

THE LONELY ANDROID



He is a type 45b model of the Marconium Series. His serial number is 15. His function is to be a house servant.

His new family has been waiting for him to be ready for over six months. When they ordered him, they requested that his name would be Rondol.

The popularity of this new model has surprised everyone, especially the owners of the company. They are the most humanlike androids ever produced. They are able to show emotion and they are very friendly. They can adjust to many different situations very easily.

Rondol is one of the first units of this model to be completed. The family is so excited that they go to the office to pick him up themselves.

The sales manager greets them at the door.

“Mr. and Mrs. Grumfton, I would like to introduce you to Rondol. He is your new house android. I would like to show you his features and how to control him,” the sales manager starts to explain just how great this new android was going to be.

“I haven’t been this excited since I bought my first new car!” Mr. Grumfton says, while watching the sales manager turn Rondol on for the first time.

Rondol’s eyes move from side to side. His arms move up and down. He starts to walk around the room making a beeping noise from his mouth. He looks as if he is going to walk into a desk, when he suddenly stops, turns around, and smiles.

“Hi, I am Rondol. I am your new type 45b Marconium Series home-helper. I am pleased to meet you,” Rondol said. “How can I help you today?”

Laughing, the family walks over to Rondol to take a closer look at him.

The sales manager shows them all of his functions and how they should take care of him.

Lukas says, “Dad, he’s a lot cooler than I thought. Every one of my friends is going to want to see him. Can we have a party?!”

“A party? That’s a great idea.” Mr Grumfton says to his family.

They agree that a party would be the perfect way to introduce Rondol to all of their friends.

Rondol looks puzzled, “What is a party?”

Mr. Grumfton answers, “We’ll invite our friends to our house to meet you. We’ll have cake and ice cream for everyone, and we’ll have a lot of fun.”

The look on Rondol’s face shows that he still seems a bit confused about what a party is.

“Am I invited to your party?” he asks.

“Of course. You’ll be the reason that the people will come,” Mr. Grumfton answers.

“That sounds wonderful. How may I help?” asks Rondol.

“We’ll tell you everything once we get home,” he tells Rondol.

Mr. Grumfton says to his family, “Let’s get into the van and go home.”

The children help Rondol get into the van, and then they leave for home.

Rondol looks out of the window of the van. He has never seen anything outside of the building where he was made so he is watching everything. His programming and training to this point is only on how to help the family.

“Can you tell me what those tall things are?” Rondol requests some help.

“Oh, those are trees, and over there are houses. We live in a house and you are going to live there with us,” Amanda says with a big smile on her face.

They arrive home and everyone gets out of the van. Rondol stands next to the van waiting for instructions on what to do next.

Amanda takes his hand and leads him to the door.

Amanda giggles as she shows him where he is to go.

She tells him, “This is our house. This is where we live. This is where you are going to live with us. I want to show you everything about our house.”

They walk into the house and then Amanda takes Rondol to his room.

In the back of the house is a small room where inside there is an electrical connection for Rondol. Each night they will connect him to the electrical supply so he will be recharged by the next day. He will sleep in this room and in the morning, his batteries will be ready for the day’s work.

Rondol looks inside the small room.

“Is this where I will live?” Rondol asks.

“Yes, but only at night when you sleep. During the day you’ll be with us, in the house,” Lucas answers the question.

Rondol follows the children into the house.

“This is the living room. We’re not allowed to play in here. Mom and dad want this room to stay clean and neat,” Amanda tells him.

Moving through the house to the next room, Amanda tells him, “This is the dining room. This is where we eat our meals at dinnertime. However, we usually eat in the kitchen.”

Amanda continues to give Rondol a tour of the house.

Lucas joins them as they enter the kitchen.

“Now this is the kitchen. Mom prepares our food for us and we eat at the table over there, especially in the morning,” Lucas explains, pointing to the table in the corner.

Rondol responds, “I will make your food. I will serve you your food. I will clean the house. It is now my job. Your mother will not have to do that anymore.”

That night they put Rondol into his room. They plug him into the power

connection so he can recharge his batteries. They close the door and then they go back into the house to go to bed.

In the night, there is a scream from Amanda's room, "Who are you? What do you want?"

The family runs to her room to see why she is screaming.

Mr. Grumfton turns on the light and in the corner of the room is Rondol.

"What are you doing here?" Mr. Grumfton asks Rondol.

"I was lonely in my room. I do not want to stay in there. It is dark," Rondol answers the question.

"Rondol, you have to go back to your room. If you don't, your batteries will not last all day," Mr. Grumfton says to Rondol, as he takes him back to his room.

In the morning, Rondol is not in the house and he is not in his room. The family looks everywhere, but they cannot find him.

Finally, Amanda finds him in the garage with the dog.

"Why are you in the garage with the dog?" Amanda asks him.

"I was lonely. The dog was the only thing I could find to make me happy," Rondol responds.

"Dad, I found Rondol in the garage. He's with the dog," Amanda yells into the house.

Mr. Grumfton goes to the garage to talk to Rondol. Just as he is about to tell him that he needs to go to his room, Rondol's power goes out.

"Honey, will you bring an extension cord from Rondol's room. We have to plug him into the power here in the garage. I can't move him. He's too heavy," Mr. Grumfton yells into the house at his wife.

Lucas brings the cord to his dad.

"How long will it take for him to recharge?" Lucas asks his dad.

"About eight hours. He'll be here in the garage all day. We'll have a talk with him tonight," Mr. Grumfton answers Lucas.

In the evening, Rondol walks into the house.

“My batteries are now charged. What can I do for you?” he asks.

“Nothing Rondol. I did it all. While you were recharging we did all of the work. You can rest until tomorrow,” Mrs. Grumfton says to Rondol.

The next day they cannot find Rondol again. They look everywhere, even in the garage.

The Grumfton’s call the police to tell them that their android, Rondol, is missing.

Before the police arrive, Rondol comes walking into the house.

“Where have you been? We’ve been looking all over for you,” Mr. Grumfton asks Rondol about where he was all morning.

“I was not tired, so I took a walk with the dog. Is that a bad thing?” Rondol responds to the question.

“Yes, it is. We’ve been looking everywhere for you all morning,” Mrs. Grumfton adds her comment.

Rondol’s batteries go dead again while he is standing in the middle of the kitchen.

“Dad, I think we should wait until it’s dark to plug Rondol in again. If we charge him now, he might not want to go to his room later. This way he will be fully charged in the morning,” Lucas suggests.

“That’s a great idea,” Mr. Grumfton agrees with Lucas.

As the family goes to bed, they plug Rondol into the extension cord.

In the morning, Rondol is standing in the living room.

“This is much better. I do not like that small room. Can you plug me in like this every night?” Rondol asks. “I can just stand here and then I will not feel so lonely.”

The family talks about it and agrees that it is a good idea. They will let Rondol stay in the house at night to recharge his batteries.

Everyone is happy, especially Rondol.

