

Metal Pranking

Astral stared intently at the transparent floating screen in front of her, examining all the little details and properties of a lone clay pot awaiting its transformation. There were so many things to choose from... material, shape, size, mass, color... even more specific details like elasticity and malleability. To say that it was a lot of options was putting it too lightly; it was a dizzying amount that allowed for all sorts of shenanigans for the reality-bending dragon.

"Hmmm... let's try... this." Astral used a bunch of sliders on her screen to slowly and meticulously reshape the pot. It easily bent and shaped to her will, and even though it was already solid, it showed no signs of stress or shattering. It shrunk down to size into a handheld ball, then morphed and reformed, slowly, into a little figure of an anthro canine with a base for it to stand on. She then brought it over to her and deposited it into a waiting palm.

"Aww, now that's cute." Astral gave it a gentle toss back into the air where it levitated, awaiting her command. She took her time to think of what to do next while idly scrolling through the long list of properties. But, unbeknownst to her, she was not alone.

Something... no, someone, was in the floor. Almost literally. They blended in perfectly with it that one could miss them even with a close inspection. A single, lone hand rose up from the floor behind Astral, quiet, slow, sneakily, still adopting the pattern and color of the floor. It closed in on Astral's back and suddenly, poked it.

Astral went stiff, eyes shooting wide open. Her torso did a full 180 in place to see what in the world touched her... but there was nothing. No one. She raised an eyebrow at this. *"That's suspicious... am I imagining things? I can't be."* She set down the now heavily-deformed clay object and looked around carefully, examining every single nook and cranny of her living room.

No metaphorical stone would be left unturned with her. Astral checked everywhere: under furniture, tight spaces, the ceiling itself, vents... she even levitated things up to see if anything was hiding underneath them. All of this in order to find, or even sense, whatever just touched her. But in the end, after a thorough search... and another... Astral came up empty handed.

She sat down on a couch, confused. *"I swear I felt something, I'm not going crazy. Something touched my rear..."* She then let out a sigh. *"It might've been nothing..."* but in the back of her head, the orange dragon felt that something had happened.

Still unknown to her, the shifty being was still on the loose, sneakily moving around slowly around her. She had to suppress a giggle from how funny this was. She decided to keep going.

The unknown prankster moved underneath the sofa, waiting for a moment for Astral to look away. But Astral was constantly looking around like an owl waiting for the mouse to show up. It was going to be tricky to pull this one off, but the prankster had confidence in herself.

Taking the opportunity, she slid when Astral wasn't looking and parked herself right underneath the dragon. Now all that had to happen was to wait for her to get up...

Turns out it would take a while, but eventually, Astral got off the carpet... and her feet would touch a rough surface! Astral let out a small "eep!" as she yanked her foot back and looked down, catching a hint of movement just in time. It clicked immediately. Someone *was* in her house! Astral gripped the 'floor' with her levitation ability and yanked the intruder right off the ground, while using her reality bending to force them into their true form.

What emerged was a shiny blue liquid metal Meowstic. Her body was half light blue, half deep blue, with a deep blue color, twin tails with the ends curled, upright ears that folded over themselves, modestly-sized arms sportings hands with 4 digits, and some rather thick legs that lacked any feet. She also had a sizable rack, like two shiny softballs on her chest.

It was Selene, and she was caught red handed. She couldn't help but feel the tiniest amount of shyness. "Hi Astral" she was able to stay casually.

"So you're the one who's been messing with me." Astral smirked. "I should've guessed."

"Yeah, and I'll do it again." Selene gave a naughty grin. "What're you going to do about it?"

"One of a hundred things, actually." Astral summoned her spectral screen, going over all of Selene's properties. If the clay pot had a lot, it was nothing compared to the liquid metal Meowstic.

"I'm sure you won't" Selene taunted Astral, but the dragon ignored her. She wouldn't be so easily swayed this time, while she decided on an appropriate punishment. Eventually, she found something.

"Well, if you're going to be so bratty about it... let me make you something more... manageable." With a simple button press, Selene was suddenly curled up. Tight. Her body was heavily deformed, physical details smoothed out, body reduced to nothing more than a blue metal blob that was then shaped into a ball. Astral then placed it down on the floor. Just to make sure Selene couldn't pull any more shenanigans, Astral locked not just her ability to shapeshift, but her ability to move entirely.

"I think that's a more fitting shape for you. Wouldn't you agree?" Astral didn't visibly show she was having fun messing around with Selene, but don't get it twisted. She is. As for Selene... well, it was hard to say now that she doesn't have a face. Or any indications of having a proper body for that matter.

"Hmm... on second thought... I think we can do better." Astral used her powers again to morph and shift the poor Meowstic into a cube now. "There. Much better. In fact... hmmm..." Astral rubbed her muzzle. A little idea sparked in her mind. She approached the blue cubed feline and sat on her. It felt a little hard, but it was nothing Astral couldn't fix.

"Let's make you into something more comfortable." Astral once more summoned her screen and messed with a dozen more sliders. Selene was softened up a bit as she was morphed into a more complex object; a rather plush chair. It was light blue, shiny, and it even looked oddly comfortable. Astral smiled. "Let's test you" She announced with a smirk, sitting down on Selene. It was much better; a proper seat with generous cushioning, but also quite smooth. Astral let out a deep sigh as she relaxed in it.

"There we go. I think I'll keep you like this for a while. That'll teach you to mess with me."

Selene had only one thought as a response:

"Worth it!"