

Incident at the Store

-or-

Accidents Happen!

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Enhanced story based on an original by [zxc8787](#) “android in a store” altered and rewritten with permission by zxc8787 by [JaneDoe-2010](#) for clarity with permission from [WickedShamrock77](#).

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Holly and her mother were quite successful in the android business; her Ma owned a very successful retail store that sold android servants and helpers. Android technology had come quite far by this time! These days, it was hard to tell an android apart from a human being without a thorough inspection. Synthetic flesh and bones, along with realistic skin and Hair, made it almost impossible to make a judgment. Even the main storage unit and processor, were designed to simulate the structure of a human brain. Some of the old models still had a cable to connect them to a docking station, but most of the current modern models replaced this connection with Wi-Fi. Upon special request, the female androids could be built to be fully functional; so human-like they were able to carry a human child to birth. Of course, the same was true with the male versions. Obviously, the androids utilized frozen sperm and eggs, and some preparation was needed to get them up and running for this unusual purpose.



Holly, at the beach sometime before the incident

Unfortunately accidents happen, and at one point, Holly had been involved in a serious accident, which required modern medical technology to repair her body. As a result, Holly now had some synthetic flesh, often referred to by its trade name SynthFlesh®, some cybernetic implants in her brain and a Wi-Fi connection for updates to the software in them. The Wi-Fi connection made it easier for her doctors to get accurate reports on her functional status. Holly even had LED status indicators in the temples of her head which showed the status of the internal power cell that powered her implants, and her systems status. Holly really did have some similarity to the androids they sold, and this often bothered her emotionally.

The bizarre incident, which would change her life forever, occurred on a day when they were running short on supplies in the store. Her mom said, “Holly, we open in five minutes and are short on androids at the moment. Would you, please dress up and pretend to be an android again? Then prepare to act as a stand-in for an important customer demonstration; Mrs. Smith, one of our best and wealthiest customers is coming by this afternoon.” The young woman offered no resistance to her request and politely replied, “No problem, right away, Ma!” Holly went back to the storage area, where all the blank androids and window display bots were kept when the store was closed.

Holly went to the storage box which had been assigned to her to keep all of her stuff in; as this had become an all too common routine for the girl, then, and she was tiring of it. Holly began to strip out of her clothes and once she had finished undressing, Holly picked up the control collar that all androids have to wear to function properly. The collar provides all of the control functions, as well as visually helping humans to differentiate androids from real humans, as humans didn’t wear the collars; normally. Holly’s collar was no different than the ones that any of the real bots were wearing; it was silver and had lights to indicate its current status, which currently indicated that it was operating properly. These collars also helped identify the android to the system to which it was assigned and any location where the android had to travel to, along with providing any inquiring system with the units ownership and manufacturer data.

Holly checked out the collar and everything seemed to be in order. As she looked up at the mirror in the room and examined herself, as she had done so many times before, Holly noticed her currently green status light and the SynthFlesh parts of her body and sadly thought, “It’s not hard to pretend to be an android when you already look like one!” Then, Holly attached the collar around her neck, and with a click it is locked itself on and established a connection to the host computer, and her implants. As soon as that occurred Holly was registered into the shops internal computer system database as though she were just another android.

The collar began synchronization with the system and received updates, and details about the present status of the store. The system also sent updates to Holly’s collar, including her assigned serial number within the system database, and her human friendly name; currently set to “Holly” for convenience. During those updates Holly’s body was frozen, and she wasn’t able to move a single muscle. Getting impatient and wondering how she was doing back there, her Ma decided to check on Holly’s status with her computer. But, so far, she hadn’t been able to locate Holly within the system.

Therefore, she decided to go to the back to check in on Holly. When she arrived she could see Holly standing there with a blank look on her face, naked, at attention, and her status light was red; indicating that she was still receiving updates. As soon as Holly’s status light turned green, her Ma said to her, “android, please state your designation!” To which Holly involuntarily replied, “This unit is designated as Holly, serial number ZXC8787, property of Androids Inc. retail store, a franchise of Android Independent, Inc.” Her Ma smiled at this and said, “Very good android! Now put on your assigned uniform for display #7, get your makeup done, and then report to the front of the store and stand at attention until further orders are issued.

Under full control by her collar, Holly involuntarily responded, “Yes store owner, this unit will do as you order at once!” Then Holly walked off to the dressing room where she dressed in her assigned outfit. After which, she walked to the makeup station where the system automatically applied the proper makeup to the

android, related to its assigned outfit. The makeup station even applied washable, temporary, ID and manufacturer's markings to Holly to reinforce the illusion that she was a real android. Since she had completed her first order, Holly began to comply with her second and walk to the front of the store. Holly's Ma would never have told her this, but she secretly wished her daughter was this obedient all the time.

Even though the collar was in complete control of her body and she could not move or say anything on her own, Holly was still conscious in there, and aware of everything going on to, and around, her. Within the apparently emotionless android, she was thinking that being assigned and connected to the store, yet again, would just be another boring day for her; forced to stand around while people came in and looked her over, sometimes they even touched her! The only time she was able to speak or move was when someone asked her a question, and even then, she could only reply with whatever the control computer told her to say.

As Holly was walking towards the front and thinking about these things, an error message popped up in her mind. The store control computer had detected her independent brain activity and reacted immediately. When she 'saw' the error message pop up, Holly thought, "What..! what's happening? I was ordered to the store front so that my Ma can look me over!" It was then that Holly heard a different voice in her mind say, "WARNING! This android is violating its base programming and not operating properly! Unusual thoughts detected! Improper reference to unit's owner! Control is searching for a solution!"

Holly was concerned, as this had never happened to her before, and then she heard, "Solution found! This android is commanded to cancel its current orders and report to programming for further diagnostics." Holly was now really scared, as this had also never happened to her before, and thought, "Wait! What! No, No, No..! I'm not an android, control! I'm not a machine, I'm human! I don't want to go to programming, and I certainly don't want to be reprogrammed!" But something was wrong with the way that the control computer had identified Holly during her setup and it merely responded, "Incorrect response android! You are malfunctioning! Return to the programming station for diagnostics and maintenance! Comply at once, this is an ORDER!"

Scared as she was, as long as Holly was wearing her collar, she was unable to refuse any command from the control computer, her owner, or her collar's AI software. Her brain implants were currently being controlled by the shop's control computer system; and it had full control of her actions, so off to programming she went. However, the store control computer was aware of the command that the owner of this android had given it; ordering Holly to go to the front of the store and enter display #7. Unit ZXC8787 was clearly malfunctioning and unavailable, at the moment. So to comply with the store owner's orders, a copy of Holly was created using one of the blank androids in the back. The copy had been given the same appearance as Holly, same outfit, and was ordered to respond to any user input the same way that Holly would have, making the two almost identical.

Before long, the fake Holly walked up to the storefront where it, as instructed, entered display #7 and stood at attention, then froze. Holly's mom was busy with a customer at the moment and simply looked over at her 'daughter' now standing on display as she had ordered her to do, and smiled. Sadly Holly's Ma was none the wiser, and simply accepted the fake as Holly and continued with her customer. Holly's twin was given an order by the control computer to greet the customers as they entered the store and, of course, it complied. Since 'Holly' was acting normally, for an android, her Ma never bothered to come over to check on it.

Meanwhile the real Holly arrived at the programming station, a connection was quickly established, and it felt as though her mind was being sucked out of her, little did she know that it really was. Soon Holly went blank and lost consciousness. The computer began checking all of the unit's files for possible malicious software, as the inappropriate actions of this android indicated that someone might have hacked it. While it did not find any Malware, the control computer raised the security level on this unit, putting it under much higher scrutiny than normal. Then the unit's software was reloaded and Holly once again became conscious.

As soon as the scans were complete Holly was released by the computer, and while she was still unable to move, she found that she did have some control. Holly tried to contact her Ma, or should she say her owner? At any rate, the store's owner, via the System, but this only led to new problems. First, Holly's Ma picked up and heard, "Ma! I" The unexplained break in her daughter's message caused Holly's Ma to walk out and check up on the android in the front of the store. The android looked at her and reacted to her inquisitive stare as though everything was normal, simply stating, "Yes Store Owner, how may I assist you?" Then, when her Ma just looked at it curiously and said nothing, the android resumed its work, assuming nothing was wrong. Unfortunately, Holly's Ma didn't pursue the matter any further and assumed that it was Holly and just walked away, not thinking much more about the incident.

Meanwhile, the control computer was not at all happy that this android tried to contact its owner, without first being addressed by its owner; this was in direct violation of proper protocol. So it ordered Holly to return to the programming station again where it could further investigate the reason for the unit's improper behavior. This time, when the computer downloaded all of the information from Holly's brain, it stored the image on a disk for further analysis, and then did a complete wipe of the original data stored within the unit. This was just in case it might have overlooked, or missed, some form of malware. The computer also alerted the maintenance department of the anomalies occurring with this unit and requested assistance.

With Holly's memories and consciousness completely removed, her body was really was pretty much the same as any other android, unconscious and unthinking; hard to differentiate from any other blank android in the store. As if this weren't bad enough things were working against Holly. As fate had it, a delivery of new blank androids had just arrived and the fully automated store control computer had automatically added them into the system as inventory.

This was quite normal, but what made matters even worse, was that the system had also added Holly into inventory, as well; treating her as just another blank android. It did this in order to replace the original blank android it had used to replace the defective 'Holly.' That unit was now assigned to, and working in, the front of the store in Holly's place. The control computer even programmed the fake Holly using the copy of Holly's consciousness, which it had recently made. In doing that, the new 'Holly' actually thought that it was the real Holly, and it would act just like her when its job in front was done and it was returned to 'normal.' At least, that was, unless it was reset and erased back into its original blank state.

--- Chapter 2 ---

The day continued on like every other day in the store, nothing seemed to be out of the ordinary. Well, for everyone but Holly, but due to her consciousness now being stored on a disk somewhere she was unaware of anything that was happening. Ciara, an employee, and good friend of Holly's Ma, arrived to start her shift in the store. Ciara loved to start late, that way she could either sleep in and party all night, or take care of other needs when everyone else was out for work. Holly's mom was talking to one of the customers when she saw Ciara arrive; as soon as she was free she went over to Ciara and addressed her.

Holly's Ma said, "Ciara, thank God, you're bit early. I completely forgot I have a very important appointment today that I can not miss and I need to rush a bit. The new blanks just arrived, would you please check them in, and then prepare them for display? I think it is about time we make some changes for the new season. Also, Mrs. Smith called, would you please call her back? She wants two androids for a special occasion and a house system for her daughter." Ciara replied, "Sure Ma'am, no problem, you just go get ready and I will take care of everything. Is there anything else that I should be aware of?" But Holly's Ma was already walking for the door. The last thing Ciara heard as Holly's mom walked out and she was left alone in the store, was, "No Ciara. Not that I'm aware of."

The first thing Ciara did, once she was alone, was check for anything out of the ordinary. Then she inspected the store's new inventory. While doing so, Ciara heard footsteps as someone was coming in the door. Then a man asked if she was the one running the store, Ciara replied, "Yes sir, the owner of the store is currently unavailable and therefore, I assume, I'm the one in charge. How may I assist you? Could I, perhaps, interest you in a new android; maybe one specially designed just for you, and your needs?" Her question was quickly answered when he pulled out an ID card, and information, indicating that he was Mr. Black from android Independent Inc., their parent company! He had come to the store due to an automated request from the store control computer system which he felt he needed to investigate. Mr. Black would need access to the store's control computer system.

Ciara said, "Sir, I don't wish to be rude, but I am not sure if that is OK. Or if I am allowed to grant you access to the shop's computer system! Still, I know one simple rule! If you can show me that you can access the computer system without any information from me, well. I've always believed that a person who is able to access the system, and can do so without requesting any codes, or asking too many questions is probably legitimate.

The man just laughed, amused by her statement, and addressed the android next to them, "android, security override code 'a13z437cde,' please show me the way to the main computer, then return to your assigned duty in the store." When the android responded favorably he said, "I assure you, young lady, that I can find my way around your store just fine." Ciara had witnessed what just happened but didn't really understand how he was able to get in so easily. Was it really that simple to control an android and override the security set by the company with a simple code? On the other hand, if his voice and code was recognized by the system, then he must be alright; right?

Apparently, it seemed that Holly had been detected as an anomalous unit, and separated from the other androids for further investigation at the time the control computer called tech support. While Ciara stood there for a moment, pondering the things that she had just witnessed, the stored files containing Holly's personality, consciousness, and memories, were being put through another series of checks, initiated by Mr. Black. He had also directed the control computer to move the possibly malfunctioning android to where he was working. Holly's body walked from storage to Mr. Black's location, completely automatically, then stopped there and stood at attention awaiting his command. When he looked at the android, everything looked normal, except its status light was red, indicating that the unit was not operating properly.

Meanwhile, Ciara began preparing to setup the first window display. But before she could do so, she had to find proper attire for the androids that would be used in the display, to wear. She loved this part of her job, and chose fitting male, and female, costumes. Ciara chose a butler, and a MaidBot's costume, fitting to attend to an ordinary wedding reception. She programmed the control computer, and blank male and female androids were automatically sent for decoration and costuming; and before long the two androids would be ready.

As she was working in the window setting up the props for the display, Ciara was thinking about the other window and how she could decorate it. "Perhaps the other window should have a Groomsman and Bridesmaid, as they were usually present at any wedding!" As she was finishing her setup, the two androids arrived at the window and she placed them into their positions, and then setup their poses. While working she thought, "The MaidBot will certainly catch some attention! Their short frilly maid's outfits always attract the boys! Ha! Boys are so easy!" Ciara giggled, as she imagined what she would look like herself, wearing one of the maid's outfits for her boyfriend; and the fun they could have role playing together.

Meanwhile Mr. Black had not been able to find anything terribly wrong with the unit, other than he had noticed that whenever the unit was initially setup the machine that applies the ID and manufacturer data to this unit was apparently incorrectly configured as these things should be indelibly tattooed onto the upper

arms of the android, yet somehow, this unit's info was simply printed on with washable inks. Perhaps, he thought, they were out of tattoo ink when this unit was setup. Mr. Black checked the makeup machine and confirmed that it currently had the correct supplies loaded. So, he set a flag in the control computer which told it that the next time this unit was decorated; apply the correct markings, with the correct ink and process.

Then he transferred the saved Files back into Holly's body as he was unable to find any errors; besides, he wanted to see the android operating. Then he said, "Android, security override code 'a13z437cde.' Please switch to diagnostic mode, and restart personality module." Holly replied, "Diagnostic mode active, restarting. Ready, please state your command!" While her Status LED turned yellow, indicating that she was still not in normal mode. Holly heard herself as she had said that, but it was as though she were coming out of a deep sleep and she didn't really think too much about what she had said, at first! The man's first command was simple enough, "android, please state your designation." Holly heard herself reply, "This unit is designated as Holly, serial number ZXC8787, property of Androids Inc. retail store, a franchise of Android Independent, Inc." Then Mr. Black asked, "What do you prefer to be called unit ZXC8787?" Holly answered with a simple enough reply, "Holly, Sir; as that was my assigned name at birth. But if you prefer, you may assign another name if the current one doesn't please you."

Mr. Black was a bit shocked and taken aback when he heard the android say, "At birth." The unit's response should have been, "this unit was ordered to respond to the name Holly; or this unit's serial number is, ZXC8787." Mr. Black said, "Thank you Holly; No, Holly will be a fine name for now. Next question, Holly; are you an android?" Holly responded, "Sir this unit was built and programmed to serve its owner in whatever capacity they desire; the unit is what it was designed to be, and nothing more. However, please note the name 'Holly' is also assigned to another android within this store, this could cause confusion. This unit recommends that you provide it with a different name that you would like it to respond to. Doing so should prevent any confusion or erroneous operation in the future with this unit and the other 'Holly.'"

Mr. Black thought to himself, "Wow, she really is a strange little thing! I wonder if your odd response might be due to some jokester messing with your programming; or an electric shock, I have heard about such phenomena happening, but I have never seen anything like this before myself." Mr. Black then turned and said, "Ciara, would you please come over here for a second? Do you know if anything odd has happened in the store recently, or if this unit has been given any special orders?" Ciara checked for, but was unable to find any difference and answered honestly, "no sir, this unit looks exactly the same as the one assigned to greet the customers up front; its orders were to assist with any initial questions that customers asked before calling me, or any other person working in the store."

Mr. Black thought for a moment and said, "Hmm... that might just be the answer! Ciara, do you know anyone by the name of Holly?" Ciara responded, "Yes sir, the store owner's daughter's name is Holly, why do you ask?" The man replied, "Oh, I noticed that this android acted weird when I asked it some questions. The store control system picked it out as potentially having been subject to second party access and reported it to us. As far as I can tell, it seems to have accepted its programming normally as the store greeter. And it might just be that when your boss was talking to her daughter, the unit was still awaiting input and picked out the name 'Holly' from their conversation."

Mr. Black's epiphany helped him feel better; it was a logical explanation to explain the things he had checked, and the errors that he had witnessed. He thought to himself, "This makes sense! Case closed. I need to follow the android's advice though and give it another name." Then he said to Holly, "android, change human friendly unit name for unit ID ZXC8787 to Sarah!" Holly didn't like the fact that someone was changing her name, yet the android replied, "Order accepted, this unit's human friendly name is now set to Sarah. Do you have any additional commands, Sir?" As the man thought about it, he decided that, just to be safe, he should change the serial number on this unit as well. He said, "Actually, Sarah, yes there is one more thing. Please reset unit serial number to 1ABD375G." Sarah replied, "Order accepted, unit ID is now 1ABD375G."

Sarah again asked if he had any additional orders, to which Mr. Black said, "No thank you Sarah. That will be all! You may switch back to normal mode now." Of course, the android replied, "command accepted, resuming normal mode!" Then he watched as its status light turned green and it stood at attention with its arms to its sides, waiting patiently for its new orders. However, within the android Holly was not so patient, and certainly was not having fun. Holly was very ready to end this session and be free of her collar; where she was once again the store owner's daughter, human, able to speak without being spoken to. But best of all, being able to say 'No' to the control computer, and people's commands, and orders, when she wanted to.

Then the man turned to Ciara and said, "Thank you very much for your help Ciara; please feel free to put this android back into service again, I don't think there is anything wrong with the unit. The report seems to have just been a silly mistake. It looks like the android was activated by accident, then standing by awaiting orders, when it picked up what it could hear from a nearby conversation. Don't forget that this unit's new name is Sarah. Thank you very much for having me, and I wish you a great day ahead, and amazing business." All Ciara could say when Mr. Black left the store was, "Uh, thank you, and the same to you, sir!"

Of course, while the conversation was happening, Holly, now Sarah, was still trapped within the 'android' and now that she was once again fully conscious, she had a different point of view regarding the latest events. Sarah wasn't sure what was going on at first, she remembered having blacked out after being ordered to report to the programming station which she did, having no possible way to avoid following her orders. But when she regained consciousness again, she found herself standing, at attention, in front of a strange man who asked her lots of strange questions before changing her name to Sarah.

Sarah was, at first, filled with joy when she saw Ciara, hoping she would somehow recognize her and release her. But her joy soon turned to disappointment when she realized that; just like any, real, android; she found that she was unable to speak to Ciara on her own. She was even more disappointed when she realized that Ciara didn't recognize her and was simply treating her like any other android. Sarah wanted to beg Ciara to remove her collar and return her normal human freedom, abilities, and name. But since an android could only speak when spoken to, Sarah had no possible way to ask Ciara for help. In fact, unless Ciara asked her a direct question Sarah realized that she couldn't speak on her own, period.

Sarah's ability to initiate communications was controlled by her software, and this meant that she could not speak unless spoken to; like any real android. And, even then, she could only ask certain questions, as supplied by her programming, or respond directly to her user's questions. Sarah would have cried out both in fear, and for help, if her software would have allowed it. But even worse, Sarah realized that she couldn't move a muscle to look, wave at, or otherwise attract, Ciara's attention. And unfortunately, for Sarah, Ciara had no idea that the android now designated Sarah was, in fact, her boss's daughter.

Ciara decided to remove everything from the second window and start fresh with the theme that she had in mind for it, the new theme was formal events; specifically weddings. Sometimes couples asked for androids to stand in as bridesmaids, or groomsmen, in this way they could record the wedding from that perspective, as well, and nothing seemed out of the ordinary to guests or the soon to be wed couple. To make things easier, Ciara began programming the control computer with information regarding the two androids to be used in the display.

First she assigned the name 'Adam' to the blank male android. Then Ciara picked a classic suit; one she would have loved to see her boyfriend wearing, for Adam to wear. Since Sarah was currently unassigned, essentially blank, and already standing by; Ciara decided to just use her. For Sarah, the female android, Ciara picked a simple, but really pretty, bridesmaid's dress for the android to wear. Once the units were dressed, with the female's hair styled up properly and makeup done; the two would look like they were prepared to attend the wedding just like the butler and MaidBot.

Once she had entered the details, the computer began working on Ciara's order immediately, the male unit needed to be set up from scratch. But for the female part, Sarah was a conveniently unassigned female android and was quickly sent for a make over, and to be dressed for her part. Ciara had decided to make a couple changes to Sarah's look. Since Adam had dark hair and blue eyes and Ciara wanted the two to look similar, Sarah's hair color was changed from her original sandy color, to a dark brunette similar to Adam's; and her brown eyes were changed to a somewhat unnatural blue by the machines. Also her complexion was a bit dark for her dress, so the machines applied an essentially permanent makeup to her face, making her skin tone a bit lighter. After the basics were complete, Sarah was tattooed with her ID and manufacturer data as ordered by Mr. Black when he had previously examined her. It was now quite likely that, even if her Ma had returned and seen the android, she wouldn't have recognized it as being her daughter Holly.

Before long Ciara had the window background and props set up perfectly and all that remained was for the computer to send out the assigned androids; now properly attired. Ciara ordered the pair of androids to step up into the display. She also moved four other female models into the background, for symmetry. Sarah was able to see herself, reflected in the window, and was stunned; her outfit was something that she always wanted to wear, just not as an android stuck posing in a window display. All the while, Ciara continued making adjustments to the pose of the two androids until she was happy with her new window display.



Adam and Sarah, formerly Holly, in the store's window display

Ciara was almost done, when Mrs. Smith entered the store; she was a regular customer and was well known to Ciara. Ciara said, “Oh, Hi, Mrs. Smith! I’m so sorry; I completely forgot to call you back. I was told to call you and simply forgot, my apologies, it has been a very weird day! But now that you are here, what can I do for you?” Mrs. Smith smiled and replied politely, “I see you already have what I need; as you know my daughter is getting married soon. I was so happy with the androids you sold me, that I would like to give the kids a pair; along with a house control computer system, as wedding gift.”

Mrs. Smith continued, “The pair of androids dressed as a bridesmaid and groomsman are perfect! I spotted them in your window display and they gave me a great idea. If I purchased the two of them, they could attend the ceremony as a couple extra attendants who could record the ceremony from their point of view! Then afterward, the two could be permanently assigned to the kid’s house as domestic servants. Their outfits already look virtually identical to the ones the kids choose for the bridesmaids and groomsman.

It is amazing; it is as though you could read my mind! Do you mind if I purchase this couple as they are, and then you send them over to my house?” Then Mrs. Smith continued, “Can you also get someone to install the necessary control system into my daughter’s new house? And I will need two or three maid’s and butler’s uniforms for them to wear after the wedding, and so they have a few spares available. I don’t want the kids to have to go and purchase more uniforms soon after they get married.” Ciara happily replied, “Yes, of course, Ma’am! Mrs. Smith! I’m so glad that I am able to assist you that easily.”

Even though Sarah was forced to stand there staring out the window, she caught every single word and thought, “Does this mean I am being sold to Mrs. Smith and am going to soon be turned into a MaidBot? There must be some mistake; surely someone must recognize that I am really human, and not a real android?” What Holly didn’t realize, was that when she passed her inspection by Mr. Black, one of the most experienced technicians in the company, she had now been officially approved as a normal, blank android, ready for sale; and few people would dare to argue with his judgment.

Bizarre circumstances struck once again, and Sarah didn’t have to wait long to witness more of her fate unfolding. Mrs. Smith was apparently quite lucky, in that a company technician had just received the setup order as he was arriving at the store for a normal checkup anyway. So he got to work immediately and gathered the two androids she had requested. Then he delivered them to her daughter’s new home, installed the house control system, and transferred the two android’s ownership and control to the house system. As he was working he asked, “Mrs. Smith, would you mind letting me know what names you would like for these two androids? Currently, they respond to Adam, serial number XYZ220482, and Sarah, serial number 1ABD375G.” Mrs. Smith thought about the question for a minute and said, “Let me think about it. As they are the first of their kind in my daughter’s house, I like the idea of having an Adam around; but Sarah? No, that just doesn’t sound right! Can you instead, please assign the name Eve to the female one?”

The tech responded, “Of course Ma’am, no problem at all.” At this stage Sarah wasn’t just losing her human rights and independence, she was also losing her name; again! Sarah would have frowned, if she could have moved a muscle, at the indignity of being treated as a real android. Before the tech left he changed, Holly, now Sarah’s, name to Eve; and now, once again, Eve would have to respond to yet another new name. Then a bigger concern occurred to her, as Eve realized that unless someone realized that she was human, Eve, previously Sarah, and once upon a time, Holly, would remain an android servant forever. Sarah was still hoping that her Ma would find out what had happened and come to rescue her. But, Eve would quickly discover that she was soon going to serve her new owners as a MaidBot servant, forever stuck in a skimpy, sexualized and degrading uniform, for all to see.

The wedding service went, flawlessly, and both Mrs. Smith, and her daughter and son in law, were greatly impressed with her gift, their new androids. Soon after the wedding, the technician returned and the androids were assigned their new tasks, and made dress in their new outfits. Now the two would be properly attired, as

butler and maid. And they would maintain the household of the newly wedded couple, their Master and Mistress until they wore out, or were replaced by their owners. Holly, or excuse me, Eve's fate was sealed, she would be forever stuck as a MaidBot wearing a skimpy French maid's outfit; one which pleased her Master quite well! Somehow, her mistress was less impressed with, and more amused by, the MaidBot's skimpy outfit, she was certainly glad that it was the maid and not her having to wear it. To be honest, Eve's Mistress was very happy that she had not been asked to wear that outfit by her new husband, she loved him and wanted to please him; but that would have just been a bit too much for her to agree to, even for him.

Of course, her new owners had some changes to Eve's appearance made early on. Now, even had her mother have found her, she probably would not have recognized her daughter as she looked almost nothing like she had when she was a simple human girl. Her looks had been tailored to suit her new Master's desires, and since she was far less of a threat than some human woman, her Mistress; while unhappy with her husband's obvious wandering desires, considered Eve less of a threat and ignored it. Eve was, at least internally, in awe every time she caught sight of herself in a mirror; the new her, barely dressed in her embarrassing maid's outfit, and looking like someone else entirely. When she thought back to the fateful day that her existence as a simple MaidBot began, she could never have believed that this would someday be her fate. Eve was stuck as a MaidBot, forever serving her new owners without any choice in the matter. Eve never quit trying to resist her new life, fate, or orders; yet her new life was going to be one that quickly spanned years.

One would think that normal aging would have given her away, but Eve had something working against her, the HCC. Whenever the HCC decided there was degradation in the unit it would ship Eve back to the company for repairs and updates, where it made radical changes to Eve's body. Eve had never really noticed these changes, as she was usually in an unconscious mode while being modified. Whenever she had been returned for repairs, with each trip the computers replaced more and more of her human body. Nano-Robots kept replacing more and more of the biological parts of Eve with mechanical equivalents. Until eventually, there was very little human left. When Eve was returned to her owners home and reactivated, she was none the wiser. Perhaps it should have become more obvious to the MaidBot sooner, but the changes were fairly subtle.

Whether or not she wanted to, Eve served her owners well. Eventually they had a son, that was when Eve's owners ordered an upgrade for Eve, additional programming to assist her in a new responsibility. Now, not only was Eve stuck as a MaidBot serving to maintain their home, but she was also programmed to act as a NannyBot for their son as well. Over the years she spent her time cleaning and maintaining her owner's home and helping to tend to, and raise, their son. Eve, obviously, couldn't show or express her feelings, but she grew immensely fond her young charge and watched him grow up, grow old, and eventually die. By this time Eve had finally realized the truth, that she was no longer a human female; perhaps it was when she was putting on a new uniform one day and realized that she no longer had a belly button. Instead, where her navel should have been, she had an electrical connector; think USB. Or perhaps it should have been when her maintenance pod stopped 'feeding' her and removing her 'spent fuel.'

But before he did, he had a son, and she raised and tended to him, too. As each of her original owners passed away, Eve was given to their eldest son, and so on, and so on. After serving as a MaidBot and NannyBot for a few hundred years, and many generations of owners, Eve felt slightly different. While Eve still didn't want to be a MaidBot, or a NannyBot, she continued performing her duties with all the diligence that one would expect of a proper android servant.



Eve, formerly Sarah, in her Master and Mistress's mansion

You might have a few questions, for example, if Holly's Ma ever was able to rescue her from her life of servitude. I'm sorry to say, but after her, "important appointment," Holly's Ma was involved in a serious accident in which her brain and body suffered a lot of damage, unlike Holly it was much more severe. The good part was that modern technology was able to save her; and she, mostly recovered with the help of some implants, and nearly a full year in the hospital. Everything was eventually fine for her, apart from a substantial memory loss. Ciara took up the slack at the store and helped a lot in getting Holly's Ma up and running again, in fact, Holly's Ma, who now had no memory of her, considered Ciara her unofficial daughter and planned to someday leave the store to her.

Eventually, Holly's Ma had a normal life again; she even went back to working at her store. But when she was asked about having a daughter she couldn't even remember ever having one. And since Holly was nowhere to be found and had been missing for the entire year that her Ma was recovering, everyone thought it best not to mention her at all. Since no one knew where Holly had gone and thought that she probably ran away, they thought that this might make her Ma sad, or even worse, so they never brought up the subject again. Eve would remain a MaidBot until the day she died, serving her owner's whims, wishes, and commands; and always remembering, and fighting with the fact that she was not supposed to be a MaidBot servant, but a human woman.

You might also wonder why the cops never found Holly. Unfortunately, Ciara didn't know that Holly was supposed to be acting as the robot in the front of the store. Ironically she really wasn't, it was instead a copy of her made by the control computer. When Ciara was finished with the unit and checked its status, it was indicated in her computer as a real android which looked like Holly. Simply thinking that Holly's Ma used

Holly's image to flatter her daughter, she simply sent it back to storage, clearing its memory and programming, and readying it for use again later. Ciara was unaware of what had happened to Holly and eventually, several weeks later, asked the cops to check it out; they asked her lots of questions to which she didn't have any answers. Sadly, Ciara thought to herself, but didn't mention to the cops, "I wonder if she's run away, perhaps due to her Ma always wanting to use her as a stand in robot so often? Perhaps Holly's Ma asked her to do it again, she got mad, and simply ran off."

But sadly Ciara never mentioned that to the cops, as it may have given them a clue where to start looking. And due to the time since Holly disappeared, Ciara never thought about the android that looked like Holly several weeks earlier; the one that she erased. The police did look around for a while, but in all the wrong places. And since no signs of foul play were ever found, nor any ransom note or other communication was received, and no one had seen her recently; they eventually just dismissed her disappearance as another run-away case. They vowed to keep an eye out for her, and keep looking, but after a year the case was still cold and they put her folder in the dead case file drawer where it probably resides today.

And finally, you might wonder why the effects of aging did not give away Eve's unique situation; that simply was not going to help her either. Most of the time, when a unit needed repairs it was either sent back to the factory for repairs where mostly automated machines would access the damage and make appropriate repairs. If the repairs were too great skilled human techs like Mr. Black would be assigned to make a determination as to the proper course of repairs. But shortly after the incident occurred, development and progress in AI android advancements allowed companies to replace many formerly essential human workers. Sadly, for Eve, this included the need to send human technicians out to repair faulty androids or access their state.

Mr. Black now found himself obsolete, at least as far as the company was concerned. As his services were no longer needed in his old position, the company moved him into a developmental role where he worked until he retired. These days, when a call was made for service, a TechBot was sent to the rescue. Usually able to fix almost any issue with a defective android on site, if greater work was needed the TechBot would put the defective unit into a suspended, read unconscious state, then pack the unit up and take it back to the factory for repairs or upgrades; eventually bringing the unit back and reactivating it within its owner's home. Eve had had this very thing happen to her many times before, even though she didn't remember it. The TechBots were now Eve's new 'doctors,' and they accepted this unit as just another device like themselves and treated her appropriately.

But there was a problem with that arrangement, Eve was not a fully mechanical android, at least not at first. But over the years the TechBots kept replacing more and more of her original 'systems,' whenever they failed or the system saw them as needing upgraded. Until, one day, they reached a point where Eve was now no longer a human woman stuck playing an android. She was now a real android, fully mechanical in nature, who would never age again, well at least not visibly. Now whenever Eve showed signs of wear, or the need for some sort of repair or update; a TechBot was automatically called in by the Home Control Computer, her electronic boss. Eve could potentially be repaired forever, trapped as a conscious MaidBot for however long her owners decided to keep repairing her mechanical form.

Eve is probably still tending to someone's home and kids to this day. But who knows, her owners may have sold her to someone else. She may have been re-purposed into something other than a MaidBot, like a HookerBot or PleasureBot, a NurseBot, or perhaps she is teaching kids in school as an robotic teacher. Now that Eve is fully programmable, she could be doing anything these days, even something as boring as an automated receptionist. But this much is certain, her days could continue on for centuries or even millennia.

The End