, and her own hunger, Sakura relented in grabbing a pizza slice from the box. Her intention had been to merely take a few bites and stop to keep her full until her training was over. That all changed as she sunk her teeth into the gooey

cheese and her tongue got to sample the underlying sauce mix with the indulgent toppings. In addition to the extra power, the supplements came with the side effect of enhancing the flavor of anything they touched. This led to a starved Sakura downing her slice in the span of a few seconds before reaching in for another helping.

Trying to keep the box still, Ruby watched as Sakura downed one slice of pizza after another. Distracted by her own desire to stuff herself, the inkling woman paid little attention as Ruby once more let her hand drift towards her pudgy belly. Every so carefully lifting up the hem of her friend's jacket to free the doughy gut, Ruby allowed herself to grab a handful of the soft flesh. As much as she wished to explore the extra bump that Sakura's weight gain had given to her curves, the octoling was able to restrain herself with just a few handfuls of belly fat. Reveling in the feeling of the soft pudge, Ruby pulled her fingers back just in time to watch Sakura finish off the last slice.

"Did you like it?" Ruby asked, getting her answer in the form of a nod from Sakura and the fact that the box had been licked clean.

"Thank you for the meal," Sakura said, wiping her face clean with her sleeve. "I really needed that. I should have more than enough energy to finish my routine now."

"That's the spirit," Ruby said, sending her friend off with a fist bump. "I'll have more supplement food waiting for you when you finish."

"You're the best!" Sakura called out as she ran towards the gym.

"That's what friends are for," Ruby shouted back, putting on a wide grin as she left to procure more food to continue her friend's transformation.

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Sakura could feel the other gym goers' eyes focused on her as she went about her typical routine. The stares had become more frequent as the days went on and she continued to put on weight. If Sakura listened closely, she could hear them talking about how her body was degrading at an astounding pace. Though this kind of speech should have been enough to make her change her lifestyle, she wasn't about to stop now. After all, she and Ruby seemed to be the only ones taking advantage of the wonderful effects of the Splat Supplements.

Placing her water bottle filled with a powdered version of the boosters in a nearby cupholder, Sakura turned on a treadmill machine and began to run. Though she was just going for a leisurely jog to start, the light running was enough to get sweat dripping down her forehead in a little over a minute. The droplets slid their way over the chub covering her cheeks to cascade down her three chins and onto her body. From there, the sweat had a good chance of slipping into the wide cleavage window that had begun to tear through the top of her jacket. The bottom half of her coat was almost entirely sunken into the rolls of her belly fat, leaving the jiggling mass free for people to stare and marvel at her belly button. The constant motion of her thick thighs had the unsettling side effect of her thick ass cheeks slapping together and threatening to tear straight through her pants at a moment's notice.

A combination of her growing audience and weakening stamina led to Sakura ending her session early. Grabbing her bottle of water, she chugged down the entire thing to try and restore a fraction of her energy. Making her way off of the treadmill, she shuffled towards the gym's shower room to wash off the layer of sweat attached to her pudgy body.

Arriving at the changing room doors, Sakura was met with the familiar sight of Ruby holding a box marked with the Splat Supplement's logo. She already knew what awaited her inside, as well as what the side effects would do to further fatten up her body. Opening her mouth

to once more try to convince Ruby that she didn't need any more food led her to sucking in the cloud of wonderful smells that drifted out of the box as Sakura lifted it open.

One glance at the tasty looking, foot long sandwich stuffed to the gills with fried shrimp, veggies, and various condiments was all it took to make Sakura forget about her worries. Graciously accepting the meal, she showed little hesitation in sinking her teeth into the bread to get at the tasty fillings inside. As the inkling ate to her heart's content, Ruby took the opportunity to admire her fat. Walking around Sakura, she had to make a guess that she was nearing over 300 pounds in weight with no signs of slowing. Unable to hold herself back for much longer, the octoling reached out to grab a handful of Sakura's belly fat.

Ruby was stopped as she heard a tearing noise echo through the hall. A second, similar sound coming from Sakura's chest got the inkling to stop licking her fingers clean to pay attention to her outfit. Feeling the fabric start to tear all over, she stomped her feet into the ground as she tried to come up with a way to stop it. However, all that accomplished was quickening her clothing's demise.

A tear formed straight down the center of Sakura's coat to fully unveil the overburdened bra keeping her bosom at bay. No longer held back by its fabric prison, her belly was fully able to jiggle about in unison with her chub-laden limbs. A single step forward spelled the end for Sakura's pants, leaving her butt cheeks to plop out and nearly drag her to the floor under the influence of their sheer mass. Though she was left physically unharmed by the act, the mental strain of standing in the middle of the hallway with only her ill-fitting bra and panties around her chubby form didn't help with her concerns. Just as she was about to break into tears, Ruby lunged forward to give her a hug.

“It’s okay,” Ruby said, using the guise of comfort to press herself up against Sakura’s bare flab. “I just need to take you clothes shopping again. It’ll be my treat for working so hard.”

“You mean it?” Sakura said, her sheer shock from the experience leaving her a little teary eyed from Ruby’s act of kindness.

“That’s what friends are for,” Ruby replied. “For now, go head into the locker room and get cleaned up. By the time you’re done, I’ll have a new set of clothes waiting for you.”

Sakura paused for a moment, fidgeting with her fingers before she eventually spoke up. “Can you bring me another sandwich too? I’m still a little hungry.”

“How about TWO sandwiches with a drink and a bag of chips?” Ruby countered.

“That would be great,” Sakura said, mindlessly rubbing her ravenous belly as she shuffled into the locker room.

“You can count on me then,” Ruby said, waving Sakura off before dashing out the door to get the necessary provisions to keep up with the inkling’s growing body.

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Pounding her feet against the ground, Sakura tried to desperately force herself through the final lap of her run. With the Splatfest only a week away, she didn’t have time to slow down to catch her breath. On top of her lacking cardio, there was also the issue of her declining accuracy at the shooting range and her overall lack of stamina. While the first two problems could be fixed with enough practice or a change in weaponry, the only solution to her poor endurance was to keep taking the supplements that had drastically altered the once slim inkling’s body into what it was now.

Barely managing to complete a single lap, Sakura pushed her thick legs to waddle just a few more feet to slam her double-wide rear onto a nearby bench. Ignoring the sound of her pants straining to keep her hips covered up, she leaned back to rest her weary body. Grabbing a bottle of Splat Supplement water from her bag, she put her chubby cheeks to good use chugging down the entire thing in a matter of seconds. A small trickle escaped from her lips to drizzle down her four chins to stain the top of her jacket. Tossing the empty bottle into the trash, she picked up a towel to start mopping up the sweat that covered her melon-sized breasts. Careful not to further tear her already overburdened jacket, she hazarded to lift up the hem to give her barrel-like belly some much needed air. Though she momentarily considered using her fat fingers to relieve the sore spots where her belly had rubbed up against her thighs, she was stopped as a set of much smaller hands reach out to massage her.

“Wow, you really worked up a sweat out there,” Ruby commented as she continued to grope Sakura’s belly fat under the guise of mitigating her pain.

“Thank you, I really needed this,” Sakura said, giving herself a chance to relax. “With the Splatfest so close, I have to do something to put me in a fighting condition. That means I can’t stop training for too long.”

“True, you have done a lot of exercise,” Ruby replied, resting her head against her friend’s gut. “That being said, you must have worked up a pretty big appetite. Not a good idea to exercise on an empty stomach.”

“Is it really okay for me to eat again so soon?” Sakura asked. “I’ve already had four meals just this morning.”

“Five actually,” Ruby corrected. “Or did you forget about the chocolate pancakes I made for you with extra syrup?”

“No, never,” Sakura answered, having to wipe drool from her lips at the mere thought of the tasty meal. “Alright, maybe a small snack wouldn’t hurt.”

“I have just the thing for you,” Ruby said, helping Sakura into a standing position. “I left a box of Splat Supplement fries and onion rings in my locker. Let’s give you a bit of extra exercise with a short walk there.”

“Okay,” Sakura said, taking a deep breath to prepare herself. “I’ll give it a shot.”

Lumbering her way forward, the knowledge of her upcoming meal managed to squeeze one last ounce of energy through Sakura’s veins. The heavy strides of her bulky limbs managed to get her all the way to the locker room entrance. However, her journey towards sustenance became hindered as her waist came into contact with the doorway. Try as she might, Sakura couldn’t squeeze herself through. Hearing her stomach rumble with hunger, she looked over her shoulder to glance at Ruby.

“Ruby, I know it’s a little embarrassing, but could you help me out?”

“Say no more!” Ruby replied, running towards her friend in need.

Sinking her hands into the inkling’s plush rear, Ruby began to push. While Sakura was doing her best to try and free herself, Ruby was purposefully taking her time to enjoy the opportunity to feel up the inkling’s thick rear. It was only after she had been able to squeeze generous helpings of Sakura’s ass fat did Ruby see fit to actually try to free her. Getting a running start, the octoling slammed her entire body into Sakura’s ass to give her the push needed to get her into the locker room.

Winded from the experience, Sakura waddled over to a nearby bench and sat down. “I don’t know what I would do without you,” she said, only now noticing the tears in her coat that had formed in the process of getting her through the door.

“Hold that thought,” Ruby said, rushing to her locker to procure the box of fried food and hand it to Sakura. “Go ahead and chow down on this while I go grab you another change of clothes. Might also snag you something sweet to go along with it to make up for that little incident.”

“You’re the best,” Sakura said, her words muffled as she began to shove the greasy meal into her mouth.

“Just trying to help out a friend,” Ruby replied before leaving the locker room.

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The day of the Splatfest had finally come. If the various citizens weren’t partying it up in the town center to celebrate the festivities, they were getting ready to defend their team. All through the day different groups were squaring off in turf wars to decide who would come out on top. It was through this fierce competition would a great question be decided. Which was better at Wahoo World? The food or the rides?

“I still think we should have chosen rides,” Gene, a purple colored inkling man commented, having to shout to be heard over the roar of the crowd gathered in the theme park’s stadium to watch their match. “That way we could have gotten free access to the rollercoaster without having to wait in line.”

“It’s not like we’re getting nothing in return,” spoke up Sam the male, scarlet-hued octoling. “You can’t take the rides home with you, but you can bring back a ton of free food. Isn’t that right, Ruby?”

Turning around, the two guys noticed that Ruby was trying to avoid their gaze. She had been rather quiet ever since she arrived at the park. Typically, she was bouncing up and down

with excitement in preparation for the turf war matches. The reason for her odd behavior was quickly explained by the absence of one of their teammates.

“I’m sure she’ll be here soon,” Sam spoke up.

“Do we really want her though?” Gene asked, unable to read the look of worry on Ruby’s face. “I’ve seen what’s she like after her so-called extreme training. I doubt she could even fit in the stadium, let alone-“

“Shut it!” Sam said, silencing Gene and preventing Ruby from having a nervous breakdown. “You shouldn’t talk about your teammates like that.”

“Sorry,” Gene said, turning away to look over at their opponents on the other side of the arena. “I’m just a little worried about our chances considering they have more people than us.”

“Well, that’s just how it is. If we have to take them on with just three of us, then so be it.”

“No you won’t!”

The familiar shout preceded a series of heavy footfalls making their way onto the field. Turning to the face the source of the husky voice, Ruby and the others watched as Sakura waddled towards them. Though the inkling couldn’t have been more confident about her chances judging by the expression on her face, the same could not be said for the rest of her comrades as they got a glimpse of what had become of her body.

Sakura was an absolutely massive blob of pudgy flesh. A custom-sized jacket was wrapped around her torso to try to contain her blubber, but even then there was little it could do to hide the various dips and fat folds that make up the bulk of her 800 pound body. The top of her zipper was slid down to give her heaving breasts room to breathe. The opening was made just large enough to hide the fact she hadn’t been able to find a bra to properly hide her nipples or stop her bosom from jiggling with each step. Her black pants looked practically painted onto her

lower half, giving everyone in the audience a good glimpse at her chunky thighs and bulky legs. Each stomp she took wobbled about the elephantine butt cheeks that seemed to swallow up more and more of the fabric with each step towards her stunned teammates.

“Okay,” Sakura said with a huff, clenching her meaty fingers around her splattershot as her blubbery arms held the weapon aloft. “I’m ready to win,” she declared with a smile stretched across her chubby face.

“Are you talking about the turf war or an eating contest?” Gene asked, receiving an elbow to the chest from Sam for his troubles.

“Sakura, are you sure you’re ready for this?” Ruby asked, clenching her fingers as she stepped forward to get a good look at Sakura’s gut.

“As I’ll ever be,” Sakura replied, scrunching up her five chins to look down at her friend. “I’ve done as much training as I possibly can. All that’s left is to put my body to the test. Don’t worry, I managed to take a bunch of Splat Supplements before the match to give me more than enough energy.”

“Wait, what supplements?” Sam asked to an increasingly nervous looking Ruby.

The octoling woman was saved from having to explain herself as the signal went out for the players to get ready. As the timer started to count down, Ruby glanced back to see the expectant look on Sakura’s face. Turning away before the guilt could get to her, the octoling tried to keep herself focused on the match ahead.

As the siren went off to begin the turf war, both groups ran forward to claim victory. Sakura’s team managed to get a few feet away from the starting point before they heard something behind them. Turning around, they watched as Sakura tried to sprint with her blubbery legs. The immense inkling’s efforts only succeeded in making her trip over herself and fall

towards the ground. Though she was undamaged from the landing, the true danger came as her team watched her enormous body begin to roll towards them.

Too busy gawking at the living boulder barreling towards him, Gene was the first to fall beneath her and get stuck in her belly rolls. Sam was the next to go, no amount of training able to keep his legs moving fast enough to avoid being crushed and consequently swallowed up by Sakura's ass cheeks. Grinding her teeth as she continued to run, Ruby managed to get within sight of the opposing team. She was able to see the dumbfounded expression on their faces moments before she was engulfed by Sakura's bosom.

Rolling along the course betwixt Sakura's tits, Ruby was well aware of the irony of the situation. The constant yelps Sakura let out as her team squirmed within her folds had the adverse effect of sucking them in deeper and deeper. Surrounded on all sides by the obese body she had come to adore, the guilt kept Ruby from fully enjoying the sensation of being so close to Sakura's pillowy breasts.

Unable to handle looking Sakura in the face, Ruby managed to turn her head away just in time to see the inkling's body roll towards the enemy team. As she sucked them up into her folds, the added weight sent Sakura careening towards a nearby wall. Through her abundant collection of fat Sakura managed to protect herself and the others from any harm, but the damage was already done. As the crowd looked over the group of challengers sunken into the inkling's massive body, the match was called to a pre-mature end.

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The scene of Sakura's moment as a living bowling ball played on a loop on a screen in the locker room. While most of the other players had left to nurse their wounds and figure out a

way to decide the match, Ruby and Sakura were left by themselves. Looking away from the screen, Ruby turned to see the lifeless expression on Sakura's face as she watched her failure over and over again.

Various tears and rips littered Sakura's clothing, either formed from her time as a living wrecking ball or from the people that had tried to escape her grasp. The opening in the seat of her pants was hidden by the metal bench she had bent upon resting her massive rear on top of it. Despite her sorry condition, Sakura still kept her sight entirely on the replay. Clenching her pudgy fingers together, Sakura was mere moments from breaking down into tears until Ruby stood on her toes to reach her shoulder.

"Hey, it's alright," Ruby said. "We can just schedule a rematch for some other time."

"What? So I can disappoint everyone again?" Sakura asked back. "After all of my hard work, I still managed to lose in spectacular fashion. It's all my fault."

Glancing back and forth between Sakura's belly and sorrowful expression, Ruby reached her limit. "It's not your fault, it's mine."

"You don't have to lie to me," Sakura said, wiping the tears from her eyes. "I know you're just trying to help. You were such a good friend keeping me motivated and giving me so much. The only reason I was even able to step out onto the field was because you managed to find a set of clothes that fit my obese body. Well, at least they did until I made a complete fool of myself."

"I'm the one who made you gain weight," Ruby blurted out.

Sakura gave a long stare towards her friend. "What do you mean?"

Ruby fidgeted with her fingers, taking her time to summon up her courage. "Those supplements were originally made to help give you energy, but only in moderation. What you

didn't see was the warning about how large quantities could cause things like increased appetite and weight gain." Taking a deep breath, Ruby tilted up her head to look her friend in the eyes. "I purposefully kept feeding you the supplements in the hopes that you would fatten up. I'm so sorry."

Ruby remained quiet, ready for the moment that Sakura would disown her. Seeing the gigantic girl reach out, she braced herself for a smack to the face. Instead, what she felt was Sakura gingerly grasp her hand and bring it towards her. With her palm pushed up against the inkling's chest, Ruby looked up to see a look of relief on Sakura's face.

"Now everything makes sense," Sakura said, moving her hand around to give Ruby a chance to feel her hefty bosom. "Probably should have figured it out sooner considering the spa incident."

"You're not mad?" Ruby asked.

"Madder at myself than anything. I know that you have a certain affinity for these kinds of figures."

"I'm still sorry for doing this to you," Ruby said. "I promise to help you take the weight off. Starting tomorrow, I'll start training you properly for the next Splatfest."

"Right, tomorrow. For now though, would you mind running to get me some funnel cakes?" Sakura asked, breaking the tension with a smile.

"Is it okay if I stay here for a bit longer?" Ruby asked, still fondling Sakura's breasts as the inkling let go of her wrist.

"Sure, that's what friends are for," Sakura replied, sharing a smile with her Ruby to mend their very strange relationship.