



# **The Cat Lover's Circumstances**

## **Chapter 2** *Transcript*

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Directed by Rebecca Scoble  
Illustrations by Aiwa and © Chromatic Press

### **Cast:**

Misaki: Tara Burke  
Aina: Elissa Park  
Nishida: Anthony Sardinha  
Ayukawa: Sarite Harris  
Rina: Courtney Lunn

### **Special Thanks**

Alex O'Shea  
Leena Soussi  
Jesse Hodson  
Ramsey Soussi  
Babette Hodis  
Jennie Fiddes  
Aya & Elias

*Note: Due to last-minute changes, transcript may not match final audio exactly.*





[Begin fantasy sequence: Magical girl anime.]

ALL GIRLS: (in unison) Last time on *The Cat Lover's Circumstances*!

[Heroic music begins.]

NARRATION: Completely average college student Misaki Tanabe finds a talking cat!

[Misaki crunches on toast as she runs outside.]

MISAKI: (toast in mouth) Oh no, I'm late for school!

[Sebastian talks: An old Englishman voice, like David Attenborough.]

SEBASTIAN: I'm the last of the Great Space Cats! These are the *Diamond Rainbow Whiskers*... Use them to transform into the legendary warrior, Magical Kitty!

MISAKI: But I'm just a normal girl!

SEBASTIAN: Only you can stand against the forces of evil, Misaki!

MISAKI: (echoing) Meow-Meow Load Up... Charm Kitty Transformation!

[Magical girl transformation sounds.]

MISAKI: Hoo-ahh! I'll save you!

[punching sounds.]

AYUKAWA: (breathless) Wow, who's that amazing girl? Is she here to rescue us?

NARRATION: But just as Misaki learns of her destiny, *grave danger* is afoot!

[The barking of many dogs.]

NISHIDA: (villainously) Hmph... You will regret the day you crossed us, Magical Kitty!

AINA: Dog Lord Nishida, the Shadow Exploder is ready!

NISHIDA: Excellent! [Laughs evilly.]

NARRATION: Will our hero save the day in time??

SEBASTIAN: Misaki!

[Music ends, with a dramatic finish. End fantasy sequence.]

[Misaki running down the hallway. She runs into someone at the shoe lockers.]

PASSERBY: Ow! Watch where you're going!

MISAKI: Agh!... Sorry, excuse me!

[Misaki puts on her shoes quickly, slams the locker closed, runs outside. Footsteps on gravel, then concrete. She stops to catch her breath.]

NARRATION: *When I was a little kid, I got sick with a really high fever. I was supposed to go to a festival with my friends that day, so they went without me. But the next day at school, everything changed.*

[Misaki starts running again.]

NARRATION: *I knew something had happened with my friends while I was gone. They were angry at each other. Even if they acted fine on the outside, suddenly... I could **feel** it. All of it.*

[Flashback to emotional voices, to accompany the narration: Two young voices, perhaps seven or eight years old, very angry. They start quietly and rise.

VOICES (GIRL 1): *Annoyed. Angry. Frustrated!*

VOICES (GIRL 2): *Irritated!]*

NARRATION: *It was the first time that my powers appeared... And it scared me.*

[Flashback continues, the voices rise and become more cacophonous, until young Misaki can't take it anymore and runs away from the girls.

YOUNG MISAKI: Stop it! Stop fighting!

GIRL 1: Misaki!

GIRL 2: Where are you going?]

[Young Misaki runs to a quiet corner and cries by herself.]

NARRATION: *I think my friends eventually made up... But after I freaked out in front of them, and I tried to explain why, they thought I was lying. (sadly) I couldn't really make friends--or keep them--after that. Hearing people's emotions in my head just made it too hard.*

[Flashback to elementary school: Girls quietly talking smack about Misaki at the shoe lockers.

GIRL 1: Jeez. Don't turn around. She's here.

GIRL 2: Shh, she's gonna hear you!]

NARRATION: *I was all alone until middle school. That was when I met Nishida. And Sana, my best friend... But that became the most painful thing of all.*

[Back to present. Misaki's stopped again, catching her breath.]

NARRATION: (trying to be cheerful) *So, I hate festivals. And not just because of the crowds, or because they remind me of bad times.... But thinking about Gods and spirits and magic... Things that just **happen** that are totally out of your control...and people want to **celebrate** that? It's terrifying!*

MISAKI: [Puffing.] All this running... I think I'm gonna die.

[Sebastian meows nearby.]

MISAKI: [Distracted.] Okay, Sebastian, just give me a minute... Huh? Sebastian?

[Sebastian meows and rubs against Misaki's leg.]

MISAKI: [To herself.] How did you get out here? How do you *keep* getting out? God... [Frustrated, like an annoyed mom.] Cat! Come here!

[Misaki picks up Sebastian.]

MISAKI: Oh, *now* you're listening... Oof, you're heavy!

[Sebastian purrs some more.]

MISAKI: [Roleplaying princess voice.] What a surprise, your lordship. Did you perchance come to keep me company? Hmm? [Quietly, almost a whisper.] My hero.

[Misaki walks down the street, still breathing a little hard. The sounds change into the sounds of a festival.]

MISAKI: [Worried.] Oh no. How the heck am I gonna find Ayukawa in this crowd? Or Nishida...

[A footstep.]

NISHIDA: [Flatly, very close.] Hey. You.

MISAKI: Gah!

[Sebastian meows and tries to get out from her grasp.]

MISAKI: Wait wait, kitty, don't struggle, shhh, shhh... [Exasperated, to Nishida.] Nishida, *stop* sneaking up behind me! What is wrong with you?

NISHIDA: [A little surprised, a little mocking.] Wow. Not pretending you don't know me anymore, huh?

MISAKI: [Frustrated, sarcastic.] Did you not get the hint when I tried to run away last time? [Mumbling.] Whatever, right now it's just us, anyway.

NISHIDA: (a little sarcastic) So, what? I get the privilege of talking to you now?

MISAKI: Nishida, you really--!

NISHIDA: You know, the way you call me by just my last name is *kind* of cold... Misaki.

MISAKI: Ugh.

NISHIDA: Oh, come on. Five years and nothing's changed. [Jovially.] You're still so uptight!

MISAKI: [Annoyed.] Who's uptight? [Pause.] Wait a minute.

NISHIDA: What?

[Long pause. Misaki and Nishida breathing.]

NISHIDA: [Lightly.] Something on my face? [Pause.] Seriously, Misaki, what is it? You're not even blinking.

MISAKI: [Softly, almost to herself.] I still can't feel anything. At the party, I only got it for a minute, and now it's back to nothing. It's like you're a black hole...

NISHIDA: What was that?

MISAKI: [After another pause. Suspicious.] If you're a robot or a pod-person or something, you better tell me now.

NISHIDA: [Sighs.] Okay, Misaki, yes. I'm a robot from the future. [Serious.] What are you doing here?

MISAKI: [Distracted, lost in her thoughts.] It just doesn't make sense...

NISHIDA: (a little more forceful, getting her attention) Misaki.

MISAKI: Hang on! [Turning to Nishida.] Have you gone crazy? What are *you* doing? Why are you following Ayukawa?

NISHIDA: Huh?

MISAKI: Don't deny it! I saw you!

[Sebastian meows.]

NISHIDA: Hey, do you always hold your cat like it's your baby? People are gonna get the wrong idea...

MISAKI: Stop that! No more jokes.

NISHIDA: [Trying to sound good-natured, but actually hurt.] Okay, fine. You still haven't answered my question.

MISAKI: [Anxious.] Look, just... quit stalking people. Okay? Please. I saw you from the window.

NISHIDA: You saw me from your *window*?

MISAKI: I saw that you were going after Ayukawa, so I came here to find you.

NISHIDA: So, you were watching me secretly.

MISAKI: Yes.

NISHIDA: And now you're following me.

MISAKI: [Impatiently.] Yes...

NISHIDA: And *I'm* the one who's stalking people?

MISAKI: Well...yes!

NISHIDA: Uh-huh. [Sighs.] Look, I don't know what you think is going on, but... [Pause, like he's looking around. Suddenly serious.] Shoot, quick, move it!

MISAKI: Huh?

NISHIDA: Go go go! Hide!

MISAKI: [choked-out stammer] Wah-gah, hey!

[Walking SFX: Ayukawa, far away.]

AYUKAWA: [Quietly, to herself.] Oh man, did I drop it out here...?

MISAKI: [Whispering.] Why are we hiding? We... [Pause.] Whoa. Holy jeez...

NISHIDA: [Whispering.] What is it?

MISAKI: [Whispering.] Nothing!

[They wait, as Ayukawa looks for something on the road.]



NARRATION: *There's something I should explain about feelings. It's easier to feel emotions when people are right next to me--the closer I am, the stronger they come through. But when those feelings are very strong, and pure... It doesn't matter how far away they are. I can always hear them. [Pause.] It's like... time, and space, and all that stuff... none of it matters.*

AYUKAWA: [Still far away. Sighs.] Hmmm.

[Ayukawa's emotional chorus rises. Unlike all the times before, it's all happy, bright voices.]

VOICES (AYUKAWA): *Happy! Happy! Excited! Happy! Oh! Hurry, hurry.*

MISAKI: [Quietly, to herself. She says this very tenderly.] Huh... Fashion Girl, so you *can* be nice for real.

AYUKAWA: There it is.

[Ayukawa walks away.]

NISHIDA: Okay, I think we're safe. [Pause.] What is it?

MISAKI: You *are* following her.

NISHIDA: It's *really* none of your business, Misaki.

MISAKI: Aren't you Mister Popular now, anyway? You look like you get around.

NISHIDA: I just manage the womens' kickboxing club! And... some other stuff. Like modeling for the art club.

MISAKI: [Incredulous.] You're a model too?

NISHIDA: [Cheerful, trying to change the subject.] You know, it's not bad! You'd think life models would get cold with the whole naked thing, but there's actually this heater--

MISAKI: [Interrupting, annoyed.] Yeah yeah yeah, whatever, congrats on your fun life! But... then why are you so obsessed with Ayukawa? I mean, I know she's pretty and all...

NISHIDA: What's that supposed to mean? [Pause.] Seriously, what I'm doing now has nothing to do with you, all right? Why are you being so stubborn?

MISAKI: Because you're acting suspicious! What's in the case, anyway?

NISHIDA: Just a camcorder.

MISAKI: *Why* do you need that? [Less certain, still angry.] I mean, Ayukawa is my f-friend, so...

NISHIDA: What, since this afternoon? You don't actually know anything about her. And you don't know *me* anymore, either! You have *no idea* what's going on!

[Silence.]

MISAKI: [Quiet.] Yeah. Guess I don't.

[Cat purrs. Silence.]

NISHIDA: [Sighs.] Okay, fine. My bad, okay? Don't... hey, don't look at me like that. Makes me feel like the bad guy here.

MISAKI: I don't know if you are or not. I can't... feel anything from you.

NISHIDA: That's the second time you've talked about feeling things. [Hesitantly, like he's afraid to hear the answer.] Hey, you're not still into that psychic stuff, are you?

MISAKI: Wait. No. That's not important... Look. You're right. I don't know what's going on. But right now, you're following Kiki Ayukawa. She's one of the *only* people I know in this town, and I just wanna do the right thing! But... the suspicious person I'm saving her from is Haruka Nishida, my old friend... So what am I supposed to do?

[Pause.]

NISHIDA: You really *haven't* changed.

MISAKI: *You've* changed a lot.

NISHIDA: Yeah?

MISAKI: You look...fancier.

NISHIDA: Huh. [Pause. Very hesitantly pleased.] Thank you. I think.

[Sebastian purrs.]

MISAKI: Um, so... about Ayukawa...

NISHIDA: [Quietly exasperated.] What do you think I'm gonna do? Look, I'm more worried that *she's* up to something.

MISAKI: What do you mean?

NISHIDA: [Brushing her off, uncomfortable.] Don't worry about it.

MISAKI: [Makes a noise of displeasure. A growl.]

NISHIDA: [Annoyed.] ... All right. Fine. You want to know? Then follow me. Just don't get in my way... And listen to me, all right? There's a lot more going on than you think.

MISAKI: Fine.

[Walking into the festival. Sebastian purrs.]

NISHIDA: [Tersely, like he's still peeved but trying to make a good mood again.] What's its name?

MISAKI: What?

NISHIDA: The cat.

MISAKI: His name is Sebastian.

[Sebastian meows.]

MISAKI: [To the cat, baby talk.] You don't have to say hi to him, it's okay.

NISHIDA: [Noise of disgust]

**To be continued in Chapter 3.**