

WHAT'S IN A VACUUM

By Krystle Henninger

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CHARACTERS

ADAM – A forensics coach setting up for a tournament the following day.

LISA – A forensics student helping ADAM. She has brightly colored hair.

SCENE: A drama classroom. Desks or chairs may be used. There is a vacuum next to ADAM. If used in a competition where props are not allowed, the vacuum may be mimed.

AT RISE: LISA and ADAM are standing in the center of the stage.

LISA: You want me to do what?

ADAM: Vacuum. It's not hard. You push around a machine that picks up dirt and stuff off of the floor.

LISA: I know how to vacuum.

ADAM: Then what's the problem?

LISA: Vacuuming sucks ... literally.

ADAM: So?

LISA: I despise vacuuming. (*leans against the wall*)

ADAM: You're the strangest person I know. Don't lean against the wall. The blue dye in your hair will stain the paint.

LISA: Look, I don't vacuum.

ADAM: I kinda got that.

LISA: So you'll get someone else to do it?

ADAM: No.

LISA: Why not?

ADAM: Because sometimes you have to do things that you don't want to do.

LISA: I know that. But why do we even need to vacuum?

ADAM: This is going to be one of the tabulation rooms for the forensics tournament tomorrow. There's going to be about a dozen people in here and it needs to look presentable.

LISA: Why can't we just pick up the big stuff and forget about the small stuff? It's not important anyway. Or—I have a better idea—the janitors can vacuum.

ADAM: The janitors don't usually vacuum in here.

LISA: No. I refuse.

ADAM: This is stupid.

LISA: So is vacuuming.

ADAM: Look. There's a lot left to do before tomorrow. Just suck it up and vacuum.

(LISA laughs)

What?

LISA: Suck it up ...

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ADAM: You're so immature.

LISA: It's not my fault you made a joke. Anyway. I'm not vacuuming.

ADAM: Why?

LISA: When I was little, my mom would vacuum about three times a day.

ADAM: So because your mom used to vacuum, you won't?

LISA: No. I had these awesome toys when I was little. One day, I noticed that they were missing.

ADAM: Let me guess ... the vacuum sucked them up into a terrifying doom?

LISA: Yeah. Something like that. My mom pulled them out of the trash can, covered in dust, hair, and other various things that you find in a vacuum.

ADAM: That's disgusting.

LISA: She wouldn't let me keep them. It was quite depressing.

ADAM: What toys?

LISA: Disney princesses.

ADAM: I really can't see you playing with princesses.

LISA: I was totally different as a little kid.

ADAM: Yeah. So. If you're not going to vacuum, who is?

LISA: Isn't that your problem?

ADAM: No. It's not. I'm the coach and I'm in charge. Everyone has their own assignments to do before they leave, and yours is to make sure that this floor is spotless.

LISA: But the carpet came with different colored spots on it. We can rip up the carpet, expose the bare floor, and not have to vacuum!

ADAM: NO!

LISA: Why not?

ADAM: Because, this isn't my classroom and I'm sure that Mr. Taylor would like to keep his carpet.

LISA: Why does he need carpet in his room? None of the other classrooms have carpet.

ADAM: I don't know. This is a drama room. Maybe when they built the place they decided that they needed to have a carpeted drama room.

LISA: That's stupid.

ADAM: Whatever. I still need you to vacuum.

LISA: Not going to happen.

ADAM: Why are you being so stubborn about this?

LISA: Because my childhood haunts me.

ADAM: *(pause)* I just want the floor to be clean so that we can move the tables from the hallway into this classroom. That's all I want. I don't understand why this is so hard.

LISA: Neither do I. I don't understand why it's so hard to just get someone else to do it.

ADAM: By the time that we finish arguing about this, you could have vacuumed this entire school.

LISA: No, I couldn't have. Besides that, the entire school isn't carpeted.

ADAM: There's nothing that states vacuum cleaners can't vacuum bare floors.

Oh wait—in that case, ripping up the carpet in Taylor's room would be an even bigger waste of time.

LISA: This whole thing is a waste of time.

ADAM: I know. That's why you should just be quiet and vacuum.

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LISA: No.

ADAM: Okay. How about this one? If you don't vacuum, you can't participate in the tournament tomorrow.

LISA: But tomorrow is the biggest tournament of the season. You wouldn't seriously pull me out for this, would you?

ADAM: You have wasted so much of my time and I'm sick of arguing with you, so yes, I would.

LISA: That's not fair.

ADAM: And your point would be?

LISA: Vacuuming is such a minor thing, why would you make me miss competing for it?

ADAM: Because it's such a minor thing and you're making it more of a pain in the butt than it needs to be.

LISA: What if I say that I'm sorry?

ADAM: It still needs to be done. Saying that you're sorry won't magically make the vacuum cleaner move on its own.

LISA: No, but how cool would that be?

ADAM: My patience with you is about up. I have to go and make sure that everyone else isn't just sitting around and waiting for me. So, here's the vacuum. I expect you to be done when I get back.

LISA: But-

ADAM: No. I don't want to hear it. Just do it. *(exits)*

(LISA crosses to the vacuum cleaner. SHE hesitates to turn it on, but does. SHE quickly turns it off.)

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