

Stand Tall! (*romantic comedy, 102 pages*)

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Treatment

Colleen Cossitt, a pert blonde singing-dancing waitress at the rundown Bryson casino on the Las Vegas Strip, sees old high school flame Bill Messmer, a basketball star turned engineering executive, and accepts his offer for a date. She learns she needs money for ailing 8-year-old nephew Ivan Black's medical bills and hopes that if she and Bill click, he'll pay them. She auditions to moonlight at the nearby Purple Pavilion exotic club -- but smarmy owner Vito Cortez, unimpressed with her figure, tells Colleen to "get bigger."

Scientist Keswick Fletcher, a longtime customer of hers who secretly owes Vito \$154,000 for a gambling debt, says he's created a device called the Resizer that isolates and enlarges body parts, and offers to enhance her breasts for free. She accepts and travels with Meg Switlik, her best friend and Vito's girlfriend, to Keswick's lab, a converted trucking warehouse north of town. As the procedure begins, a minor earthquake throws everything off -- instead of tripling the volume of Colleen's breasts, *her entire body* grows three times larger, to 16-foot-1½. As the Resizer can only enlarge objects, not reduce them, she's stuck at that size, and Keswick fears her now-colossal condition could be fatal. Colleen, in hiding, asks Meg to tell Bill their date that night is off.

Meg, who left her wallet at the lab, brings Bill there after he pays for her gas. But when Colleen, unaware he's with her, lifts the garage door, Bill sees she's now a giant and wants nothing to do with her. Devastated, Colleen gets additional support as struggling older sister Maureen Cossitt, an ex-addict, and her son Ivan (who, to his aunt's relief, *loves* that she's become "fee-fi-fo-fum" size) move in, and her clothes are brought in and enlarged. Before learning her "little sister" has tripled in scale, Maureen reveals Colleen's secret to Keswick -- her ex, Tim Whitman, so severely beat her she is unable to bear children.

Keswick and aide Belinda Austin unsuccessfully try to restore her over the next few weeks, and as time goes by it becomes apparent her gigantism won't kill

her. When he and Colleen are alone one evening, they discover they've fallen in love. She affectionately calls him "my little Keswick," and each promises to protect the other, although she isn't aware he knows her secret and thus understands why she (affectionately) treats him as a surrogate child.

The casino's eccentric owner, Ernest Sanderson (who Vito is blackmailing on behalf of the Boston mob), wants to fire Colleen for a prolonged leave of absence. He finally finds her in the lab, and she pressures him into paying Ivan's medical expenses. He signs her to a \$1 million deal to headline at his showroom, with Keswick hired as manager to assure she isn't exploited.

After a clumsy, aborted debut for which she publicly apologizes ("I'm here to entertain people, not attack them"), Colleen becomes a hit attraction performing '60s girl-group songs, a happy giant beloved by young and old in Sin City, even performing family weekend matinees. She repels a romantic challenge from Keswick's vacuous socialite ex-girlfriend Cassandra Maitland, and drives money-mad Tim out of her life, saying she won't lose her "giant virginity" to him. Moreover, Ernest has fallen for Maureen. Life is good.

But Colleen fires Keswick when he's seen with rival casino star Cynthia Seaton (he rejects a multi-million offer to make *her* a giant), then ends their romance when she learns he owes a six-figure gambling sum. After Keswick refuses Vito's offer to use her show as collateral, not letting on he's no longer her manager, he's kidnapped by Vito's henchmen. Keswick is absent for several days, and Maureen reminds her sister he truly loves her. A lonely Colleen regrets letting him go and cries in her dressing room.

Meg finds Keswick at Vito's hideaway and learns of her boss's mob ties, then tells Colleen where he's held. She vows to rescue him, but is told she's currently too big to do so without potentially endangering him. Belinda, who has upgraded the Resizer while Keswick was busy guiding Colleen's career, restores her to 5-foot-4³/₈. They then join Maureen and Meg in rescuing him.

Vito's gang pursues them, but when they reach the lab, Colleen (who discovers to her dismay the new Resizer is unable to re-enlarge her) entangles them in giant lingerie she drops from a second-story window. Vito escapes and enters the lab with a gun, but Colleen pushes him into the Resizer chamber when he runs out of bullets and Ivan gleefully reduces him to one-third scale. A frightened, tiny Vito, hidden from the police, agrees to waive Keswick's debts.

Colleen decides to retire, accepting Keswick's marriage proposal in return for his quitting gambling. She closes her farewell show with a love song to Keswick, just as the shrinking effect wears off and she bursts out of her gown back to triple size. (Vito grows back at the same time, but is trapped inside a crib at the lab.) She tells Keswick if he doesn't want to marry her now, she'll understand, but he tells her he'll keep his promise. "There's no other man I'd rather lose my giant virginity to," she privately says to him, then proudly announces both her return to performing and their engagement to a delighted, sold-out crowd.

