

Silly Little Vacuum

By C. Jade Wyton

A roomba-shaped mimic has a good time.

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*'Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrp...'* Chelsea made a low, rumbling trill as it slowly slid itself about the lounge room floor. *'Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrp.... Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrp...'*

It was very proud of its transformation. It had turned itself into a little robotic vacuum, just like the one its owner let wander around the house, and was now learning to copy the quiet humming sound it made.

*'Brrrrrrrrrrrrrp....'*

It wasn't very good at mimicking sounds. But that was okay.

It bumped into the real robotic vacuum and, with a chirp, spun around and changed directions.

It made its owner laugh as they sat on the couch and watched it wander onto the rug.

‘Pspsp!’ they cooed, petting the mimic down its back as it passed them. ‘Good baby.’

*'Brrrrr-trrrrp.'* Chelsea tried to pretend it didn't enjoy the pet; though it heard itself give a little purr-like trill as its owner tickled it.

It quickly corrected itself, gathering its composure, and slid across the floor to the other side of the room.

It deliberately bumped into the wall before turning around and bumping into the coffee table leg. Then, it made its way to the bookshelf and bumped into that.

Each time it bumped into something its owner laughed.

‘Chelsea, you little idiot!’ they chuckled, reaching over to the coffee table to pick up their drink.... And as they reached, they fumbled with the bowl of chips in their lap, spilling them. ‘Oh, shoot!’

They managed to catch most of the chips in the air— But not all of them!

‘BRRP?!’ Chelsea gave a loud chirp, spinning around as it heard the sound of chips hitting the floor.

And, before its owner had time to gather themselves and scoop up the spillage, the mimic had sprouted eight long spider-like legs and was sprinting across the room.

‘No— Chelsea, no!’ they scooped the mimic up, but it was too late.

*Crunch crunch crunch!*

The mimic chewed the chips with vigour, purring loudly as its owner sighed and shook their head.

'Aw,' they chuckled, placing Chelsea in their lap. 'You silly little vacuum!'

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