



Chomp and the Big Wave



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A Cheat Code Story

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The pool at Riverside Park was the best place to be on a hot Saturday.

Chomp had been told that three times on the walk over — once by **Nova**, once by **Chip**, and once by the sign at the entrance that said WELCOME TO RIVERSIDE POOL.

He agreed with all three of them.



Chomp loved the pool. He loved it the way he loved most things — completely and without holding back.

The only problem was that at the pool, he had to hold back a little. The lifeguard had explained this on their last three visits.



So he sat on the steps in the shallow end while **Chip** and **Nova** floated on their kickboards. The water was completely still. You could see straight to the bottom.

"It's nice," Nova said, looking up at the sky. "It almost feels like the beach."

"Almost," Chip said. "No waves though."

Nova looked at the flat water. *"Yeah," she said. "No waves."*



Chomp looked down at his feet under the water.

They were large and wide. Every time he kicked at the pool, the lifeguard would say something about it within about four seconds.

He looked at the flat water. He looked at **Nova** and **Chip** on their boards.

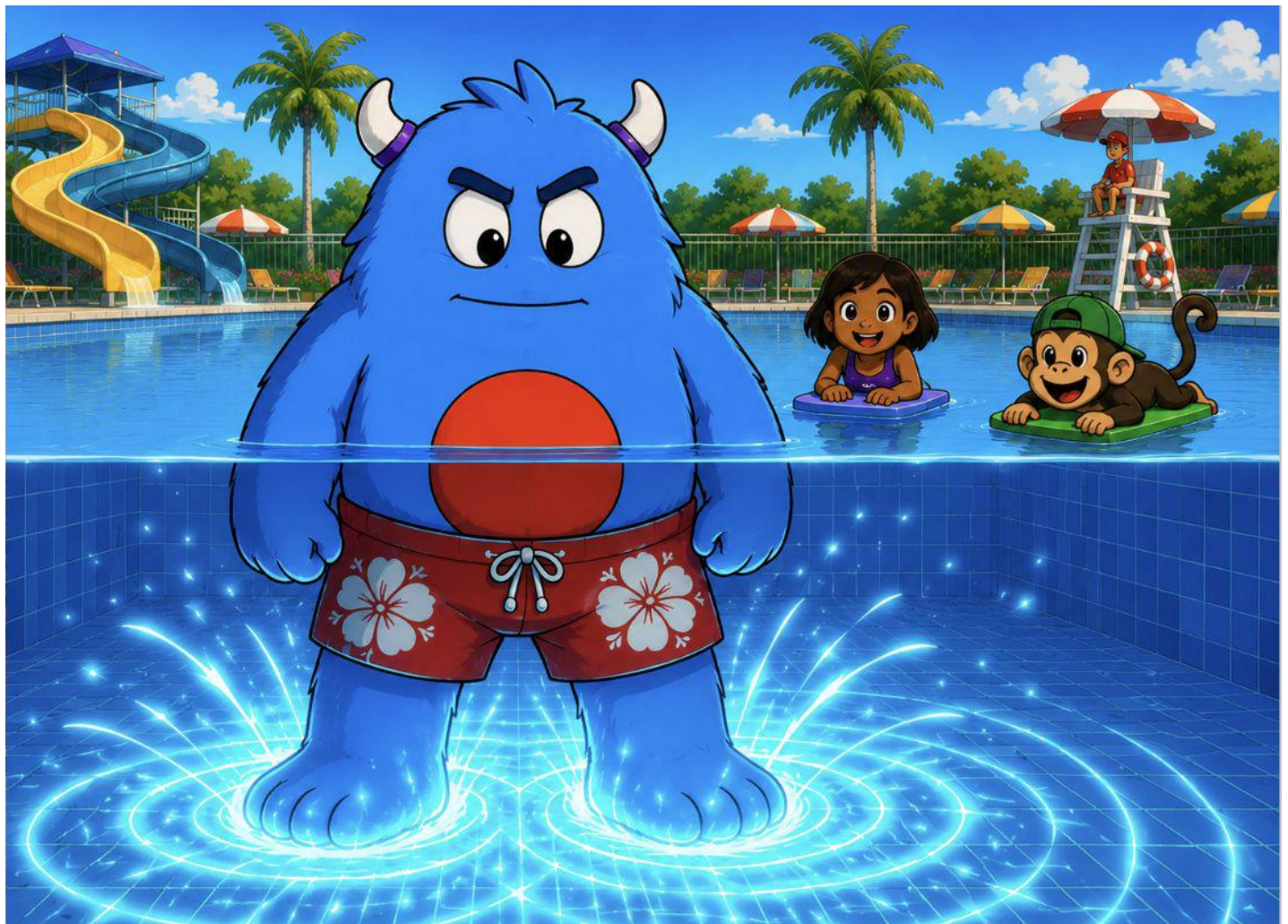
Then he had an idea.



He reached into the pocket of his swim trunks and pulled out his Kodex and snapped it onto his wrist, keeping it above the water. He pressed each key slowly.

The Kodex pulsed — white light bloomed blue at the edges and pixel sparks drifted up into the warm air.

His feet began to glow beneath the water with pulsating blue light.



"Chomp," Nova said. "What are you doing?"

"Hang on," Chomp said.

He stood up in the shallow end and planted his feet on the pool floor. He took one big breath.

Then he kicked.



The water moved.

It wasn't a splash; it was a full wave! It rolled from **Chomp's** feet all the way across the pool. When it reached **Nova**, her board lifted and she grabbed the sides and rode it to the other end.

She sat there for a second. *"Do that again,"* she said.



Chip turned his board around and rode the next one standing up, which worked for about two seconds before he fell in sideways.

He came up laughing.

"Again," he said.



Chomp kept going. Each wave was a little bigger. **Nova** learned to angle into them. **Chip** learned to stay low. They fell off their boards. They climbed back on. They fell off again.

Nobody wanted to stop.



After a while **Nova** swam back to the shallow end and sat on the steps next to **Chomp**. *"You've been wanting to do that for a long time,"* she said.

Chomp thought about it. *"I've been told not to splash for a long time,"* he said. *"I wanted to find something that I could do and still be me."*

Nova watched the water still settling. *"I think you definitely found it."*



Chip paddled over with his kickboard.

"One more," he said. "But this time you get on too."

Chomp looked at the kickboard. It wasn't very large.

"I'll figure it out," Chomp said.



He made the biggest wave yet.

Nova caught it and rode it all the way to the wall. **Chip** dove in and body-surfed it alongside her. And **Chomp** climbed onto the kickboard, wobbled once, and rode it too — all the way to the end of the pool with his arms out and his feet glowing blue behind him.



For about three seconds, everything was perfect.

Then the board shot out from under him and **Chomp** hit the water.

The splash soaked the pool deck, the nearby towels, and two people who had been minding their own business in deck chairs.



Chomp came up grinning. **Nova** was laughing so hard she had slid off her board. **Chip** couldn't swim straight.

The two deck chair people looked at each other. One of them started laughing.

"We needed to cool off anyway," she said.



Chomp floated on his back in the middle of the pool and looked up at the sky.

Nova floated nearby. **Chip** floated on his board.

Nobody said anything for a while. The water was warm and still and the sky was very blue.



"Next time," Chomp said, still looking at the sky, "I want to try a bigger board."

"Next time," Nova said, "I want to try a bigger wave."

Chip adjusted his cap. *"Next time," he said, "I'm bringing a camera."*

Nobody argued with that.

There's always another moment to share with the Cheat Code crew. Join us for all their stories!



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