

Raymond and Dottie

Raymond stretched each of his long, elegant legs before leaping gracefully onto the windowsill. Unlike most cats, Raymond was a pink sphynx, with smooth, wrinkled skin instead of fluffy fur. He considered himself to be highly sophisticated and believed he possessed remarkable intelligence. His younger sister, Dottie, a tiny grey sphynx with enormous ears and boundless curiosity, disagreed. She thought life was far more exciting when there was a little chaos involved.

The house was unusually quiet that morning. Their owners had gone shopping, leaving the two cats with nothing but a bowl of biscuits, a few toys and strict instructions—although nobody had actually explained the rules to the cats themselves.

Raymond peered through the front window with exaggerated seriousness.

"We are clearly in charge," he announced.

Dottie's eyes widened with delight.

"So... we're the responsible adults?"

Raymond paused.

"I wouldn't go that far."

Within minutes, Dottie discovered a cupboard door that had been left slightly open. She nudged it with her nose until it creaked wide enough for them both to squeeze inside. Hidden behind the cereal boxes was a mysterious packet of balloons.

Raymond examined them carefully.

"I suspect these are decorative objects."

"I suspect they're fun," Dottie replied.

Several determined tugs later, the packet burst open. Balloons bounced across the kitchen floor in every direction. Dottie chased them enthusiastically, sliding across the polished tiles like an Olympic ice skater with absolutely no control whatsoever. Raymond attempted to maintain his dignity, but after one balloon gently floated past his nose, he pounced instinctively.

The kitchen transformed into an arena of spectacular confusion. Balloons drifted lazily through the air while two hairless cats sprinted beneath them with astonishing determination.

Eventually, one balloon became trapped beneath Raymond's paw. Unfortunately, it also happened to be resting on the edge of a wooden spoon. As Raymond shifted his weight, the spoon sprang upwards like a miniature catapult, striking a tea towel that had been hanging neatly from the oven handle.

The tea towel flew through the air before landing dramatically over Dottie's head.

"I've gone blind!" she cried dramatically, wandering in slow circles.

Raymond sighed.

"You haven't."

"I know," replied Dottie. "But it feels more exciting this way."

After finally escaping the tea towel, Dottie spotted the robot vacuum quietly sleeping in its charging station.

"That little machine looks lonely."

Before Raymond could object, Dottie pressed the glowing button with one determined paw.

The robot vacuum whirred into life.

It rolled confidently across the floor... straight towards Raymond.

Raymond arched his back in alarm.

"It appears to be hunting me."

"It hasn't even looked at you," laughed Dottie.

Nevertheless, Raymond sprinted away at astonishing speed while the vacuum calmly continued cleaning the kitchen without the slightest interest in chasing anybody. Dottie followed behind, laughing so hard that she accidentally slid into the laundry basket, sending socks soaring through the air like confetti.

By now, the house looked as though a tiny tornado had politely paid a brief visit. Balloons bobbed against the ceiling. Socks decorated the furniture. The tea towel remained draped over a chair like an abandoned flag.

Just then, both cats heard the unmistakable sound of a key turning in the front door.

They froze.

Raymond looked around the room.

"We should probably restore order."

Dottie nodded thoughtfully.

"Excellent idea."

They both sat perfectly still.

Several moments later, their owners stepped inside.

The balloons, the scattered socks and the slowly wandering robot vacuum told the entire story long before either cat could pretend otherwise.

Raymond lifted one paw with as much dignity as he could manage.

"I believe," he seemed to say, "the house has been extremely mischievous today."

Dottie gave the smallest, most innocent-looking meow imaginable.

Neither cat received the promotion to "responsible adult."