



The Cat Lover's Circumstances

Chapter 5 *Transcript*

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Illustrations by Aiwa and © Chromatic Press

Cast:

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

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Aya & Elias

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



Cat Lover's Circumstances
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[Begin parody sequence: Murder mystery.]

RINA: Last time, on The Cat Lover's Circumstances!

[Music evocative of anime/game mysteries begins to play.]

RINA: Misaki, the Legendary Cat Lady, is trapped in a game of life or death!

EVIL WARPED VOICE: If you can't find the killer among you in 48 hours, you're all going to die, one by one! Nyahahaha!

MISAKI: Whoa, creepy...

NISHIDA: Let's stick together, guys! We can figure this out.

AYUKAWA (scoffing, a little threatening): What? You think *I'm* a murderer? Well, what if I am?

MISAKI: It *has* to be her.

AYUKAWA: [scoffs] I'm going off on my own now!

[Ayukawa screams comically.]

AINA: M-Miss Ayukawa's been killed! With a scarf! In a *locked room with no windows!*

NISHIDA: She was the prime suspect...

MISAKI: How is this even *possible*?

RINA: Will Misaki be able to save everyone from the ultimate despair?

[Sound of a thunderstorm.]

MISAKI: A scarf... A fashionable scarf... I've figured it out! I have to go warn the others! The killer is...

[Sound of a creaking door.]

NISHIDA (mockingly evil): Excellent work, detective. [turns on voice filter to match evil voice from earlier] I'm truly impressed.

AINA: Help! Misaki!

MISAKI: [gasps] No... It was you all along!

[End parody sequence. Start on final lines from last chapter.]

MISAKI (quietly angry): You and me. We need to talk.

NISHIDA: Right now?

[Misaki takes a deep breath. Exhales.]

MISAKI: Yeah. Right now.

NISHIDA (cheerfully): Sure, all right. What's up?

MISAKI (surprised): Gah. Um, ah...

NISHIDA: You okay?

MISAKI (mumbling): Wait... This isn't...

NISHIDA: Sorry, Misaki, I can't hear you.

MISAKI: I-I-I-I'm not ready now! The mood before was so serious, I thought you'd be more like...

[Begin short fantasy sequence. Dramatic organ music.]

NISHIDA (operatic and loud): You *dare* to enter my domain, little girl? Ha ha ha!

[End short fantasy sequence, abruptly.]

NISHIDA (confused): Sorry to disappoint you?

MISAKI (muttering): It's because I can't hear you at all... Is this what it's like for everyone else? Jeez.

NISHIDA: Hmm? Oh, did you hear from Aina about your cat? Solomon, or whatever?

MISAKI: *Sebastian*.

NISHIDA: Right, right, Sebastian.

MISAKI: Yeah, she told me. And then she ran away crying!

NISHIDA (surprised): What? I didn't notice that.

MISAKI: Haru, how could you do that to her?

NISHIDA (slightly uncomfortable): I said I didn't know! You're starting to sound like my sister.

MISAKI: I haven't forgotten about that, either, you know. That's actually why I came.

NISHIDA: To talk about Rina?

MISAKI: To talk about a lot of things... (angrily) But what was *that* just now? What did Aina ever do to you?

NISHIDA: I didn't do anything! I swear I didn't know she was crying... I mean, I explained what I was thinking, and it looked like she was okay!

MISAKI: Urgh! How do you just...not...get it?!

NISHIDA (annoyed, sarcastic): And *you* always get it instantly, huh? First time I see you in years and you'd rather run into a wall than talk to me. Now all of a sudden you love getting into people's business. It's weird, okay?

MISAKI: (starting fiery, ending awkwardly): Well *you* love...breaking hearts...and being a big...mean jerk to nice people, apparently! (near tears) You're *all* like this! You have no idea! It's like you're all beating each other up with your eyes closed! If you'd just stop and feel for *one* second...

NISHIDA: Whoa, whoa. Hey. [sighs] Okay, this was my fault. I'm sorry. We keep fighting like this... Look, can we at least not talk about it here? Whatever you want to discuss, we can do it somewhere else.

MISAKI: [deep breath] Okay. Yes. I-I do need to talk to you.

NISHIDA: Actually... Hey. I've got just the place.

MISAKI (distrustful): Okay? Where...?

[Open in the city, outside a busy cake shop.]

MISAKI: A cake shop?

NISHIDA (a little smugly): They call it a patisserie.

MISAKI: It's like a cooking manga...

NISHIDA: What does that even mean?

MISAKI: You want to talk in *there*?

NISHIDA: Yeah, why not?

MISAKI (skeptical): We could've just talked on campus.

NISHIDA: Come on, Misaki! You gotta live a little!

[Door jingles as the two of them walk inside. A worker calls "Welcome."]

NISHIDA: You'd never do something like this on your own, right? It's my treat.

[Nishida and Misaki sit at a table.]

SERVER: May I take your order?

MISAKI (mumbling): Jeez, everyone's dressed so classy... This isn't where you go to have a serious talk.

SERVER: Miss?

MISAKI: Oh! [laughs nervously, flipping through pages] Uh, well... Can I get this one, please?

SERVER: Vanilla curry gateau. And for you, sir?

NISHIDA: I'd like the macaron set. And two coffees, please.

SERVER: Excellent, I'll be right back with those.

[Server leaves.]

NISHIDA: I had a female friend on the student council who took me here once. I thought it would be nice! You don't get out much, right?

MISAKI: What's *that* mean? [pause] You keep saying stuff like that.

NISHIDA: What?

MISAKI: "You don't get out much, you'd never do this on your own." Are you making fun of me?

NISHIDA (sarcastically, but not unkindly): Yes, Misaki, you totally got me. I'm mocking you by taking you to an awesome cake shop.

MISAKI: I'm not here for this! I'm not even *dressed* to be here! All this cat hair...

NISHIDA: You're a cat lady. We've established this.

MISAKI: I *know* how to put on clothes like a regular human, thank you... Wait. See, you're doing it again!

NISHIDA: Doing what?

MISAKI: You're just...being really condescending.

NISHIDA: Aw, come on. I'm just playing around. You know I don't mean anything by it...

MISAKI: No, it's not just that... You're treating me like I'm helpless.

NISHIDA (defensive): What does that mean? I don't have some weird ulterior motive, Misaki. I'm just trying to be nice!

MISAKI: No, you're not!

NISHIDA: What, you don't like this place?

MISAKI: It seems great, but I want to talk about--

NISHIDA: My sister, right? She passed you that note. What was that all about?

MISAKI (taken aback): I need to talk to her about it first.

NISHIDA (getting angry): So now *you're* sneaking around with Rina, too?

[Server interrupts them, setting down cups of coffee and the cakes.]

SERVER: Sorry for the wait! Vanilla curry gateau, macaron set, and two coffees. Is there anything else I can get for you? [pause, continues awkwardly] Um...anything?

NISHIDA (politely, a little defeated): No, we're fine.

MISAKI (wearily): Yeah.

NISHIDA: Your...cake looks good.

MISAKI (unenthusiastically): Yeah.

NISHIDA: If you don't want it...

MISAKI: No, I'll eat it.

[Misaki takes a bite.]

MISAKI (pleasantly surprised): Wow.

NISHIDA: Right? Pretty much everything here is good. Wanna try some of this? It's passion fruit.

MISAKI: Okay. [chews] Wow, that's really good, too... So that's a macaron.

NISHIDA: They got really popular a couple years ago. You know, I volunteer with the baking club on the side, and one of the girls told me that macarons totally aren't worth the effort...

MISAKI (flatly): Wait a minute.

NISHIDA: Hmm?

MISAKI: You're distracting me again.

NISHIDA (resigned): Seriously?

MISAKI (coming to a realization): No, listen. You... You always hide how you feel, you do the whole witty banter thing, you give me food, but you don't actually want to listen to what I have to say.

NISHIDA: Uh, Your Honor, I'd just like to point out that the takoyaki we had the other night was unplanned? I'm not an evil genius, I promise!

MISAKI: I'm being serious.

NISHIDA (laughing): You think I'm not?

MISAKI: Why do you do that? Haru, what are you so afraid of?

NISHIDA: Are you saying there's something about you I should be scared of, Miss Cat Lady?

MISAKI: Well...at the festival. About Rina and Ayukawa-senpai. You were wrong.

VOICES (NISHIDA): *Annoyed, angry.*

[pause]

MISAKI (quietly): I only hear you when you're angry...

NISHIDA (gently, but unusually hurt): You know, every time we talk, you say you can't hear me. But...I'm right *here*, Misaki. I'm here talking to you right now, and...look, I really don't

want you to be mad. I've been wanting to see you.

MISAKI: You have?

NISHIDA: We can talk about whatever you want. I've got questions, too. But...can't we just hang out for a while first?

MISAKI: Haru...

NISHIDA: Back to my old nickname, huh?

MISAKI: Well...we've been friends a long time.

NISHIDA (relieved): Yeah, we have.

[A short line of music plays from Misaki's phone.]

MISAKI: Huh?

NISHIDA: Got a message?

MISAKI: Is that what it is? Jeez. Did my mom figure out how to use a phone?

[Misaki flips her phone open.]

MISAKI: It's my school inbox... Wonder what it is...

[Misaki taps her phone.]

MISAKI NARRATION (reading silently, in her head): *"Ayukawa is really bad news. Stay away from her. Just some friendly advice."*

NISHIDA: So, is it your mom?

MISAKI: I... I've gotta go powder my nose.

NISHIDA (slightly amused): Take your time.

[Misaki runs to the bathroom and locks the door, tapping her phone.]

MISAKI: Who is this? How did they get my e-mail address?

[long pause]

MISAKI: What's going on? Misaki, think. Think think think think think. Who saw me with Ayukawa?

MISAKI: All we did was have lunch together... Or was it from the party?

[Misaki turns on a faucet to splash water in her face.]

MISAKI: Ugh! What am I doing in a *cake shop*?

[Someone knocks on the door.]

MISAKI: Sorry, just a minute! [sighs] I can't *think*. Gotta stop freaking out... Is this how Rina feels all the time?

VOICES (RINA): *Sad...scared...lonely.*

MISAKI: I know. I know. I'm sorry.

VOICES (AINA): *Lonely, sad, ugly.*

MISAKI: Aina, I know. I was supposed to help you, too. [pause] I just feel so overwhelmed... What am I doing?

VOICES (AYUKAWA): *Annoyed, stressed... Okay. Peaceful. Happy.*

MISAKI (surprised, hopeful): Ayukawa-senpai.

VOICES (AYUKAWA): *Peaceful. Happy. **STRESSED**-- Calm, calm... Determined. Okay.*

NARRATION: *When things were at their hardest, when I was alone in my room, I kept asking: Why me? Why did I get these powers? Having to hear people's deepest feelings all the time... But now, I think maybe I get it.*

[Misaki turns off the faucet.]

MISAKI (determined): Let's do this.

[Misaki leaves the bathroom and returns to the table.]

NISHIDA: Hey. Your coffee's getting cold.

MISAKI: Is Rina at home right now?

NISHIDA: Huh? Yeah, she is... Why do you ask?

MISAKI: Can I talk to her?

NISHIDA: This is kinda sudden. We're not even done with our food yet.

MISAKI: Right. Okay, then. Let's eat.

[Misaki sits down and eats her cake quickly.]

MISAKI (impassioned, sincere): God, this is delicious! Curry cake is amazing!

MISAKI: [chews, swallows, talks with mouth full] Mm... Haru, thank you for taking me here. In the end, you're not that bad a guy.

NISHIDA: Thank you...?

MISAKI: But you can't make our friends cry, okay? Even when you're turning them down, you can't ignore someone's feelings. That's *really* dumb, and I'm gonna get mad if you do it again. We're going to Aina as soon as this is done!

NISHIDA (confused): As soon as what is done? I don't know what you're planning...

[Misaki sets down her fork, wipes her mouth.]

MISAKI: First, though, I'd like to talk to Rina.

NISHIDA: Rina.

MISAKI: Trust me, it's important.

NISHIDA: I see... Making all these demands.

MISAKI: Hey, *you* wanted to hang out. So let's hang out.

NISHIDA: What happened to the shy mumbling girl I met a week ago? Couldn't even get a full sentence out of her...

MISAKI (a little flustered): I...don't know what you mean.

NISHIDA (warmly): No, it's okay. It feels pretty good to talk like this. [pause] All right, let me send her a text. And eat these macarons for me.

MISAKI: Eeehhh...

NISHIDA: Please--I'm stuffed.

MISAKI: Really? But I'm stuffed, too...

[Nishida picks one up and tries to put it in her mouth.]

NISHIDA (playfully, as he texts): You wanna get out of here or not? Eat, eat, come on!

MISAKI (with mouth closed): Mmmnnnnnooo!

To be continued in Chapter 6, October 2015.