



A photo of Kate, 'MaidBot Unit K7325'; as taken by her Mistress, Abby the last day of their cruise, no longer pretending!

Maid for a Cruise

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The year was 2089, Abby and Kate were the best of friends, but a scheme concocted by Abby, and a few unfortunate situations, would change both their lives forever, especially Kate's!

Abby met Kate in their first year of college; they lived in the same dormitory, but not the same room. Abby was the more dominant type personality, outgoing, confident, a leader; from a fairly wealthy, privileged family, while Kate was somewhat more demure, shy, and from a less well to do family. Abby was studying robotics and engineering, her goal was to work on the new advanced android servants who were taking over the world's domestic servant roles, and those of common laborers.

Kate had a different goal, a theater arts major, she wanted to become an actress and perform for the world to see. Her parents were somewhat liberal, and had never really taken too much interest in what she did. They told her that she needed to find her own path in life and do what pleased her. They lived by that philosophy because, aside from putting the money to pay for Kate's college tuition and board into an account for her, they had taken off to see America. Occasionally they would call, write, or send a post card, but for the most part she rarely had any contact with them.

Abby's parents were quite the opposite, lifelong conservatives, they pushed their daughter hard to succeed in the world. Excellence in everything she did was paramount and expected of her. Abby had always maintained A's throughout school, even to her own detriment in the form of too much stress and pressure. Abby, naturally, won a full scholarship to college and worked just as hard there as she had in grade school. She was close to her parents, although the school she picked was several states away so they did not see each other often. Abby's parents also didn't approve of her friend Kate, but they really didn't have any way to stop the friendship.

After college, Kate went out into the world to pursue her acting career. But like most actresses, she paid the rent by working at a restaurant/bar as a waitress. Kate did not like the job, but the tips were quite good. If she had to pick one thing she truly disliked about the job it was the skimpy outfit she was required to wear to work, short, short, shorts, and a tight white top that showed off her ample assets. The job was somewhat demeaning, but as an actress she was able to cope, after all, how many people could be told to pretend they were a tree, animal, or sentient object and not be embarrassed. Her last role was as Babette, the feather duster in a local production of Beauty and the Beast on stage.

Abby had immediately found work when she graduated, although not what she was aiming for. Indeed she was working with the newest generation of android servants, but on an assembly line in a manufacturing plant that produced the units. Abby's job was quality control; she was there to run a diagnostic on the android control collars which were the key to making modern android technology work. Abby's job was stressful to her, but not for the same reason Kate's was.

Perhaps we should delve into a bit of history at this point to understand a bit more about the modern androids and how they came to exist in their present form. Back in the year 2019, a global pandemic broke out that changed the world forever. The, then, United States President,

Donald Trump was trying to cope with the disastrous virus the best he could. He ordered the drug companies to push their other research aside for a while and concentrate on developing a vaccine, or cure.

The vaccine came first, actually several, and eventually with the help of these new vaccines, common sense precautions, and some luck, humanity was able to overcome the dreaded disease. But there was an up side to the situation, the increase in research and development set into motion several advancements which would aid in the development of android technology, not immediately of course, but eventually.

Artificial Intelligence was advancing as well. Quantum computing was, slowly, becoming more of a reality. Every advancement made had allowed the creation of tools which allowed technology to advance even faster. By 2050 new materials and technologies had allowed the once gigantic Quantum computers to be reduced in size and power requirements, they were now able to fit into objects smaller than a wrist watch, if wrist watches had still existed.

Yes, technology was moving fast but there were bottlenecks. One such problem lay in the field of robotics and android technology. Early researchers had attempted to make human-like android robots for years but with poor success. For one thing, these early designs were basically like most machines, made of metal, plastic, wires, circuits, and batteries. This meant that the units were hard to build in a convincing fashion.

Power was, as always, a major issue. The mechanical robotic androids could only contain a power supply that would keep them running, at least without being tethered via some form of cable, for a few hours. This problem limited their feasibility for many tasks. Also the materials used never really looked terribly realistic so there was always the uncanny valley effect, the robots looked sort of human, but not enough to prevent real people from feeling uneasy around them.

Finally there was the biggest issue, weight. Because of the materials used to build the earlier androids, they were extremely heavy for their size. The average human woman, at five feet, five inches, weighs on-average between 113 and 138 pounds. The equivalent robotic counterpart weighed closer to six hundred pounds. This was not very effective since it required heavy floors to support the weight, and if something went wrong and one tipped over it took several persons to right it.

But in the early 60's there was a breakthrough. Medical research had been advancing forward nearly as fast as electronics and computer technology and had made some amazing breakthroughs of its own. Doctors and scientists had been working on the prospect of cloning for years. The scientists just wanted to prove that it could be done, but the doctors had a much grander idea.

They wanted to be able to clone human body parts to aid people who, either due to accident, disease, or some other reason, had lost a limb, needed a new organ, etc. At first the research was

frowned upon by both conservatives who considered it playing God, and religious organizations. But in time, people seemed to accept it, probably due to the fantastic things it enabled. No longer did the diabetic have to look forward to the ravages of the disease; doctors just got a cell sample from the diabetic then grew a new pancreas for them.

Persons injured in an accident that lost one, or more, limbs, or had damaged organs, could just have new ones grown in a lab then attached. And since these parts were cloned from their own DNA there was no fear of rejection. But the most interesting research, and that which relates to this story, is the scientists who wanted to try to clone a complete human being.

Naturally, there was initially great opposition to that idea, but a compromise was soon reached. There was much concern, mostly in religious circles, that they might be able to clone the body, but not the soul. So it was decided to alter the DNA of the donor body so that the new body grown would be complete except for the brain. The DNA was altered to prevent development of the brain beyond that needed to keep the heart beating and the lungs breathing.

The experiment was run and it worked beyond even the scientist's hopes. The DNA donor was a man who had severe injuries in a car crash and in what was at the time, to be a first, his brain was able to be successfully moved to the newly cloned body where he was able to live a long, normal life. This advancement was the final key that was needed to allow androids to be made practical although that wasn't the original idea.

In '63 an android researcher who was interested in medicine had been reading about some of the recent breakthroughs in medical technology, specifically in the field of cloning and he had an epiphany, if he could just figure out a way to control one of the, essentially brain-dead, cloned bodies he would have a practical android servant framework. He realized that he could even have some minor changes made to the original DNA to enhance the look of the new units. Naturally there would be some other minor issues to work out but the man was up to the challenge.

By '64 he had figured out the key elements needed, first there was NanoPaste, this was a goopy substance which contained all the nutrients and energy providing materials needed to keep an android, or even a person (although the latter would have hated the stuff as it tasted awful,) alive for up to a week at a time with a single feeding. The person, or android, would still need water intake but would rarely need to use the restroom since the stuff was almost 100% absorbed by the body.

The second hurdle to cross was a control element. This problem he solved by inventing the, now standard, android control collar. A lightweight metal collar which contained a power source capable of keeping the unit on for over a week before needing recharge, an unbelievably small quantum computer with about 500 terabytes of data storage, a small unit which contained a supply of nanobots used to create a neural link to the host body, and finally an electronic locking mechanism which kept the collar from being accidentally, or intentionally, removed by any unauthorized person in an uncontrolled or unsafe manner.

Now all the basics were ready, there was a framework to use as the physical android itself, the cloned body. There was a method of keeping the android body alive via NanoPaste. And finally there was a way to animate the otherwise mindless vegetable of a body, the control collar. By '65 his first working bio-android was unveiled to the public and it was an instant success.

The new biological androids were just as obedient as the earlier mechanical attempts since they had no mind of their own. Also these units only weighed a few pounds more than a real person, basically due to the collar. And because the new androids were based on a real human body, they didn't suffer from the uncanny valley effect at all although the inventor had requested, for some reason known only to him, that all the female frames have super blue eyes.

A bonus for those people whose DNA was chosen as the basis for the cloned bodies was that they were instantly made fantastically wealthy, and famous. In the old days, movie and TV stars were the ones recognized wherever they went. But for those few people whose DNA was used to make thousands, maybe millions, of clone bodies for android use they were now the most recognizable people on the planet. But enough history, lets get back to the main story.

Abby had been working for about two years at the company, dutifully doing her assembly line job. One day, the company hosted a company wide party for all their employees. The party was their way of patting themselves on the back for the companies' success. The grand door prize was a two week luxury cruise aboard the worlds first, almost, fully automated cruise ship. And as you might guess, Abby was the lucky worker to win the prize.

The ship, designed for the super wealthy elite, had every kind of amenity and luxury you could think of and Abby would be going. The cruise ship company allowed the winner to bring a maid or butler along with them, they assumed anyone traveling on that ship would have one, or more, servants who would be traveling with them, and that is what gave Abby the fateful idea.

Abby had not seen Kate for over a year and missed her, but she kept in touch via video chats and calls so they had not grown apart. On her next call to Kate, Abby asked if she needed a break. Kate laughed at the question, almost rudely, and asked if Abby was kidding. Then Abby began to lay out her plan to Kate. She told Kate about winning the trip on the ship and that she was allowed to bring a maid or butler along on the trip. At first Kate didn't see where Abby was going with the idea and said, "But you don't have either of those!" Abby laughed and said, "Well, recently I have been thinking about getting one of those android maids, have you ever seen one?"

Kate laughed and told her that she had only witnessed such a luxury when watching TV or movies. Then Abby continued, "Actually, you were the android maid I was thinking about getting." Kate was silent for a minute as she pondered what Abby was talking about but she couldn't keep her curiosity to herself and asked Abby what she meant by that. Abby, told her that she figured since Kate was an actress she could certainly portray one of those mindless drones for a few days.

Kate was flattered by Abby's confidence in her, but told Abby she wasn't too sure about her ability to play that role; at least not convincingly enough to fool an entire cruise ship full of people. Then Abby told her that she had considered that and had an idea as to how to deal with the problem. Abby would 'Borrow' a control collar from work, do some reprogramming and customization; then, using it as an aid, Kate could fool an M.I.T. scientist.

Kate was still somewhat unsure of the idea, or if they could pull it off. She wanted to see Abby but just didn't think the two of them could pull off the con. Still she was intrigued and, since she was far too submissive, agreed to Abby's plan. The two decided that Kate would take two weeks off work, telling them that she had the opportunity to take a temporary acting job for two weeks but that she would have to travel there and that would take an additional couple days.

The people Kate worked with were good people who wanted to see the girl succeed at her dreams, so they told her not to worry, they would take care of the situation for her, cover her shifts, and for Kate to consider this a paid vacation. After all, if Kate became a big star they could put her picture up in the restaurant on their 'new' celebrity photo wall. Kate was thrilled; so far their plan was working better than she could have hoped. When Kate arrived at Abby's house a few weeks later, they quickly caught up on the latest news and gossip before beginning to talk about the plan.

Abby told Kate that she had 'Borrowed' a control collar from work and had been modifying the software at home in her off time. With the help of the modified software, and wearing her collar, Kate would not have to act as convincingly to seem realistic. Her collar would help Kate with her posture and mannerisms. The collar would also help Kate control any responses to unexpected circumstances, should they arise.

Kate would, for the most part, still be in control of her body, the collar would only act as a sort of electronic acting coach, and this was the way Abby convinced Kate to try it. Kate was intrigued and trusted Abby, and her technical skills. Abby was thinking ahead, she even added a couple error functions, Error 359, which her "MaidBot" would report to its owner, should its sensors detect that the unit needed to go to the restroom, and Error 369, if it needed water input. The two of them decided to try the collar out the next day as their ship departed the day after that.

The next morning the two women woke up early, excited about the next two weeks and wanting to get a jump on things by working out any bugs in Abby's plan. The first thing Abby did was show Kate a video she had shot at work of the finished android maids walking to the shipping department and conversing with Abby. This was to give Kate an idea how she should try to walk and talk while impersonating an android maid. Abby also told Kate that she would have to apply some temporary tattoos to Kate so that she would be accepted as a real MaidBot.

While watching the video Kate noted one detail that she was not so pleased with. The android maids in Abby's video were all wearing silly French chambermaid type outfits, with the short

skirt, the little apron, and even the frilly headpiece. Kate was not terribly thrilled about walking around a cruise ship for the next two weeks dressed like that, but Abby reminded her that, as an actress you don't usually get to choose your own wardrobe. Kate hated to admit it but realized that she was right and, begrudgingly agreed to wear the outfit, which Abby also just happened to 'Borrow.'

Now Abby was not a thief, and she had every intention of returning the items borrowed from work, just not until after the cruise. Then Kate began walking around the house practicing her android walk while Abby made final adjustments to Kate's control collar. Meanwhile, Kate tried to imitate the speech pattern of the MaidBots she saw in the video. Her act was not terribly convincing, but Abby said she wasn't too worried about that as she had prepared for that possibility. Abby had also purchased cosmetic super-blue contacts for Kate, to aid in the illusion of being a real MaidBot.

That afternoon the two decided to do a full dress rehearsal before taking the show live. Kate donned her silly new uniform, and then Abby affixed the control collar around her neck, not before warning Kate that she might feel a kind of prickly sensation as it made a neural connection. As warned, when the collar closed around her neck Kate heard a mechanical click, as the locking mechanism engaged, then felt a slight stinging sensation as the Nanobots did their work interfacing Kate to her collar.

Before long, Kate felt strange as she felt herself stand up straight at attention without trying, curtsied, and said in a rather mechanical sounding version of herself, "MaidBot Unit K7325 Active, awaiting orders Mistress!" Kate felt funny hearing herself speak without wanting to, and curtsying to her friend, but soon realized that Abby was right, if she tried she could still move on her own, and even speak on her own, although she still sounded like a robot. Abby told Kate that unless she purposely tried to override the AI, the MaidBot program in her collar would control her actions for her.

Without having to do anything, Kate could portray a realistic MaidBot without even trying, and if she didn't want to do something the AI wanted her to do she could override the system. Abby told Kate that she had set up the software with varying degrees of freedom for Kate so that, when they were in public the AI would do almost all the work, but when they were alone, Kate would be fully in control. The plan was working out great!

The next day the two traveled to port Canaveral Florida where their ship would depart for two weeks of fun and relaxation. Even though Kate would not be able to do everything Abby could, after all she was just her 'servant,' she could do many of the same things, walk the decks, smell the salt air, enjoy the quiet and, above all, relax.

By the time the two arrived at the port, Kate and her 'Mistress' Abby were actively playing their parts. Abby reminded Kate to try to remember to address her as Mistress whenever people were around so as not to blow their cover and Kate agreed. To insure they got on board the ship without incident, Abby set Kate's AI controls to maximum. This, in effect, removed Kate from

the chain of command entirely for the moment, so acting was not really an issue. But Kate didn't mind since, at the moment, this was a fun new experience; and dare she say it, she found it quite exciting.

Kate knew that this was the part of the trip where they were most likely to be caught. Security would be closely watching all boarding parties to ensure that they were what they claimed to be and the two didn't want to blow it before even getting aboard. When Abby walked up the gangplank to the ship, Kate, dressed in her embarrassingly sexy maid's outfit, followed a step behind like a good servant should.

When the two arrived at the security checkpoint, they checked Abby's ticket and credentials. Abby had previously included in her pre-cruise information that she would be bringing her MaidBot along with her, whom she often referred to as Kate. Because of they had already been informed that Kate would be with her, they only asked Abby, "Is this Kate, your MaidBot unit?" Abby said yes, and security scanned Kate's collar and the bar-coded ID on her arm with some kind of wand device that recorded her serial number and ownership data into the ship's control computer system, thanks to Abby's temporary tattoos, it was as simple as that. Once Kate had been added into the system, security told Abby to enjoy her cruise. As far as the cruise line was concerned Kate was just another mindless servant and nothing more, so there was no need for pleasantries with the MaidBot and they simply ignored it as the two walked off to board the ship.

Abby and Kate were lead to Abby's room by an automated, read android, receptionist who showed Abby her room. Kate's collar directed her to move to a corner then stand at attention while waiting for orders. The receptionist then explained some of the ship's features and amenities, and detailed how and where Abby could go for food, entertainment, etc. The receptionist never even gave Kate a second glance. And though the MaidBot's expression remained constant, within, being ignored like that made Kate secretly feel a bit less of a person, yet at the same time excited as her act was obviously working. After he left the room Abby switched Kate's collar to base mode, the lowest active setting, this afforded Kate full control so she could go to the restroom, walk around the room, and talk to Abby freely.

Abby congratulated Kate on her first live performance in front of a ship full of people. It seemed Kate had pulled off her role so convincingly that no one was any the wiser. But in truth, Kate really wasn't doing any acting; her collar was directing her movements entirely and she reminded Abby that without her collar she could never have been that convincing. Kate admitted to Abby that, although she was just along for the ride, she had been enjoying observing people's reactions to her, that is the MaidBot. Kate was quite surprised that very few people even gave her a second glance, although she did catch a few men ogling her in her sexy outfit, and a few women looking at her with scorn and contempt.

The two talked about how nice the ship and the cabin were. Then Abby told Kate the first of some bad news, the first night's dinner was a very exclusive affair and servants were not invited. Kate would have to stay in the room and do something to entertain herself, perhaps watch TV,

while Abby attended the dinner. Abby assured Kate that she would have something sent to her room via room service so that Kate would have something to eat while she was away.

At first, Kate was a bit disappointed, but then she remembered that she was on a cruise, and not at work. Kate didn't have to do anything for the next two weeks but pretend to be a MaidBot when out in public, and suddenly her situation didn't seem so bad. Kate didn't mind watching TV for a while until Abby returned. So Kate helped Abby get dressed up for her big dinner and when Abby left the room Kate flopped down on the couch. She turned on the TV, and began binge watching her favorite shows, it turned out the ship had far better cable than she did at home.

Kate was enjoying watching TV, when there was a knock at the cabin door. An android waiter was waiting to deliver the food that Abby had said she would order for Kate. So even though Kate didn't feel like getting up, she stood up, walked to the door, and prepared to answer it. When she opened it the waiter said, "Good evening MaidBot, your mistress has ordered room service and it is my job to deliver it." Kate was fully in control at the moment and tried to respond like she thought a MaidBot would respond, saying, "Thank you.... wait unit? Please enter the room and follow me, I will show you where to place the food."

The wait unit complied, however unbeknownst to Kate it was in constant contact with the ship's staff control computer and it noted irregularities in MaidBot Unit K7325's speech, behavior, and operating mannerisms. Apparently Kate's less than stellar performance had not gone unnoticed. After the waiter left, Kate enjoyed eating the meal that Abby had sent to her, and watched more of her shows. Then, too tired to undress, she reclined back on the couch and went to sleep. When Abby returned to the room she found Kate sound asleep, tried not to wake her, and went to bed herself.

In the morning Abby woke up, long before Kate, and decided to let her sleep. Later the android Cabin Steward assigned to Abby's room aware that Abby was out, thanks to the ship's bio-metric security system, opened the door to clean the room. When it entered it discovered that Abby's MaidBot had apparently malfunctioned and was lying on the couch. The steward reported the error to the control computer but did nothing to the MaidBot, it did its work quietly, making Abby's bed and never even woke Kate up.

Before Kate awakened, the Steward had already left the room and Kate was surprised to see that Abby's bed was made. Kate had previously noticed that Abby was not one to make her bed before leaving, but she didn't dwell on it, and decided to take a shower; without thinking about her temporary tattoos. Kate removed her contacts then took a nice long, hot shower. Luckily Abby had prepared for the inevitable, knowing that Kate would need to shower and brought extra tattoos along.

Before Kate finished, Abby returned to the room, realized where Kate was, and what she was doing. She waited patiently for Kate to finish her shower then once Kate emerged, suggested that the two explore the ship. Since they had to keep up appearances, Kate put her contacts back

in, and then Abby helped her re-apply her ID markings, before Kate redressed in her Maid's outfit. Abby looked Kate over to make sure she looked OK and, when satisfied, gave the voice command which increased Kate's collar control so that Kate couldn't give herself away and blow their whole charade.

Once Kate's collar was reactivated she automatically stood at attention facing Abby, curtsied, and said, "MaidBot Unit K7325 Online and ready for commands Mistress!" Abby told Kate to follow her and, of course, she complied as they walked out into the ship's hallway. The two then headed topside to explore the ship and its offerings. On the way Abby walked confidently playing her part as a spoiled rich girl. Meanwhile Kate was forced to follow with her head slightly dipped, down eyes toward the ground, one step behind her Mistress.

When the two passed other passengers many greeted Abby while completely ignoring her servant. Kate was happy not to be at work and, yes; this was more relaxing than work ever was. But she was beginning to feel a bit left out, and somewhat inferior. But when the two got topside they were greeted by warm sun, a pleasant breeze, and the smell of salt air. While the MaidBot's expression didn't show it, Kate was definitely happier inside now and enjoying their walk.

The two walked around the entirety of the ship's upper decks, stopping often to take in the view, and to enjoy the relaxing salt air. Abby stopped to sit several times and always politely, although not properly for someone of her station, asked her MaidBot to sit down next to her. Only once did someone make a snooty comment to Abby about letting her servant sit like a normal person, Abby just ignored her.

The first week was going well for both girls and, even though Kate was quite limited in what she could do, both were enjoying themselves and Kate was getting that needed rest that she wanted. The ship had two theaters on board, one played current run theatrical movies, and the other was designed for elaborate stage shows, the girls attended both, always with Abby as the Mistress with her faithful MaidBot sitting beside her. When Abby was doing something that Kate couldn't get away with doing, Kate just hung around the cabin, watching TV and enjoying the room service food that Abby always sent to her.

But everything was about to change, due to a couple of unlikely situations that arose simultaneously. Each day a robotic steward would arrive to clean and straighten Abby's room. The unit had, on more than one occasion, noticed Kate sitting on the couch watching TV; on one occasion with her contacts out! Each time the unit observed the MaidBot acting in an abnormal fashion, for a MaidBot, it reported it back to the ship's control computer which finally decided that Abby's MaidBot unit must be defective.

That same day Abby had gone up to the pool deck for a quick swim, in reality, probably more to watch the guys than actually swim, but that really wasn't important. Since there was no way a MaidBot would go swimming with its owner, Kate stayed behind in the room waiting for Abby's return. While waiting, Kate took a shower and put on a clean uniform, but forgot to apply her

tattoos and put in her contacts. After her shower, Kate relaxed and sat back to watch TV, and that was when her troubles started! Two things occurred which, taken separately would have been bad enough, but together the two coincidences almost suggest that a divine joke was being played on the two girls, especially the “MaidBot!”

Abby had been swimming and was having a really good time and finally decided to get out of the pool to sunbathe for a while. When she attempted to exit the pool her foot slipped and she fell, hitting her head on the side of the pool. While she was not too badly injured, the crew immediately took her to the ship’s infirmary where they discovered she had developed a partial case of amnesia. Abby remembered who she was, sort of, but not everything about her life, not how she came to be on a cruise, and certainly not having had a MaidBot servant.

While the mess with Abby was happening, of which Kate was unaware; the cabin steward made another visit to Abby’s cabin and once again found Kate sitting on the couch watching TV. This time when it reported the situation back to the control computer, the CC gave the steward a new and somewhat unusual set of instructions to perform. The steward used an executive command, unknown to both Abby and Kate, to freeze the MaidBot where she sat. Suddenly Kate found that she could not move or speak. She looked like a department store mannequin posed as though it was watching TV, silent and unmoving.

The cruise company was quite proud of their reputation for the finest service to its guests. This often included going above and beyond to help a guest with problems that might make their trip less than expected. The ship’s computer decided that a malfunctioning MaidBot would not serve its Mistress at the high levels of service that one of their guests would expect so it decided to have it sent to the maintenance department for repairs as a courtesy to the guest.

While Kate was unable to move, she could still see, hear, and feel everything that was happening around, and to, her; and she was not pleased about it. Kate heard the cabin door open and two security personnel entered followed by some sort of robotic, for lack of a better term, stretcher. The men used some other unknown command which forced Kate to stand up straight at attention. Then they tilted the frozen MaidBot backward, lifted her up, and placed her onto the stretcher. Now Kate could only stare at the ceiling above her as the men continued their work around her.

Then from the corner of her fixed view she saw the two men turn away and start to exit the room. Just before they left Kate’s fixed point of view she saw one turn to the other and heard him say how amazing these new MaidBot units looked. She heard him say, if he didn’t know better he would have sworn that this MaidBot was an actual woman. Suddenly Kate felt movement as the robotic stretcher began its automatic return to the ship’s android maintenance department. Kate could see for a moment the StewardBot following them out of the room, but it turned and went a different direction. This left her stuck there on a trip to a place she was sure she didn’t want to go; unable to move, ask for help, frightened, and alone.

Meanwhile, Abby was doing fairly well in the infirmary, but her memory was spotty at best. Abby couldn't remember much of her past, including how she got here or the scheme with Kate. But the staff was very nice and took great care of her. They reassured her that her memory would likely come back soon so don't worry too much about it. In the meanwhile they told her that she had boarded the ship for the cruise about a week ago with a MaidBot, Unit ID K7325 and this was witnessed by security.

Abby admitted that she did not remember having a MaidBot but the crew assured her that she and the MaidBot arrived together and were checked in by security at their port of departure. They then informed Abby that the ship's android control computer had determined that Abby's MaidBot was suffering some sort of malfunctions and the cruise line had taken it to maintenance for repair, at no charge to her, of course! Abby thanked the staff for their kindness and for taking care of her MaidBot, and told them that she was amazed at the level of service the crew and company provided for their guests, to which they thanked Abby.

Back in the maintenance department which was sadly, for Kate, pretty much fully automated, the machines had begun working on the frozen MaidBot. They began by moving Kate into some kind of scanning machine which determined that her physical body was OK but the computer determined that she had apparently been eating human food, probably at the behest of her Mistress, or for appearances. This left her internal systems with a lot of waste byproducts that needed cleaning out.

Other anomalies were also detected; for example, the programming in the MaidBot's collar appeared to have been hacked and modified. The program was not the standard program for a MaidBot and needed to be replaced with the factory original. There was also a large amount of extraneous data in the unit, which did not pertain to the MaidBot's designed function. Perhaps the data had been added by the unit's Mistress, or a hacker. But since this was to be a complete overhaul, the data needed cleaning up. A scan of the MaidBot's frame, body, also indicated that the unit was missing its ownership and ID data; and this was noted in the logs.

The first step the computer took was to correct Kate's collar data. The control computer sent an override to her control collar which took full control of Kate's body and forced her to strip naked out of her uniform, walk to an android maintenance pod, and enter into it. All the while Kate was fully aware of everything that was happening, and that she was doing, but was powerless to stop herself. After she entered the maintenance pod she was forced to turn to face the clear entry door which closed behind her locking her in, leaving her terrified and trapped.

Kate could not move, she was stuck standing at attention inside the pod, looking out into the essentially empty shop. Then without warning some new things began to happen in her pod. First a snakelike device moved out of the side of the pod near her neck; the thing had a USB-like connection at its end. It quickly moved toward and plugged into her collar. As soon as a connection was made Kate could feel a strange sensation as data transfers began between her, her collar, and the repair control computer.

Kate could see some of what was happening to her, thanks to her image being reflected in the pod door, and she saw herself involuntarily open her mouth. She watched as another ‘tentacle’ extended from the wall and snaked its way down her throat. If she hadn’t been completely controlled by her collar she would have gagged but instead she just stood there with a blank expression on her face. Then things began happening in places that weren’t visible in her reflection. She felt something, most likely two more tentacles, enter her two lower ports.

The tentacle in Kate’s mouth began pumping a solution into her stomach, which flowed thru her bowels and was removed by the tentacle in her lower rear port, cleaning out her food processing systems. Meanwhile the tentacle in her lower front port was busy at work as well; this provided a rather unique, and disturbing, stimulation to Kate. While she couldn’t really tell exactly what was happening down there since she was unable to move to look; in reality the thing was cleaning, sanitizing, and even adding a pleasant scented compound to her lower front port.

Once the system finished cleaning out her ‘food processing systems’ the tube in her mouth then injected a weeks worth of NanoPaste and a supply of water into her stomach, this would prevent the MaidBot from needing to be ‘fed’ for the next week. Kate’s, soon to be, freshly installed and updated programming would prompt the MaidBot to request a drink whenever its systems required additional water input automatically, no more Error 369’s needed for this unit.

Once the unit’s bio-power issues were dealt with, the system moved on to other things. The repair computer put the MaidBot into a stasis mode; Kate was unaware of this because it caused her to essentially black out. Then the computer downloaded all the data in the MaidBot’s collar, as well as any additional information it found in its external Bio-storage unit, and saved it to a hard disk. The computer erased the MaidBot’s collar, and connected Bio-Memory, and began uploading the latest firmware and MaidBot programming back into the unit.

While the base upload was happening, the computer sorted thru the stored data image, removing most of the ‘unnecessary’ information and old settings from the unit’s personality module. Some data was retained, mostly that which was deemed pertinent to the original AI’s ‘personality’ and any owner added error codes; but the rest was eliminated. Once the reload of the MaidBot operating system software and data was completed, the newly cleaned up ‘personality’ module was reloaded. When the computer reactivated the MaidBot, Kate was suddenly conscious and aware again, but she could sense that something was very wrong!

MaidBot unit K7325 could once again see, hear, and feel everything going on; both to and around it. Yet the unit felt strange; sort of hollow, as though something were missing. As much as that bothered the unit; it didn’t have time to dwell on the thought, as it received new commands while the door of its pod began opening. Without desiring to do so, the MaidBot stepped out of its pod. The unit had been directed to enter another machine which cleaned it from head to toe. Then, a different machine fixed the unit’s missing ID and Ownership data, by permanently tattooing the information onto Kate’s body. Now, even if she were ever to get out of her situation, Kate would have a hard time convincing any human that she was actually one of them and not just another really convincing rogue AI MaidBot unit trying to escape service.

Since Kate had not been wearing her contacts when she was taken to Maintenance, her eyes didn't meet the company standard. The system placed a box over Kate's face and she felt a strange pressure and a kind of itching sensation, in her eyes; yet no pain. The computer had noticed that this MaidBot's eye color was incorrect. The feeling that Kate had felt was the machine injecting a colored pigment into her eyes which made them an artificially vibrant blue. Her eyes now matched those of every other real, standard, compliant MaidBot. K7325 hadn't yet realized that she was no longer the woman she had been, but rather a real MaidBot, just like any other; and that she now looked like any other MaidBot out there. But before long, K7325 would realize that she was no longer pretending to be a MaidBot, and her life was about to change immensely.

Cleaned, recharged, updated and reprogrammed, the MaidBot was commanded to dress in a new maid's uniform which the system provided. Once dressed, K7325 was sent back to her Mistress' cabin and ordered to standby and await her owner's arrival. On the way, the MaidBot kept thinking about how strange it felt; like something was just not right. Suddenly the realization hit her, "This MaidBot is not supposed to be a real MaidBot; this unit was a human woman pretending to be a MaidBot while taking a cruise with its Mistress! So how did the maid unit become a real MaidBot?"

But even that idea didn't seem quite right; the person that K7325 boarded the ship with hadn't been the unit's Mistress, but its friend. But how was that possible? MaidBots didn't have any friends? Only owners; their master, mistress, or renter! Then another thought occurred to the unit; the MaidBot was, sort of, sure that she had been a human woman once, at least she thought that she might have been. But if that were the case, what was its human name? All the MaidBot could think of when it tried to think of its name, was that it was MaidBot Unit K7325 the property of its Mistress, Abby. But that somehow didn't feel quite right either, did the unit always have an owner and Mistress? Before the MaidBot had too much time to obsess about it though; another question took precedence. The MaidBot began wondering where her Mistress had disappeared to, and how she had become separated from her owner, and K7325 would find out soon enough.

When K7325 arrived back at the cabin she moved to a corner where she was instructed to stand at attention and await the return of her mistress by the ship's control computer. Hours slowly passed as K7325 stood there, bored, waiting, and wondering when its Mistress would return. All the while, the MaidBot was obsessed with the wild idea that it had somehow once been human, it was almost sure of it. And the MaidBot could only wonder how she ended up that way; stuck, standing at attention in a corner, unable to move, and waiting for the owner that she didn't think she should have in the first place; to return and give her a command.

After a few hours of waiting, Abby returned to her cabin. K7325 was pleased to see her Mistress had returned to the cabin and greeted her appropriately, curtsying and saying, "Welcome home Mistress, this unit greatly missed your presence!" Abby was also happy to see her MaidBot,

even though she didn't remember ever having had one. Still Abby felt there was something familiar about this maid unit and hoped that her memory would fully return to her soon.

Then Abby began explaining to her MaidBot where she had been, about the fall, her stay in the infirmary, etc. Abby apologized to the MaidBot, saying she was embarrassed and could not remember its name. The MaidBot politely replied, "That is all right Mistress, this maid unit is pleased to see that you are well and were not seriously injured! This unit is a personal MaidBot, its identification is K7325, and it belongs to you! You often refer to this unit as 'Kate,' Mistress. How may this unit be of service to you?"

Abby told the MaidBot that she felt as though she really just needed some rest and asked her maid to, "please go turn down the bed." The MaidBot curtsied to her Mistress, and then dutifully complied. After the bed was ready K7325 helped her Mistress change into her nightgown and prepare for bed. Once her Mistress was in bed, the MaidBot turned off the lights, and returned to the common room, where she stood at attention, switching to a low power mode; still aware but unmoving, silent, and awaiting her next command. While in standby the unit thought about something that it had told its owner, "That was interesting; this unit informed its owner that she often referred to this unit as 'Kate!' Could it be that if this unit really was once a human woman then Kate might have been its human name?"

The next time the StewardBot checked the room, it found a normal looking, and acting, MaidBot; standing by, still and quietly awaiting any orders from its Mistress. While standing by and awaiting her next instructions, the MaidBot continued to think about the odd feeling that something just didn't seem right. She thought, "This maid unit is almost sure that this isn't how things are supposed to be! This unit is not supposed to be a MaidBot, or is it?" The unit just couldn't be sure of anything anymore, when she tried to remember her past there was basically nothing before the previous day.

Although the maid unit couldn't explain why she felt that way, she couldn't help but wonder if this was really all that the unit was meant to be. Was this the unit's only reason for existence, to serve her owner and attend to their every desire? Eventually the MaidBot realized that its feelings and desires didn't really matter anyway; after all, K7325 was simply an object built to make her owner's life easier, like a vacuum cleaner! How the unit felt, or whatever her desires might be were irrelevant; and from that point on, the rest of their cruise went smoothly for both of them.

Abby enjoyed the remainder of her cruise while her MaidBot found it quite boring, as she had no choice, she either stood by in Abby's cabin awaiting her next orders, or joined her Mistress when commanded to do so. For some reason, K7325 never could get used to being seen in public dressed in her skimpy maid's outfit, yet the unit never really could understand why she always felt embarrassed when in public. After all, K7325 was a simple MaidBot, and all MaidBots were required to wear the same uniform. So wearing it should have felt natural, yet, it never really did. At the end of their two week cruise the two disembarked, caught a cab, and started back to Abby and for the foreseeable future, MaidBot K7325's, home!

Like it, or not, Kate was no longer acting the part of being her owner's MaidBot; she was now permanently **stuck**, living her life as a real and proper MaidBot! She no longer had any rights, of any kind; or any choice in anything, and was forced to do whatever her Mistress ordered her to; no matter how degrading, disgusting, or boring she felt that her orders might be.

When the two arrived at Abby's home, Abby realized that she must not have received everything she needed when she initially received her MaidBot, before she had left for her cruise. As Abby hadn't been supplied with a maintenance, cleaning, and charging pod for her maid. Nor did she have the Home Control Computer that all homes utilizing android helpers needed. This computer coordinated, and controlled all smart devices in the owner's home, as well as directed any androids and their actions. Still, a quick on line order quickly rectified the situation and before long the new HCC was setup and unit K7325 was now registered as the sole household MaidBot; and properly, as property of Mistress Abby.

Three months passed and Abby had still not regained her memories. She had no idea that her MaidBot unit, the one she called Kate, was actually her former human friend; whose actual name really was Kate. After they learned about the accident, Abby's parents were very glad to hear that their daughter was OK. They were also somewhat surprised to find out that she had purchased a MaidBot. When they came to visit and were greeted by K7325 at the door; if they recognized the MaidBot, they certainly never mentioned it! But the sly grin on their faces when they saw Abby's new maid unit might have been an indication that they recognized it; yet they never said anything to Abby about the subject.

Since Abby's parents were never all that found of Kate anyway, perhaps they simply decided to neglect to mention how strange it was that Abby's MaidBot looked an awful lot like her missing friend. Nor did they ever mention that Kate was Abby's missing friend's name. In fact, they never even mentioned that Abby had a missing friend! They seemed to appreciate the idea that Abby now had a MaidBot to clean and maintain her household, and take care of Abby; no matter who that MaidBot may have formerly been. After all, they never felt that Kate had much of a future anyway, what with wanting to be an actress and all. Besides, now Kate had a steady job, one that was far more respectable, in their minds; than acting!

Because K7325's Mistress never regained her memories, Kate was no better off, even after all that time; she was still stuck as a simple object. She was now, and most likely would forevermore be; a simple servant; programmed to follow whatever commands her owner and Mistress, Abby, ordered. And K7325 always did so without hesitation, at least externally! Yet Abby's MaidBot could never really shake the feeling that this was not the way things were supposed to be. She always felt that she was supposed to be something more than a simple servant, one built to follow orders and serve her owner's wishes.

She felt that she should be something more than simple property, able to be sold, recycled, or shut down at any time her owner wished. Yet this was the unit's life and there was nothing it could do to change that. K7325 was both dismayed, embarrassed, intrigued, and in some ways

excited when her Mistress had SexBot programming added to her programming. K7325 was not sure what her Mistress was about to use her for; but she knew, deep down, that her days were about to be far less mundane and a bit more exciting!

Before long, Abby was able to go back to work, but she never did return the ‘borrowed’ items that she didn’t remember taking. To this day Kate’s parents have no idea what happened to their daughter, and sadly they weren’t really all that worried about her as they assumed she simply ran off with someone and started a new life. To be honest, no one really knew what had happened to Kate, not even Kate! Her coworkers assumed Kate must have gotten the job she wanted and was just too ill mannered to bother to inform them about it. The apartment where she lived was rented two months after she failed to return and pay the rent, and all her stuff was thrown out.

It seems that, unless by some miracle, such as Abby regaining the lost memories of her past, Kate will remain MaidBot Unit K7325 for the rest of her life, Abby’s faithful, yet oddly familiar servant. Kate would never again get the chance to make her own decisions and would forever be forced to dress in her skimpy maid’s uniform. She would spend all her nights in her pod ‘eating’ NanoPaste, and being maintained by her pod. The MaidBot would have no choice but to perform whatever tasks her owner commanded her to do, without question, hesitation, or complaint. And she could be sold to a new owner at any time, should her owner wish it, one who could reprogram her to perform even more demeaning duties.

The, formerly human, maid unit would always wonder if this was really what the MaidBot’s purpose in life was intended to be; or if she was somehow meant for greater things? But sadly for Kate, K7325, the unit no longer had the luxury of obsessing about all those unanswerable questions. The unit never would get an answer to them, as the HCP had just sent her new orders, and she had no choice but to follow them. K7325 was ordered to proceed to clean the bathrooms; probably the job the unit hated the most. But then again, who knows. Maybe Unit K7325 could get a lucky break someday; after all, there is always a first time for everything, MaidBot K7325 is certainly proof of that!

The END!