



CAT IN THE HAT

by

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THE UNIVERSAL LOGO

The earth spins, then is suddenly...

HIT BY EGGS!

Reveal: the logo's painted on a van. It reads "Universal Moving Company - A Division of Vivendi Moving Inc."

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET

The van is pelted with eggs as it drives down the street.

BEHIND A HEDGE

Three kids, CONRAD, ANDY, and SPENCER high-five, laugh.

Conrad, clearly the ringleader, holds up a cigarbox.

CONRAD

And now, the main event...

He opens the box. A SICKLY GREEN GLOW plays on the kids faces as they gaze into the box.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Extra-large, grade double-A. I had it in a zip-loc bag, sitting in the sun for a month. It's ready.

Conrad holds up the Holy Grail of rotten eggs. Andy and Spencer get a whiff, back up.

We hear a CAR approaching.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Some men are born with eggs, some achieve eggs and some have eggs thrust upon them.

Conrad hefts the egg, times it out and lofts the egg over the hedge as A YELLOW TRANS-AM approaches.

CONRAD (cont'd)

It's high enough, it's long enough...

SPLAT! The Trans-Am takes it right on the windshield!

CONRAD (cont'd)

It's good!

The kids all celebrate, then: SCREECH! The car skids to a stop.

DRIVER'S VOICE

HEY!

Uh-oh! The kids all BOLT in different directions.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DOWN THE BLOCK

As CREDITS ROLL, we find Conrad riding away on a skateboard. He's a bit mischievous, sometimes too smart for his own good, but at heart he's a decent kid. Maybe he's just a little misunderstood.

Conrad approaches an intersection just as... THE EGGED TRANS-AM pulls up right in front of him!

CONRAD

Uh-oh...

Conrad does a hasty 180, heads the other way. The Trans-Am pursues. THE CHASE IS ON! Through a suburban landscape of white picket fences and manicured lawns.

Conrad flies around a corner, nearly runs over a CAT which skitters out of the way. Conrad knocks over a trashcan, spilling garbage everywhere. He books off down the street.

An OLD LADY pokes her head out of her house, sees the garbage and blames the cat:

OLD LADY

Bad Kitty!

The Trans-Am speeds by, pursuing Conrad.

EXT. CUL DE SAC - A HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

At the end of a cul de sac. A large realtor's sign on the lawn: A smiling woman's face, "Now available! Contact Joan Walden!"

Conrad skates into the cul de sac, Trans-Am in hot pursuit, but... The whole end of the street is fenced off with chain link and "No Trespassing" signs. It's a DEAD END.

It looks like Conrad's trapped, but instead of stopping, he picks up speed and heads right for the fence. He skates up some planks that lean against the fence, he jumps up to the top edge of the fence, grinds along the top, and drops down on the other side...just as the Trans-Am screeches to a stop.

VOICE

Come back here!

Conrad laughs, hops over the back fence and is gone.

EXT. HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Conrad skates up to a house with a CATERING TRUCK and a FLORIST'S VAN in the driveway. Conrad heads up the walkway, is about to open the door, but stops.

Conrad sniffs the air. SOMETHING STINKS.

He smells his hands, his shirt, nope. Then he sees it: Sitting in the driveway next door is a YELLOW TRANS-AM with a giant rotten egg splattered on it.

HE EGGED HIS NEIGHBOR'S CAR!

CONRAD

Not good.

INT. BACKDOOR OF HOUSE - CONRAD

Stealthily opens the back door. The coast is clear except for the tiny family dog, NEVINS, who barks excitedly.

CONRAD

(whispers)

Sshhhh, Nevins. Stealth mode.

The dog lies down, puts his paws over his eyes. They've clearly been through this before.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

(scratches Nevins' ears)

Good boy.

VOICE

Your mother and I are very disappointed in you, Conrad.

REVEAL: It's Conrad's seven year old sister, SALLY. She's precocious and cute and uses it to get away with murder.

CONRAD

Shut up, Sally.

SALLY

(hands on hips)

How does a boy your age get into so much trouble?

CONRAD

Just be quiet. I'm not here.

SALLY

(too loudly)

Whatever you say, CONRAD!

Before Conrad can turn around and escape, the kitchen door flies open...

MOM

Conrad!

Standing in front of Conrad is the woman from the realty sign, Joan Walden. Yep, she's Conrad's MOM... and she's pissed.

MOM (CONT'D)

You are in big trouble Mister. Get in here.

Mom is 30-ish, attractive, but the strain of juggling two kids and a job shows a little in moments like this.

Sally smirks as Mom grabs Conrad and YANKS him....

INTO THE LIVING ROOM

Through a flurry of activity. Delivery men, caterers and florists setting up for what should be quite a PARTY.

MOM (CONT'D)

(frazzled, to workers)

No no, those flowers go in the dining room, those flowers go in the entryway. Wait, wait -- switch that.

CONRAD

Wow the party for your boss is really coming together. The people from your office are going to be really impressed.

MOM

Save it. What did you do to our new neighbor's car?

CONRAD

(changing the subject)

Do you have enough ice? You can never have too much--

MOM

Conrad! Mr. Kulchak just moved in three weeks ago and you've already egged his car?

CONRAD

I don't know what you're talking about. But I'm not surprised someone egged him. Mr. Kulchak is a tool.

KULCHAK (O.C.)

It's Doctor Kulchak.

REVEAL: DOCTOR KULCHAK is sitting in the living room. Slick, cocky and moustachioed, he wears green medical scrubs everywhere so you never forget he's a doctor.

CONRAD

Whoops.

KULCHAK

Whoops is right, amigo. Joan, I'm not real worried about my car: she's a tough gal, made in the U.S. of A. But I am worried about Conrad's reckless skateboarding in traffic, and his trespassing at that construction site.

MOM

What!?

CONRAD

Mom, at least listen to my side of the story. He was trying to run me--

MOM

Conrad, I don't want to hear it! You are grounded for a week! And no videogames. That means no Madden Football, no RoboWar, and no Death Race 3000!

Mom goes to the TV, which has a slick looking race car game on pause. Plink! She pulls the cord out and the game goes dead.

She takes the Playstation 2 off the TV console, and a Gameboy off the coffee table, and locks them in a cabinet.

CONRAD

Come on Mom! Even Chinese dissidents are allowed to have one videogame.

KULCHAK

Joan if I may, many child development experts feel that the most effective punishment is strenuous menial labor. For instance, my lawn could use some mowing.

CONRAD

(scoffs)

Yeah, I'm going to mow your lawn.

MOM

That's exactly what you're going to do. Every weekend for a month.

Conrad can't believe it.

MOM (CONT'D)

Mister-- Doctor Kulchak, I'm very sorry for what Conrad did.

KULCHAK

Joan, Joan, Joan... Don't be hard on yourself. I know you'll find this difficult to believe, but I was the same way as a boy. Until my parents shipped me off to Military School. Sure I cried for a few years: the sadistic ritual hazing, the single-sex adolescent perversity, the bad food; but it made a man of me. A man who earned the right to wear...

(points to his scrubs)

This uniform.

Conrad rolls his eyes.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Joan, I'd be happy to talk to you further about this, perhaps over dinner? Say, Friday night?

CONRAD

(before Mom can answer)

Friday's no good for us. Little League. We'll let you know if something opens up.

From the kitchen we hear a CRASH! from the caterers.

MOM

Uch, can you excuse me for one second? I've got a hundred people coming over tonight.

Mom hurries to the kitchen. Conrad gives him a smug look, then turns to go. But Kulchak grabs his shoulder.

KULCHAK

Not so fast amigo! Think you're pretty slick busting my rap with your Mom there don't you?

CONRAD

You've got no rap with my Mom, "amigo". She's never going out with you. I'll make sure of it.

KULCHAK

Well it's not going to be so easy to get in the way when you're off at military school.

CONRAD

She's not sending me to military school.

KULCHAK

No? The next time you screw up, I'll be all over you. And who do you think she's going to listen to? The good doctor? Or some punk.

Mom pops her head back in.

MOM

I'll be just one more minute. You two getting along out here?

KULCHAK

(smiles brightly)

We're best buds! Let me give you a hand in there.

Kulchak smiles at Mom, shoots Conrad an angry glare, follows Mom into the kitchen, checking out her rear end as he goes.

Conrad watches them go, disgusted. And as soon as they're out of the room, he rushes to the cabinet where Mom locked up the video games.

CONRAD

Don't worry fellas, I'll have you out in a jiffy.

He pulls out a paper clip and picks the lock like an expert. Conrad pulls out his GAMEBOY.

CONRAD (cont'd)

Hello, old friend.

Conrad turns around and runs smack into Sally. She's seen the entire thing.

SALLY

Do you know how damaging it is for a six year old girl to have an older brother she can't look up to? Maybe Doctor Kulchak's onto something with that Military School.

Conrad grits his teeth. She's got him and he knows it.

CONRAD

Alright, what's it going to take to keep you quiet?

Sally pulls out an electronic toy "My First Palm Pilot."

SALLY

(re:palm pilot)

Let's see...

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

I'm scheduled to do the dishes Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Make that go away.

CONRAD

(grudgingly)

Fine. I'll do it. Now you can't tell Mom.

SALLY

Pleasure doing business with you.

Kulchak and Mom come back from the kitchen. Conrad hastily sticks the Gameboy in his pocket.

MOM

You really didn't have to help move that table. It's so heavy.

KULCHAK

No problem. I squat a lot more weight than that down at the gym. You work out?

(sees Sally)

Hey, there's my little princess! You being a good girl?

SALLY

(curtsies, extra cute)

Yes Doctor Kulchak. Someone in this family has to be.

Kulchak musses Sally's hair. As soon as he turns to go, Sally starts trying to neatly rearrange her hair.

KULCHAK

Well Joan, I'll see you tonight at the big party.

He gives Mom a million dollar smile. Mom smiles back. As as soon as Dr. Kulchak exits, Conrad starts in on her.

CONRAD

You invited Doctor Creepy to the party?

MOM

Conrad! Why today of all days? You know how important this party is to me! Why'd you do that to Doctor Kulchak?

CONRAD

He's a jerk, Mom.

MOM

Why? Because he caught you egging his car and got you in trouble?

CONRAD

No, because he's a bad guy. You don't believe me?

MOM

I wish I could believe you Conrad. I wish I could trust you but I can't, and that really upsets me. Maybe Military School is the answer.

This hits Conrad hard.

The phone RINGS.

MOM (CONT'D)

What now?

Mom runs into the kitchen, picks up the phone.

MOM (CONT'D)

(into phone, angry)

What?

(realizes she's yelling)

Oh, sorry Mr. Sokolow. I'm looking forward to meeting you next week. What? Today? Of course, that's no problem at all. I'll be there. No problem.

Mom hangs up the phone as Sally comes into the kitchen.

MOM (CONT'D)

Dammit!

(turns quickly to Sally)

Mommy didn't say that.

Mom starts to frantically gather her stuff.

SALLY

What's going on Mommy?

MOM

Mr. Sokolow is only in town today. I have to show him some houses this afternoon.

SALLY

You're leaving? But we're making cupcakes today, remember? I put it on my schedule.

She holds up her Palm Pilot.

MOM

Maybe you can go to your friend Ginny's house and make cupcakes there.

SALLY

No. Ginny's not my friend any more. Last time we made cupcakes she wanted to be the head chef. I'm the head chef!

MOM

What about Denise then?

SALLY

She talked back to me, so I ordered her not to speak to me any more.

MOM

What about Ellen?

SALLY

She's too bossy.

MOM

Well, I'm sorry Sally, I can't do it today. Now scooch and let Mommy try to find a babysitter.

Mom heads back to the living room, picks up the phone.

CONRAD

"Babysitter"? Why are you getting a babysitter?

MOM

Because I don't want to come home and find you threw your sister at the neighbor's car.

(into phone)

Hello, Mrs. Kwan?

SMASH CUT TO:

THE FRONT DOOR

Opens to reveal: MRS. KWAN, a large old Taiwanese lady.

MOM (CONT'D)

Hi Mrs. Kwan, thanks for hurrying over.

Mrs. Kwan starts to enter, but she moves slowly. Real sloooooowly. It is taking forever for her to enter.

MOM (cont'd)

(checks watch)

Okay... I should run. Just a couple of things: The party is tonight at eight, so I want this place spotless. And no one sets foot in the living room.

Mom turns to go, and then remembers.

MOM (cont'd)

Oh, and one other thing...

(superfast)

(MORE)

MOM (cont'd)

No playing ball in the house, no fighting, no swearing, no answering the phone "City Morgue", no prank calling Grandma and selling her fake life insurance, no telling the dumb Schweitzer kid down the street he's a robot, no telling him that robots can jump off the roof, no telling him that robots are impervious to flame--

CONRAD

We get it.

MOM

And no sticking pre-1986 pen caps in your mouth.

(off their looks)

You can choke on them. I saw it on the news. Oh, and have fun.

(turns to go)

Sally, you sure you don't want me to drop you at a friend's house?

CONRAD

She doesn't have any friends left.

(to Sally)

Maybe you could order one of them to like you again?

SALLY

Good one Conrad. Mrs. Kwan, you might want to take away the Gameboy that Conrad is hiding.

CONRAD

(angry to Sally)

You said you wouldn't tell!

SALLY

I said I wouldn't tell Mom. I told Mrs. Kwan.

MOM

I said no videogames, Conrad! This is exactly why I can't leave you in charge.

SALLY

Exactly!

Mom grabs the Gameboy from Conrad, sticks it in her purse.

CONRAD

What am I supposed to do all day?

MOM

You have plenty of books. Read for a change.

CONRAD

You're joking right? No one reads books any more Mom, it's like steam-trains and break-dancing. I don't even think they make books any more.

SALLY

Mommy, can Mrs. Kwan help me make my cupcakes?

MOM

No. No cupcakes. Stay out of that kitchen. And Conrad, if you do one thing today can you make sure you give Nevins a bath for the party tonight?

Sally pouts. Conrad stews.

CONRAD

This stinks.

MOM

It does stink. You're the most deprived children and I'm the worst mother in the world.

(sighs, softens)

Look I'll be home soon, okay? Bye, Mrs. Kwan.

Mom gives a sad smile and leaves. The kids sigh.

Mrs. Kwan has finally reached the couch.

KWAN

Children, would you like to watch television with me?

The kids nod enthusiastically. They're saved!

A MINUTE LATER - ON THE TV:

Taiwanese C-SPAN, featuring Taiwanese parliament. Even if you spoke Taiwanese, it'd still be pretty damn boring.

CONRAD/SALLY

Taiwanese parliament?

This is worse than no TV at all.

Sally and Conrad mope over and slump into TWO CHAIRS FACING THE WINDOW, looking very unhappy.

KWAN

(in the B.G., to TV)

You tell them Kwai-Chang, no more big government.

The kids shake their heads: this is brutal.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER - CONRAD AND SALLY

Sit bored out of their minds. They watch the clock.
Seconds turn into hours. Tick.....
Tick..... The clock hand actually seems to stop
for an agonizingly long time before it TICKS again.

Mrs. Kwan has fallen asleep and SNORES so loudly it
almost drowns out the thunder (and the Taiwanese
filibustering).

Outside, a butterfly floats past and catches their
attention. It dances about in front of them when suddenly
a big RAIN DROP knocks it out of the sky. Thunder RUMBLES
and it starts to POUR.

The kids SIGH. This has got to be the worst day ever.

EXT. THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The kids sit framed in the window, just like the famous
panel in the book, watching the rain and desperately
wishing for something fun to happen. Anything...

THE CLOUDS seem to swirl a little, as a strange wind
starts to blow.

A STRANGE SHADOW flits across the lawn.

CLOSE ON: a puddle, collecting rain drops. SPLASH, a foot
steps in it and is gone. Hold on the footprint in the
puddle: it's not human, it's vaguely... feline.

INT. THE HOUSE - CONRAD AND SALLY, BORED SILLY

Conrad starts tapping the glass of the FISHBOWL, annoying
the fish, and Sally.

SALLY
Quit bugging the fish.

CONRAD
Why, are you going to wake up Mrs. Kwan
to tell on me again?

He goes back to tapping the fishbowl. Sally kicks his
chair.

SALLY
Quit it.

CONRAD

You quit it.

Conrad kicks her chair back. They start kicking each other's chairs.

Suddenly, from upstairs, we hear a loud BUMP.

SALLY

What was that?

Nevins looks up the stairs, growls. Mrs. Kwan snores away, oblivious.

UPSTAIRS - CONRAD AND SALLY

nervously creep up the stairs, look around. Nevins sniffs around nervously.

CONRAD

(whispers)

I think it came from the closet.

They approach the closet. Conrad swallows hard, and opens the closet! Nothing, just coats and junk.

He pokes around, sticks his head in, and suddenly is PULLED INTO the closet and disappears!

SALLY

Conrad?

Sally nervously peers in. And suddenly something large and furry JUMPS OUT AT HER!

She SCREAMS! Nevins YELPS and RUNS AWAY.

But it's just Conrad holding a stuffed bear.

CONRAD

(laughs)

Mom was right, you can have fun without video games.

SALLY

(almost in tears)

You shouldn't scare people.

CONRAD

(laughing)

It was just a harmless prank. You should have seen the look on your face. It was like you just saw a monster.

Conrad turns to go back downstairs, and runs smack into THE CAT IN THE HAT!

CAT
A monster? Where?

CONRAD/SALLY
AIIIGHHHHHHHHHH!

The kids run away.

CAT
(to camera)
That could have gone better.

DOWNSTAIRS - THE KIDS

Run to the coat closet, dash inside.

IN THE CLOSET

Conrad and Sally huddle together, freaked out.

SALLY
What was that?

CONRAD
I don't know. It looked like a giant cat.

REVEAL: The Cat is huddling RIGHT NEXT TO THEM.

CAT
"Giant"? I prefer the term "big-boned" or
"jolly". Now what are we hiding from?

CONRAD/SALLY
Aiiiighhhh!!!

The kids bolt out of the closet.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The kids zip into a bedroom, dive under the bed.

SALLY
That was a giant cat!

CONRAD
But that's impossible. Isn't it?

REVEAL: The Cat is once again right next to them, also
hiding under the bed, though the end of the bed is up off
the ground due to the Cat's size.

CAT
It's entirely impossible. You know, I
like this hiding place a lot better.
They'll never find us here.

The kids spring out from under the bed, back out of the room.

SALLY
Who-- Who are you?

The Cat is somehow right behind them.

CAT
Of course, of course. How rude of me. My card...

The Cat pulls out a BUSINESS CARD and presents it with a flourish. Conrad tentatively takes it.

CONRAD
(reading)
"The Cat in the Pat"?

The Cat snatches the card back.

CAT
Let me see that.
(reads it)
Stupid printers! I've already sent them back four times! It's Cat in the Hat! With an H! Not Cat in the Bat! Not Cat in the Mat!
(looks closer)
And they left off my e-mail address!

SALLY
Where did you come from?

CAT
My place, where do you think?

CONRAD
How did you get here?

CAT
I drove. You know, I've been here two whole minutes and no one's offered me a drink.

SALLY
Sorry. Would you like some milk?

CAT
(shakes his head)
Lactose intolerant. Gums up the works.
You'll thank me later.

The Cat strolls around the house and checks it out. The kids don't know what else to do, so they follow.

CAT (CONT'D)

Nice spread you got here. You two must be having a great time.

CONRAD

Yeah right. We're bored out of our minds.

CAT

The B-word? How can you be bored with all thess great toys around?

The Cat picks up a flashlight.

CONRAD

That's just a flashlight.

CAT

Just a flashlight? Come on people, where's your imagination? This could be a spotlight, it could be a microphone, it could be a light saber.

(to camera, quickly)

"Light Saber" and the light saber likeness are registered trademarks of LucasFilm Incorporated.

The kids aren't buying it. But the Cat continues his tour.

CAT (CONT'D)

This whole house is teeming with fun! Although those drapes are a train wreck.

(sits on couch)

And this is the lumpiest couch I've ever sat on.

REVEAL: The Cat is SITTING ON MRS. KWAN, who continues to snore away.

CAT (CONT'D)

Who is this dreadfully uncomfortable woman?

SALLY

(harsh whisper)

That's our babysitter. Get off of her!

CAT

Babysitter? You don't really need one of those, do you?

The Cat takes a coat-hanger, sticks it into the shoulders of Mrs. Kwan's sweater, and HANGS HER IN THE CLOSET like a coat, shuts the door.

CONRAD

I don't need a babysitter, my Mom only got her to watch my baby sister.

SALLY

She got her because of you, Conrad!

The Cat intervenes.

CAT

Alright hold on, I think I see what's going on here...

A DOCTOR HEAD LAMP pops up from the Cat's hat. He starts to examine Conrad.

CAT (CONT'D)

Okay, let's take a look in those ears.

(looks in his ears)

Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Clearly your mother doesn't trust you.

(works his elbow back and forth)

And it appears your new neighbor's giving you some trouble as well.

The Cat turns to Sally, moves his finger back and forth.

CAT (CONT'D)

Follow my finger. Up here. Down here.

(looks down her throat)

Hmmmm. Either you don't play well with others, or we're going to have take out those tonsils.

The Cat pulls out a clipboard, clicks a pen, starts checking things off.

CAT (CONT'D)

Yep, I've been seeing a lot of this lately: you two have a classic case of the Worst-Day-Evers.

The Cat clicks his pen, sticks it into a breast pocket in his fur. He hands Sally a lollipop.

CAT (CONT'D)

That'll be seven hundred dollars. Who's your insurance carrier?

CONRAD

So what do we do?

CAT

Well, there are two treatments I'd recommend.

(MORE)

CAT (CONT'D)
One is a painful series of shots injected
into the abdomen and kneecaps. The other
involves a musical number.

The kids grimace, think about it.

SALLY
Shots?

CAT
Sorry, I'm all out of clean needles.
Lights!

The place goes dark, except the flashlight magically turns
on, becoming a SPOT LIGHT.

CAT (CONT'D)
Maestro, if you would?

He pulls out a CD, hits a button on his hat and a CD tray
opens. He inserts the CD into his hat. We hear a few
strains of PIANO MUSIC.

CAT (cont'd)
I'M THE CAT IN THE HAT
AND I CAME HERE TODAY
TO SHOW YOU SOME FUN
WHILE YOUR MOM IS AWAY
I KNOW IT IS WET.
AND THE SUN IS NOT SUNNY.
BUT WE CAN HAVE LOTS OF GOOD FUN
THAT IS FUNNY.

The MUSIC kicks in, and the Cat launches into SONG:

CAT (CONT'D)
(singing)
I KNOW LOTS OF GOOD TRICKS
I WILL SHOW THEM TO YOU,
YOUR MOTHER
WILL NEVER FIND OUT IF I DO.
SO FORGET ABOUT WHAT
THE RULES WILL ALLOW,
IT'S FUN TO HAVE FUN
BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW.

As he sings, the Cat walks behind the TV, and when he
does, he actually appears on the TV. Conrad changes the
channel, but the Cat appears on every show (including
Taiwanese Parliament, where he bangs a podium and makes
an emphatic point).

CAT (cont'd)
WHY WE CAN HAVE A GRAND TIME
IF YOU WISH
WITH A GAME THAT I CALL
UP-UP-UP WITH A FISH!

The Cat takes an umbrella and balances the fish bowl on top of it.

VOICE

Put me down!

The music dies. The kids and the Cat turn to find the source of the voice... But there's no one there.

CONRAD

Who said that?

VOICE

Me, you hairless monkeys!

REVEAL: The Fish is leaning out of his bowl, and TALKING.

FISH

Now get this Cat out of here! He's nothing but trouble and he must go!

SALLY

I can't believe it. The fish is talking!

FISH

Of course I'm talking. I could always talk, you just never listened. Oh sure, I was the belle of the ball after you won me at that school carnival. But then you had to go and get that mangy dog.

CONRAD

Nevins? What does he have to do with--

FISH

Everything!

(imitates Conrad and Sally)

"I want to play with the dog" "The dog is so cute and furry!" "The dog can breathe air!" I can hear you, you know. Your words may sound a little boomier underwater but they still hurt.

CAT

Whoa. Someone woke up on the wrong side of the bowl this morning.

FISH

What kind of life is this? I'm stuck in here with Diver Dan and that bubbling clam shell. I'm not naive, I know that's not a real clam. And I've got no privacy. It's like I'm living in a fishbowl here!

(points to Conrad)

By the by, Tito Puente, the tapping on the glass? Not so much.

CAT

Okay, being a fish sucks. We get it. Now can we get back to having some fun?

FISH

No! Children, this Cat is currently in violation of seventeen of your mother's rules.

The phone RINGS. The Cat answers.

CAT

(into phone)

Hello, City Morgue.

FISH

Eighteen! Your mother is throwing a very important party this evening and she laid down explicit instructions that did not include this cat. He should not be here. He should not be about. He should not be here when your mother is out.

Sally considers this, maybe the Fish is right.

SALLY

Mom definitely wouldn't want you here. It is against the rules.

CONRAD

Hey, no one's a bigger rule guy than me. But I never heard Mom say anything about "No talking cats."

FISH

It was implied! No talking animals of any kind!

CAT

Not even talking Fish?

FISH

No! Especially not talking --
(realizes)

Arg! Damn you and the hat you rode in on!

CAT

C'mon kids, you're not going to let some bottom feeder with a chip on his dorsal fin ruin our day are you?

He knocks on his hat and the MUSIC ramps up again.

CAT (cont'd)

(singing)

WHY WE CAN HAVE LOTS OF GOOD FUN
ONE AND ALL

(MORE)

CAT (cont'd)
 IF YOU JUST FOLLOW ME
 WE CAN ALL HAVE A BALL!

The Cat jumps up onto a large rubber ball.

FISH
 Rule 34A: No ball in the house!
 Eeeaaaagh!

The Cat has the fish bowl on top of the umbrella again as he balances precariously on the ball.

FISH (CONT'D)
 I'm getting seasick!

The Cat does a one-handed handstand on the ball, balancing the fishbowl on his feet. He intentionally sways back and forth.

CAT
 (to camera)
 No animals were harmed during the filming of this movie.
 (singing)
 HAVE NO FEAR LITTLE FISH
 I WILL NOT LET YOU FALL
 I WILL HOLD YOU UP HIGH
 AS I STAND ON A BALL.
 WITH A BOOK ON ONE HAND!
 AND A CUP ON MY HAT!
 BUT THAT IS NOT ALL I CAN DO...

FISH
 Kids, please stop this cat!

The Cat grabs all sorts of items to balance.

CAT
 LOOK AT ME NOW!
 CHECK OUT THE CAT.
 WITH A CUP AND CAKE
 ON THE TOP OF MY HAT!
 I CAN HOLD UP TWO BOOKS!
 I CAN HOLD UP THE FISH!
 AND A LITTLE TOY SHIP!
 AND SOME MILK ON A DISH!

He takes a sip. Belches.

CAT (cont'd)
 That's gonna come back to haunt me.
 (sings)
 AND LOOK!
 I CAN HOP UP AND DOWN ON THE BALL!
 BUT THAT IS NOT ALL!
 OH NO, THAT IS NOT ALL...

FISH

It's not? Oh dear God...

CAT

(building)

LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT ME!

LOOK AT ME NOW!

IT IS FUN TO HAVE FUN

BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW.

I CAN HOLD UP THE CUP

AND THE MILK AND THE CAKE!

I CAN HOLD UP THESE BOOKS!

AND THE FISH ON THE RAKE!

I CAN HOLD THE TOY SHIP

AND A LITTLE TOY MAN!

AND LOOK! WITH MY TAIL

I CAN HOLD A RED FAN!

I CAN FAN WITH THE FAN

AS I HOP ON THE BALL!

BUT THAT IS NOT ALL.

OH, NO.

THAT IS NOT...WHOOAAA!

The Cat slips and goes flying in the air, along with everything he's been juggling.

The kids watch in horror but...

The Cat somehow manages to catch everything! His hands fill up with items, his leg SHOOTS OUT across the room to snag the milk saucer, he uses his tongue, then his ear then his mouth. Even the Hat grabs a dish. All is saved! Well, everything except the Fish who lands in the TEA KETTLE.

CAT (cont'd)

(hits his final note)

.....ALLLLLLL!!!

(realizes)

Okay maybe that is all. Way to screw things up Fish. This is why I only work with mammals.

The Fish pokes the end of his nose out the spout.

FISH

Give it up, Cat! These children are smart enough not to fall for your soulless MTV-style flash at the expense of content and moral values.

They turn to the kids. It's like they just saw Jesus.

CONRAD

That was wicked cool!

SALLY
Do it again!

CAT
Alright, one more time--

The Cat sees something, is suddenly terrified.

CAT (CONT'D)
Ahhhhhh! A monster!

REVEAL: It's tiny little Nevins.

CAT (CONT'D)
That beast is going to devour me!

The Cat throws all the dishes and things up in the air.
The kids have to scramble to catch them all.

CONRAD
It's just Nevins. He's part Chihuahua.

Nevins sniffs the Cat -- nothing could look more harmless
and adorable. The Cat is terrified.

CAT
I'm cornered. He's going to get me.
Sally, I want you to have my hat.
Conrad, you can have... nothing. All I
have is the hat. This is the end...
Running... out of air...
(choking)
Can't...breathe...So dark...It was...
fun...

He collapses. Nevins turns and HEADS OFF, BORED.

SALLY
You have plenty of air.

CAT
(opens his eyes)
I'm alive! It's a miracle!

He hops up and strolls into the next room, already onto
the next adventure.

CAT (CONT'D)
Come on kids, let's get our swerve on!

The kids follow, fascinated. The Cat heads into...

THE LIVING ROOM

CAT (CONT'D)

Hey check out this room.
(sees the kids aren't there)
Where'd you go?

He turns to see the kids standing in the doorway as if a force field prevents them from going any further.

SALLY

We're not allowed in the living room today.

CAT

Why not? It seems like the nicest room in the house.

CONRAD

Mom's having a stupid grown-up party and she's worried that we'll mess up the couches by jumping on them or something.

The Cat walks over to the couch and presses down on the cushions.

CAT

And she's right. You can't jump on these. Not like this. They need some adjustment.

The Cat reaches underneath the couch and tugs something. One of the couch cushions pops open like the hood of a car. The Cat reaches inside the couch, pulls out a jack.

He jacks up the couch, uses Conrad's skateboard to roll under the couch like an auto mechanic. We hear all sorts of RACHETING and electric DRILL noises. Then the Cat rolls out, unjacks the couch.

CAT (CONT'D)

That ought to do it.

The Cat jumps onto the couch. BOING! It is now super-springy.

CONRAD

How did you do that? You turned the couch into a trampoline.

CAT

Imagine that.

The Cat does all sorts of flips and acrobatics as the kids watch from the doorway.

CAT (CONT'D)

Boy this is great! And yet somewhat lonely. C'mon! What's going to happen if you just step in the room?

Sally and Conrad are dying watching this. It looks like so much fun, it's killing them.

Conrad starts to step into the living room.

SALLY

What about Mom's party?

CONRAD

What about it? I'm not in the real estate business.

(runs in)

Wahoooo!!!

Conrad jumps onto the couch, starts bouncing.

CAT

One cushion left, Sally.

CONRAD

She'll never do it. She's way too much of a priss.

Sally tries to fight the urge.

The Fish comes over, hopping in his tea kettle like he's in a sack race.

FISH

Sally, be strong! Conrad's a lost cause. I gave up on him years ago. But you -- You are the Golden Child!

Sally is literally shaking. Torn by her desire to be good and to have fun.

FISH (cont'd)

You don't need to bounce around like a monkey to have fun! We could do arts and crafts, or read quietly to ourselves. Sally?

SALLY

Ayiiiiiiiiiiie!!!!

The fish looks up, but Sally's gone. She's run in to join the jumping.

The kids and Cat bounce gleefully on the sofas, doing an amazing TUMBLING ROUTINE of flips and twists. The Cat even uses his hat like a GIANT SPRING -- ricochetting like a pinball between the ceiling and the couch.

CONRAD

This is amazing!

SALLY

It's like being in the circus!

CAT

But without those creepy midgets, or tortured animals! I told you we could have fun.

CONRAD

And the best thing is, no one will ever...

Suddenly the front door flies open. It's Kulchak!

CONRAD (CONT'D)

...know.

KULCHAK

So that's what all the racket is. Your Mom's barely gone and you two delinquents are already trashing the house.

SALLY

(confused)

Two delinquents?

Sally and Conrad look around. THE CAT HAS DISAPPEARED.

KULCHAK

Yes Sally: One, two. The two of you. I thought you were the smart one. And Conrad, you're making this way too easy amigo. What's your Mom going to say when she finds out you're destroying the living room, hopping on the couch like a bunch of gophers.

CONRAD

I don't think gophers hop, Doctor.

KULCHAK

Put a sock in it, Billy Crystal.

Behind Kulchak's back, the Cat drops down from the ceiling and starts bouncing on the couch. The kids can't believe it. Kulchak reaches for the phone.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Let's give Mom a call, shall we? I'm sure she'll agree with my professional opinion that military school is the only -- What are you looking at?

Kulchak spins around, but he misses seeing the Cat, who bounces up and sticks to the ceiling with his claws.

The second Kulchak turns back to the kids, the Cat drops down and begins bouncing again.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Achoo!

Kulchak SNEEZES.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Is there a cat in here? I'm very allergic to cat hair.

CONRAD

No, no cats in here.

Behind him, the Cat is bouncing over him, scratching behind his ear with his foot, sending up a cloud of CAT HAIR.

KULCHAK

Achoo! Achoo!

ANGLE ON: The Fish, leaning out of the tea kettle, trying to get Kulchak's attention.

FISH

Hey! He's right behind you! Look behind--

The Cat's umbrella handle swoops down, snags the tea kettle and yanks it up and out of frame.

ON THE CEILING

The Cat dangles the Diver from the fish bowl in front of the Fish.

CAT

One more peep out of you and Diver Dan loses his air supply.

The Fish's eyes go wide.

The Cat flings the Fish behind his back down the hallway, into the bathroom. The fish banks off the lid of the TOILET and lands in the bowl. The lid slams down after him.

FISH (O.C. FROM BOWL)

Oh my God! This is where they buried my brother!

CAT

Nothin but net! Me-OW!

BELOW - KULCHAK hears this.

KULCHAK

What was that noise? That definitely sounded like a cat!

Kulchak starts looking around. The kids think fast, stand in his way.

SALLY

A cat?

KULCHAK

Yes, a cat.

CONRAD

I don't know about that.

SALLY

I did not hear a cat.

CONRAD

Certainly not one in a hat.

KULCHAK

A Cat in a Hat?

CONRAD

(faster)

A Cat in a hat?

I didn't say that.

Why in the world

would a Cat wear a hat?

SALLY

(faster still)

I was standing right here and I heard what he said.

Not a word of a cat with a hat on his head.

CONRAD

(the fastest)

No Cat has been here

Neither skinny or fat.

Right there's where we sat

And we never saw that.

We never ever ever saw a Cat in a Hat.

Kulchak just stares at them for a beat.

KULCHAK

You kids are freaks. I know what you're doing. What are you doing? -- Achoo!

Achoo!

Kulchak is now sneezing uncontrollably as the Cat is feverishly scratching his ass with both hands, sending up a torrent of hair. The kids can't help but laugh.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Achoo! Achoo! I'm gonna-- Achoo! And
you're gonna-- achoo! I've got to--
achoo!-- get out of here! I'll be back!

Kulchak runs out. The kids double over with laughter.

CONRAD

That was amazing!

SALLY

We totally got away with it!

CAT

I told you. Stick with me and everything
will work out.

The Cat loses his grip on the ceiling and FALLS. He
lands on the carpet with a big THUD.

CAT (CONT'D)

I'm alright, I'm alright. Little known
fact: Cats always land on their ass.

The kids help the Cat up.

CAT (CONT'D)

Well that was great fun. But, I really
should be going.

CONRAD

What do you mean? No! You have to stay!

CAT

Well... You sure you want me to stay?

CONRAD/SALLY

Yeah!

FISH (FROM TOILET)

No!

CAT

Alright. Then there's just a few things I
need you to sign....

The Cat whips out a sheaf of LEGAL FORMS.

CAT (CONT'D)

Just a formality. Liability issues,
litigious society, frivolous lawsuits,
you understand.

He hands the kids pens, and they start signing.

CAT (CONT'D)

Initial here. And here. And here. Not there, here. And here. Sign the bottom. Good...

The Cat folds up the forms. He turns the stripes of his hat like the dials of a combination lock. The top of his hat pops open like a SAFE. He puts the papers inside, then SPINS the stripes, locking it.

CAT (cont'd)

(back to his fun self)

Now what do you want to do? Sky's the limit, legally speaking.

SALLY

I want to make cupcakes.

CAT

Then cupcakes it is. To the kitchen!

Peppy THEME MUSIC plays as we...

CUT TO:

GRAPHIC: "THE FELINE GOURMET"

A SERIES OF STILL IMAGES A LA THE OPENING CREDITS OF A TV COOKING SHOW:

-- The Cat's hat is now a striped chef's toque, and he wears a matching apron. He expertly sauteés a pan of flaming food.

-- The Cat's apron is now on fire.

-- A burnt and smoking Cat proudly presents a burnt and smoking meal.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's time for the Feline Gourmet! And now, here's your host...

IN THE KITCHEN

The camera pans to reveal the announcer is just The Cat standing off to the side, talking into his hand.

CAT

...The Cat in the Hat!

The Cat walks behind the kitchen counter and addresses the camera like he's the host of a COOKING SHOW.

CAT (cont'd)

Welcome to the Feline Gourmet. Today we're going to be making cupcakes. And joining us are our two guest chefs...

WIDEN to reveal Sally and Conrad.

CAT (cont'd)

Sally, who trained at the prestigious Université de Cuisine et Gun Repair, and her brother, Gorman.

CONRAD

Conrad.

CAT

Whatever. Let's begin.

The Cat blazes about the kitchen in a frenzy of activity: pans simmer and pots bubble over.

CAT (CONT'D)

We set this on simmer, put a lid on that, preheat this to 350, put that in a dutch oven, and voila!

SALLY

What are you making?

CAT

Nothing. I'm just boiling water. Now as for the cupcakes, we'll use a recipe from my new cook book, *Cat in the Kitchen and Other Health Code Violations*.

He holds up the cookbook, notices something.

CAT (cont'd)

"Written by the Bat in the Hat? Oh that printer makes me so mad!

(catches himself, to camera)

Anyhoo, here's what we're going to need for my super-special cupcakes: a pound of sugar, two sticks of butter, a pile of hot dogs, ten peanuts in the shell...

Sally and Conrad start tossing the Cat ingredients.

CAT (cont'd)

...eight cans of soda, a jigger of triple sec, a rasher of bacon, a gaggle of grapes, a shake of branch water, abc gum...

Conrad spits his gum into the bowl. The kids are having the time of their lives.

CAT (cont'd)

...a pound of fresh fruit. This'll do.

The Cat grabs a still life PAINTING of fruit off the wall, shakes it over the bowl and fruit dumps out! He puts the picture back on the wall and the bowl in the painting is now empty.

CAT (cont'd)

And finally I need one bay leaf.

CONRAD

We're out of bay leaves.

CAT

Eew. Well, no guarantees on how these cupcakes will taste then.

(cracks his knuckles)

Now let the professional go to work.

Children, quickly, throw me some knives!

Conrad and Sally shrug, throw knives at him.

He catches the knives in stride and starts chopping like a hopped up BENIHANA CHEF, flipping knives and food in the air, playing the spice containers like castanets.

The food bounces off the ceiling, walls, pots. The kids run around with plates trying to catch some. But most just hits the ground in a hail storm of food.

The Cat's getting more elaborate: behind the back, over the shoulder, between the legs.

CAT (CONT'D)

Now for the grand finale!

The Cat chops faster and faster till it's a blur.

CAT (cont'd)

Et voila!

With a flourish the Cat proudly displays all the chopped food and throws it in the oven.

SALLY

Um, Cat? Your tail.

The Cat looks at his tail, realizes he's chopped the end off.

CAT

(calmly)

But of course. You see in the Far East cat's tail is considered a delicacy, promising virility and many strong children. Also, AAAAIIIIIGHHH!! Son of a--

The "show" is cut off and a "TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES" graphic pops up. Jaunty organ music plays.

CUT BACK TO:

THE KITCHEN

The Cat finishes bandaging his tail as he speaks to the kids in a low voice.

CAT (CONT'D)

Look I'm not saying I'm going to sue, I'm just saying I have a case.

(notices camera)

Oh, we're back. While the cupcakes are cooking, let's talk about how wiping your hands on your pants is just as good as washing them.

The oven makes an OMINOUS RUMBLING sound.

CONRAD

Uh, Mr. Chef is the oven supposed to be making that sound?

CAT

Of course Gorman. That means they're almost done.

The Cat pulls out his umbrella, opens it up, and uses it to shield himself and the kids just as...

KA-BOOM! The oven EXPLODES! The shock wave sends plates and Mom's food flying.

Every surface in the entire kitchen is covered in dripping PURPLE GOOP. Except...

The pristine circle of kitchen where the Cat's umbrella protected them.

CAT (cont'd)

Yep. They're done.

CONRAD

Oh man...

CAT

There's nothing to worry about. I'm sure they still taste fine.

The Cat scoops some goop off the wall with his finger and puts it in his mouth. Then...

CAT (cont'd)
(spitting the food out)
Yuuuch. I told you we needed that
bayleaf.

The fish hops in, horrified by what he sees.

FISH
Aiiiiiieee!! I warned you all this would
happen. But no one listens to a Fish. Why
listen to someone you can't pet or play
fetch with?

CONRAD
Cat, you can clean this up, can't you?

CAT
Of course. I knew this would happen...
except for the explosion and the part
where I chopped off my tail. I'll be
right back!

He runs out. And instantly returns with a large white
towel. He starts wiping the floor. Everything's going to
be okay.

CAT (cont'd)
Here we go, I'll have it all wiped clean
in a jiffy.

Sally looks closer at the "towel" he's using and screams.

SALLY
Stop! That's not a towel. That's...

CONRAD/SALLY
Mom's dress!!!

The Cat holds up his "towel". It's a dress which now has
a huge purple stain in front.

SALLY
She was going to wear that tonight. You
ruined it!

CAT
Whoa, whoa, let's not jump to
conclusions. Maybe your Mom bought it
like this. Damaged merchandise half off,
that sort of thing. You know how she
pinches pennies...

FISH
Oh what will become of us? Your mother
will be fired. And we'll have to live on
the street!

(gasps)

(MORE)

FISH (CONT'D)

I can take care of myself, but what about Diver Dan? He's so naive, so trusting. And who will pay for his medication?

CAT

Okay, let's everybody take a deep breath and calm down. You know who's going to solve this? Me. I am. I will personally take care of everything... and I know just the guys to do it.

He runs out. The kids follow him into...

THE LIVING ROOM

The Cat sprints out the front door, returns a beat later dragging a large wooden CRATE.

CAT (cont'd)

Here we go...

The lights dim, and we hear a DRUM ROLL. The Cat grabs the flashlight again, and uses it like a mike. And magically we hear MICROPHONE FEEDBACK. It works!

CAT (CONT'D)

(like a ring announcer)

Ladies and gentlemen, put your hands together for the answer to all your cleaning needs.

(goes into his spiel)

In this box are two Things. I will show them to you.

Two things, and I call them Thing One and Thing Two.

These things will not bite you, they want to have fun.

So without further ado, meet THING TWO and THING ONE!

The Cat unlatches the top of the crate and opens it. Two small mop-topped creatures emerge. One wears the number "1" on his chest, the other number "2". They do elaborate acrobatic dismounts off the crate.

CAT (cont'd)

(rapid intros, handshakes)

Thing One, Conrad, Sally. Conrad, Sally, Thing One. Thing Two, Conrad, Sally. Conrad, Sally Thing Two. Thing One, Thing Two. Thing Two, Thing one. I am the Cat.

The Cat shakes hands with himself.

The Things mutter rapid unintelligible GIBBERISH when they speak, like mischievous Jawas.

THING TWO

Dikka Dikka Depp.

CAT

Ah, yes. Of course.

(to Kids)

Thing Two would like to clarify that just because he wears the number two, it does not imply in any way that he is inferior to Thing One.

THING TWO

Delippa dikka bapp.

CAT

He says you may feel free to call him Thing A if you like. He will also accept "Super Thing", "Thing King" or "Kid Dynamite".

THING ONE

Nippa deppa depp.

CAT

Thing One says he's Thing One for a reason and some people should just get used to it.

The Things begin JABBERING at each other. The Cat has to separate them.

CAT (cont'd)

Hey, hey! There's no need for that kind of language, there are children in the room.

While the Cat's distracted, Conrad starts to open the lid of the Things' crate.

A STRANGE FORCE begins emanating from the crate, distorting the reality of everything around it, warping ordinary objects into bizarre SEUSSIAN SHAPES.

Suddenly SLAM! The Cat shuts the lid, the force dissipates.

CAT (cont'd)

You probably don't want to do that.

CONRAD

Why not?

CAT

Well, this crate is more than just a crate, it's more like a doorway, which leads from this world to my world.

CONRAD

It says "Made in the Philippines".

CAT

Yes, but not this Philippines. Look, my world and this world really have to stay separate. I'm not a big rules guy, but this is my one: No opening the crate. Got it?

The Cat produces a complicated LOCK, slaps it onto the crate and locks it. He slaps a sign on the box that reads "Cats with Hats Only!"

CAT (cont'd)

Now, Things if you will, follow me and I'll show you where Sally and Gorman messed up the kitchen.

The Cat leads the Things and Sally to the kitchen, leaving Conrad alone with the crate.

Conrad can barely wait until they're gone to pick that lock. He takes out a paperclip and seconds later the lock POPS OPEN. He's about to open the crate when...

The Cat, Things and Sally return with Mom's soiled dress.

Conrad steps away from the crate, which remains shut but IS NOW UNLOCKED.

CAT (cont'd)

(to Things)

I don't know why they tried to wipe it up with the dress. Seems foolish to me too.

SALLY

(to Things)

We didn't do it, it was the Cat!

CAT

(to Sally)

They don't speak English. Save your breath, tattle tale.

(To Things)

Alright Things, let's get to work. Brooms!

The Things each pull out a BROOM. And promptly EAT THEM.

CAT (cont'd)

Alright fellas, you've had your snack. Now on to the cleaning!

The Things each grab an end of the stained dress. They jabber to each other, then SNAP it taut. The stain flies off the dress... and splatters all over the white couch.

CAT (cont'd)

There! The dress is clean. Nice work boys, there'll be a little something extra in your paycheck this week.

CONRAD

What about the couch?

CAT

Which couch? The tan one, or the horribly stained white one?

The Things grab tennis rackets and beat the couch. But the stains don't budge. Thing One grabs Thing Two and uses him as a couch beater. Now the purple spots fly off... and land on the curtains.

FISH

Dear sweet Mother of Cod! The curtains are ruined!

CAT

You know, I never cared for those.

SALLY

Are you sure these Things know what they're doing?

CAT

The Things and I work together all the time. They're consummate professionals. I'd stake my reputation on it.

The Things buzz by, rip down the curtains and twirl them over their heads like bullroarers. They spin faster and faster, until the purple stain starts FLYING OFF and splattering everywhere. The living room is getting completely spackled in purple.

SALLY

They're wrecking the whole house!

Conrad runs to the CLOSET, opens it, REVEALING: a hanging MRS. KWAN snoring away. He slides her to one side, reaches into the closet and pulls out two LARGE NETS. He hands one to Sally and they chase the Things off in opposite directions.

IN THE DINING-ROOM

Thing One jumps onto the credenza and does a Russian dance on a stack of Mom's good china, kicking plates at Sally, who tries to catch them in the net.

THING ONE
 (kicking in rhythm)
 Meppa dekka mappa--hey!
 Kappa meppa dakka--hey!

SALLY
 Conrad, help!

IN THE FOYER

Conrad has Thing Two cowering in the corner.

CONRAD
 Help yourself, I got mine cornered!

Conrad swings the net at Thing Two, who simply laughs at him and RUNS UP THE WALL!

CONRAD (cont'd)
 What the-- Hey Sally...

IN THE DINING ROOM

Dishes rain down on Sally from overhead.

SALLY
 ...They can run on the ceiling!

THE LIVING ROOM - WIDE SHOT

Pure mayhem. The Things run wild:

-They ride bikes over furniture and up the walls, leaving purple tread marks everywhere.

-They stick their fingers in wall sockets and light bulbs explode in lamps all around the room.

-The Things YODEL like Swiss maniacs and ride a snoring MRS. KWAN down the stairs like a toboggan. They hit the bottom step and Mrs. Kwan flies back onto the couch.

The Cat eases himself onto the couch next to snoring Mrs. Kwan, puts his arm around her.

CAT
 (to Kwan)
 If this were my house, I'd be furious.

Conrad and Sally chase the Things around the room.

IN THE MIDST OF THIS CHAOS:

The phone is off the hook. A coat hanger dials the numbers. REVEAL: It's the Fish dialing!

MOM (V.O. FROM PHONE)
Hello, Joan Walden real estate.

The Fish leans out of his bowl, yells into the receiver.

FISH
Ms. Walden, there's something you should know--

INTERCUT WITH MOM'S OFFICE

MOM
Who is this?

FISH
Let's just say it's someone you know.
Someone who watches you all day, sitting
in dirty water--

MOM
Listen you perv, I've got two kids and a
mortgage, why don't you harass someone
else?

FISH
I'm not harassing you, you stupid air-
breather, it's about your-- Hello? Hello?

REVEAL: The Cat has hung up the phone.

CAT
I hope that wasn't long distance.

SALLY (O.C.)
Oh no, not Nevins!!!

REVEAL: The Things have picked up Nevins and are eyeing
him curiously.

CONRAD
Put him down! Are you deaf? I said put
the dog down!
(To Cat)
Why won't they listen to me?

The Cat settles back down on the couch with a fruity
drink in a pineapple, offers advice.

CAT
Oh, I don't know if this will help, but
the Things always do the opposite of what
you say.
(re: drink)
Should I use a coaster?

Thing One lines up behind Thing Two like a football
player.

THING ONE

Blue Meppa-two! Dakka-fourteen! Hut-hut-hike!

Thing Two snaps Nevins like a football, and the Things now toss a befuddled Nevins around as they run up and down the walls.

SALLY

Hey Things, don't let go of that dog!

The Things look at each other.

THING ONE

Nekka bekka "don't let go".

THING ONE/THING TWO

Let go!!!

SLO-MO: Thing Two rears back and HURLS Nevins across the room.

CONRAD

Catch him! I mean don't catch him!!!
Don't catch him! Aiigh!!

Too late! Thing One watches with folded arms as Nevins flies OUT THE WINDOW!!!

Thing One runs up, signals "touchdown". Thing Two throws a penalty flag, waves off the touchdown. They begin to argue.

Conrad and Sally run to the window.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Nevins! Nevins!

But it's too late. A terrified Nevins scampers across the street, disappears in the rain. The kids are stunned.

SALLY

He's gone!

CAT

So you'll pick up another one, dogs are cheap.

(pulls out a deck of cards)
Game of Spit? Who's in?

The kids are stunned. They never imagined their fun could have such horrible consequences.

FISH

(to Cat)

You! You fiendish feline, this is all your fault!

(MORE)

FISH (CONT'D)

You've destroyed the house, ruined the party, I don't know who I hate more, you or your hat!

CAT

Hey, you leave the Hat out of this. It never hurt anyone.

CONRAD

Great, Mom asked me to do one thing, take care of the dog and I screwed it up. Unless we find Nevins I'm going to be doing hard time at Colonel Von Kronk's Internment Camp for Wayward Boys. Let's go look for him.

SALLY

No. We should just call Mom and tell her what happened.

CONRAD

I can't tell her what happened. And even if I did she wouldn't believe me. We're going to get the dog ourselves.

SALLY

No, we're telling Mom.

CAT

(like Quint in Jaws)

There is...a third option.

We hear a DRAMATIC STING. Widen out to reveal the Cat plays a chord on a small KEYBOARD.

CONRAD/SALLY

There is?/ What is it?

CAT

I, uh... I don't know. You guys both had options, I just wanted to have one too. Or...DID I?

He plays the STING MUSIC again.

CONRAD

Cat you're not helping.

CAT

Alright look. Why don't we pop outside, have a little fun and grab the dog while we're at it? Besides, it's too nice to stay indoors.

SALLY

What are you talking about? It's pouring.

CAT

No it's not.

The Cat opens the back door. Almost as if by magic, the rain has stopped, the clouds have parted and the sun is shining. A rainbow arcs across the neighborhood.

CAT (CONT'D)

So what do you say?

SALLY

(reluctantly)

Fine.

CAT

That's the spirit! There's an amazing world of fun and adventure right out this door!

CONRAD

And the dog.

CAT

Right. Of course, obviously. So let's go!

The kids run out the door. After they've gone, the Cat pulls out a notepad and checks off a list.

CAT (CONT'D)

Kitchen, check. Kids outside, check.
Right on schedule:

SALLY

What are you doing, Cat?

The Cat looks up to see Sally standing in the doorway. He hides the notepad behind his back.

CAT

Nothing, nothing. Let's go.

(stops)

Oh, and it's a little chilly out. You may want to wear your green jumper.

SALLY

Oh, okay.

Sally runs off to change. The Cat pulls out the notepad again.

CAT

(checking off)
Green jumper, check.

SALLY

(pops back in)
What'd you say?

CAT
Nothing, nothing.

Sally goes. The Cat pulls out the notepad again.

CAT (cont'd)
(checking off, whispers)
Speak more quietly to self, check.

EXT. THE BACKYARD - THE CAT AND THE KIDS

Sally has put on her green jumper. The Cat looks left and right, does a ninja roll for no reason, gets up and signals to the kids.

CAT
Alright troops, follow me.

SALLY
What if someone notices we're gone?

CAT
Don't worry, I've got it covered.

The Cat pulls the back door closed with a THUD!

INT. KULCHAK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Doctor Kulchak stands in his bathroom wrapped in a towel, shaving his chest. He hears the THUD of the door slamming, stops shaving, peers out the window toward the Walden's house.

KULCHAK
What are those maggots up to?

Kulchak'S POV - Conrad and Sally calmly sitting in the window, both holding up books and reading.

But INSIDE THE WALDEN'S HOUSE, we see...

It's not Conrad and Sally reading -- it's THING ONE and THING TWO dressed up to look like Conrad and Sally, wearing their clothes and two silly looking wigs.

Instead of reading the books, they are turning each page, tearing it out and eating them.

THING 1
Dakka jakka Michel Crichton.

THING 2
Jakka bakka bizarre web of intrigue and murder.

Kulchak's convinced. He goes back to shaving his chest.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN BACK YARD - ACROSS THE STREET

Behind a fence the top of a RED and WHITE HAT is visible.

Then, the Cat and kids peer over the fence and see...
Nevins sniffing around the bushes in the neighbor's yard.

CONRAD

Great, he had to end up in crazy old man
Ludwig's yard.

Just then CRAZY OLD MAN LUDWIG, a fifty-ish ex-marine
drill seargent with a grey flat-top, comes out the back
door of his house.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Please don't see Nevins. Please don't see
Nevins...

LUDWIG

(spots something)

A-ha! I gotcha you little bugger!

Ludwig pulls out a large bayonette knife. The kids' eyes
go wide. Ludwig charges over to...

A bed of flowers. He uses the bayonette to pick a BUG off
of a tulip.

LUDWIG (CONT'D)

(to bug)

Listen up aphid! I put my guts into these
tulips. You so much as look at 'em funny,
I will end you!

He flicks the aphid off the end of the bayonette, heads
into the house, just as Nevins emerges from the bushes.

CONRAD

He's inside. Now's our chance. Stay out
of sight, Cat. You'll be too hard to
explain.

CAT

What do you mean? I could be your cousin
Ray, from Tampa.

The Fish pops out of Conrad's backpack in a jelly jar
filled with water.

FISH

For the record, I strongly object to this foray. And I resent being dragged along as an accomplice.

CAT

Would you like to go back in the toilet?

FISH

(does a 180)

This fence doesn't look too high, I don't think we should have any problems.

The Cat prepares to hurdle the fence, stretching and cracking every joint in his body: fingers, wrists, shoulders, neck, even his hat.

CAT

Now stand back, this fence is no match for my cat-like grace and reflexes. Watch me fly!

A COUPLE OF MINUTES LATER

The Cat trying to climb over the fence using Sally and Conrad's heads to push off.

CONRAD

Owww.

CAT

Just a little higher. Push. I don't think the little girl is even trying.

SALLY

What about your cat-like reflexes?

CAT

What about you showing a little effort?

He reaches the top of the fence and falls backwards over the fence. The kids easily hop over after him.

LUDWIG'S YARD

The Cat peers out from behind a tree. His hat is now an ARMY HELMET.

CAT (CONT'D)

Alright, there's Nevins. We're going to have to take him by surprise. It's time for a game of "Capture the Dog". Conrad, left flank. Sally right flank. Let's move.

They all crawl on their bellies to a LAWN CHAIR which seems way too small to hide them all, but incredibly: it does.

The Cat communicates with the kids in a series of HAND SIGNALS that get more and more ridiculous and elaborate. The kids look at him blankly.

CAT (CONT'D)

Left!

Now the Cat and kids tip toe up to a thin LAUNDRY POLE. and incredibly they can all hide behind it. Conrad's head appears, looks at the pole -- how is this possible?

They spot Nevins heading around the side of the house.

CAT (CONT'D)

Ok, our bogey is in range. Commence search and destroy.

SALLY

What?

CAT

(correcting himself)

Search and rescue, search and rescue.

They charge. Nevins runs. They've almost got him when...

The BACK DOOR of the house opens! It's Ludwig! Pruning shears at the ready, he wears crazy COMMANDO NIGHT VISION GOGGLES.

LUDWIG

What in the name of Mamie Eisenhower's bloomers is going on out here?

The Cat and Conrad each dive behind a large flower pot. Sally looks around, there's no pots left to hide behind. She's caught! Except....

Ludwig DOESN'T SEE HER! Sally's green jumper makes her blend completely into the shrubbery!

LUDWIG'S POV THROUGH THE GOGGLES: He just sees all green.

Ludwig shrugs, then from inside we hear an oven timer DING!

LUDWIG (cont'd)

Ooh, my popovers!

Ludwig hustles back inside, shuts the door. Our gang breathes a sigh of relief.

CONRAD

That was close. Good thing you were wearing green. He didn't see you.

SALLY

Yeah...Good thing...

Sally gives the Cat a weird look, but before she can ask any more questions...

CONRAD

There's Nevins!

Conrad chases a scampering Nevins, who darts through a small hole in the fence and into the next yard.

INSIDE LUDWIG'S HOUSE

Ludwig is at the oven, blowing on his popovers.

LUDWIG

(to popovers)

Cool down you miserable pukes!

THROUGH THE WINDOW behind him we see:

Conrad jumping the fence to follow Nevins. Then Sally jumps it. Then the Cat just SMASHES through the fence kicking a huge hole in it.

EXT. SUBURBAN BACKYARD - CONRAD, SALLY AND THE CAT

Chase Nevins through back yards.

CONRAD

Where does he think he's going?

ANGLE ON NEVINS

Free and psyched out of his tiny mind.

NEVIN'S POV - we're in DOG VISION. (Think *The Terminator*, but things are in BLACK AND WHITE.) Certain spots glow hotter - PEE STAINS on trees, fire hydrants, etc.

He scopes out the area. He sees an old shoe - a graphic flashes "Food". Then he sees a stick - "Food." Then another dog's vomit -- "Food." He moves toward the vomit when--

An ALARM goes off and an "Alert!" graphic flashes. We see a wafting scent in the air. A laser scope locks in on it and a graphic flashes "MEAT!" "MEAT!"

Nevins takes off after it.

IN THE NEXT YARD

The kids finally catch up to Nevins who is jumping for a pack of uncooked HOTDOGS on a BAR-B-QUE.

CAT

(wipes his brow)

Whoo! That was quite a workout. Time to hit the showers.

The Cat begins licking his arms. He's giving himself a cat-style TONGUE BATH.

Conrad looks around the yard. He sees streamers and balloons and a cake.

CONRAD

Let's grab Nevins and get out of here. It looks like someone's having a....

KIDS (O.S.)

Birthday party!!!

There's a loud RUMBLE as a HORDE OF KIDS coming running into the yard.

CONRAD

Hide!

Everyone scurries every which way, dives behind a bush. The dog sprints away.

Conrad and Sally poke their heads up to see kids running around with balloons, cake etc. In the middle of this is the dumb looking SCHWEITZER KID wearing a crown.

Sally recognizes all of her "friends."

SALLY

Hey... There's Ginny, and Denise. and Ellen! How come no one invited me to the dumb Schweitzer kid's birthday?

CONRAD

Probably because you call him the dumb Schweitzer kid. Okay Cat, make sure you stay out of sight. Cat? Cat?

Conrad realizes what he thought was the Cat is actually...

CONRAD (cont'd)

A piñata? Then where's the Cat?

Conrad and Sally look up to see the Cat dangling by a string from a tree, doing his best piñata imitation.

Partygoers circle around the Cat/piñata. The blindfolded Schweitzer kid is pushed toward the Cat, holding a bat.

CONRAD (cont'd)
This cannot end well.

The dumb Schweitzer kid takes a few swings at the Cat who subtly tries to spin or swing out of the way. Finally, WHACK! the kid connects. WHACK! WHACK!

The Cat does his best to internalize the pain. We PUSH IN on the CAT'S EYES.

DISSOLVE TO:

INSIDE THE CAT'S MIND

A pastoral scene. The Cat wears a *Little House on the Prairie* dress, a bonnet and pigtails. He swings happily on a wooden swing which hangs from a big oak tree.

CAT
(sings, pixie-ish)
Tra la la la la...

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

The dumb Schweitzer Kid and several other kids armed with bats wail away on the Cat. WHACK! WHACK WHACK!

DUMB SCHWEITZER KID
It's breaking...

The Schweitzer Kid winds up to deliver the final deathblow.

DUMB SCHWEITZER KID
(CONT'D)
Here...we...go!

The kid takes a Ruthian cut, lands it center-groin.

CAT
YAAAAAAAAAAOOOW!

The kids all stop, stunned. Oh no! THEY'VE SEEN THE CAT!

But Conrad thinks quickly. Only one thing in the world could make these kids forget what they've just seen...

CONRAD/SALLY
Candy!

KIDS

Candy?

Conrad and Sally reach into the real piñata and throw out handfuls of candy.

Every kid at the party forgets about the Cat in a mad dive for candy.

While the kids are distracted, the Cat grabs a baseball bat and is about to brain the blindfolded Schweitzer kid. But Conrad and Sally run up and haul him out of there.

Beat. Sally runs back into frame. Kicks the Schweitzer kid in the back.

SALLY

Thanks for inviting me, Dumb-ass!

CUT TO:

BACK AT THE HOUSE

The phone RINGS. And RINGS. WIDEN to see that Mrs. Kwan sleeps right next to it. Finally she's startled by it. Half asleep she fumbles for the phone.

MRS. KWAN

(half asleep, into phone)
I'd love to buy some.

MOM

Hello Mrs. Kwan, It's Joan Walden.

INTERCUT WITH: MOM'S OFFICE.

MOM (CONT'D)

(on phone)

I hate to bother you, but I just got a call that Sally's ballet class got moved to this afternoon, and I have to show a house. Do you think you could take her?

MRS. KWAN

Of course.

MOM

Fantastic, thank you.

Mom hangs up the phone, notices Conrad's GAMEBOY still in her purse. She checks her watch, picks up the Gameboy, turns it on.

BACK IN THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Kwan walks over to Thing Two (The "Sally" Thing).

MRS. KWAN

Sally we're going to dance class.

THING ONE

Mappa neppa dance class!

MRS. KWAN

That's right, dance class.

She adjusts her thick glasses as she stands oblivious in the middle of the messy living room.

MRS. KWAN (CONT'D)

Now where are my keys?

As she turns away to look, Thing One does an acrobatic flip over her, springs off a floor lamp, and lands on the top of a BOOKCASE.

He finds the keys on top of the book case and wings them behind his back to Thing Two, who catches them in his mouth drops them into his outstretched hand puts them right in front of Mrs. Kwan's face.

MRS. KWAN (CONT'D)

I found them.

She pats Thing Two's strange head.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Mrs. Kwan VERY SLOWLY makes her way down the walk with the Things excitedly jabbering around her. They circle like excited puppies and do crazy acrobatic CARTWHEELS and FLIPS over her. She doesn't even notice as she plods to the car.

Finally the impatient Things lift her up by the elbows and MOVE her towards the car. Her legs still slowly march even though her feet don't touch the ground.

MRS. KWAN

(key in the lock)

Here we are.

The Things hop into the back seat of Mrs. Kwan's car.

THING ONE/THING TWO

Dance class! Dance class!

FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE - THROUGH THE WINDOW

We see Mrs. Kwan back up over part of the lawn and drive away with the Things. The house is now empty, but we hear a RATTLE.

We PAN OVER to find the source -- it's the unlocked CRATE. The lid is rattling. It rocks and wobbles and finally falls over.

When it does the lid OPENS, and IRIDESCENT MIST starts to bubble out of the crate...

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Nevins sniffs a fire hydrant.

ACROSS THE STREET -- A red and white periscope pokes out of a hedge. In the lens we see two eyes blinking.

BEHIND THE HEDGE: the kids watch as The Cat uses his hat like a giant periscope.

CAT

Flea bitten cur, 3 o'clock.

CAT PERISCOPE POV - Nevins gives a final sniff and lifts his leg.

CAT (CONT'D)

(re: Nevins peeing)

Savage beast.

SALLY

I can't believe no one invited me to that party.

CAT

Hey, they did you a favor. You would have hated it: all those people who don't do exactly what you say eating cake, laughing their heads off and having a great time? You don't need that.

Sally looks concerned.

SALLY

I guess not...

CAT

You're a lone wolf. Live alone, die alone. Gimme five-- better yet, give yourself five.

CONRAD

Hey, can we get the dog please?

They peer out of the hedge just in time to see... A YELLOW TRANS-AM pull up next to Nevins.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Oh no...

Kulchak gets out of his car.

KULCHAK

Well well, looks like somebody lost the beloved family dog. Mom is going to be pretty upset. Bon voyage Private Conrad.

Kulchak stuffs a GROWLING Nevins into his car.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Get in there you mutt.

He drives off. The kids watch, dismayed.

CONRAD

I'm dead. Military school here I come.

SALLY

(starts to cry)

Where's he going with Nevins? What's he going to do to him?

FISH

Be strong Sally.

(starts to wail)

Oh, what's the use? All is lost! Whatever are we to do?

CAT

Why don't we take my car?

CONRAD

You have a car?

CAT

(winks)

Imagine that.

The Cat takes out a garage door opener, presses the button and...

The kids turn to see a free-standing one car GARAGE. Was that there before? And inside the garage is:

THE CAT'S CAR

A super cool space-age bullet car, gleaming with high-tech gadgetry.

CONRAD

Wow! That is so cool!

CAT

That's just the dust cover. Here she is!

The Cat tugs at the car and we see that it was just an elaborately decorated tarp over....

THE CAT'S REAL CAR

A rickety Seussian three-wheeled jalopy that looks like a junkyard coughed it up.

CAT (cont'd)
(proudly)
The Super Luxurious Omnidirectional
Whatchamajigger. Or S.L.O.W. for short.

SALLY
S.L.O.W.?

CAT
It's a lot better than the last name I
had: the Super Hydraulic Instantaneous
Transporter.

CONRAD
You mean S.H.--

CAT
Quick! To the S.L.O.W.!

The kids jump in. A giant seat belt straps them both in.

CAT (cont'd)
Buckle up kids. We're on a mission to get
that dog, and we will not rest until we
find it and destroy it!

CONRAD
Rescue it.

CAT
Rescue it. Right.

The Cat slaps the Fish's bowl on the roof of the car like
a police siren -- which is exactly what the Fish's
SCREAMS sound like as they drive away.

EXT. STREET - KULCHAK'S CAR

He drives along, Nevins keeps growling at him.

And a few blocks behind them...

S.L.O.W. chugs along. The Cat wears old fashioned aviator
goggles and a red and white scarf. His hat sticks out of
the sun roof.

CAT

There they are. No one can outrun
S.L.O.W.!

KULCHAK'S CAR

goes through a yellow light. The light turns red as
S.L.O.W. approaches the intersection.

FISH

Red light. Red light!

CAT

Not for long.

The Cat presses a button on the dash and what looks like
a large SQUIRT GUN pops out of the hood. The big squirt
gun shoots the light with green ink, painting the red
light GREEN. The kids cheer.

FISH

But you didn't spray the other way red.

CAT

Why would I do that? --- AIIIIIIIGGHHH!

We now see why you might want to do that. The Cat races
through his "green" light, but the cars going the other
way still have the real green.

S.L.O.W. spins and swerves through the busy intersection.
Everyone SCREAMS. But miraculously, they emerge
unscathed.

FISH

You're going to get us all killed! Do you
even have a driver's license?

CAT

Of course.

The Cat shows them his license.

CLOSE UP: A genuine Florida Driver's License. It reads:
"Last Name: Ray. First Name: Cousin. Address: Tampa."

In the photo the Cat has an AFRO and a moustache.

FISH

(re:license)

This license has expired. I refuse to let
you drive!

CAT

Alright, you win. Conrad, you drive.

CONRAD

What? Are you serious?

CAT

I don't know...A little voice inside of me is saying "This is a bad idea." But I can barely hear it because a louder inner voice is screaming "Let the twelve year old drive!"

The Cat slides the steering wheel along the dash to Conrad's side. Conrad tries to drive, but gears GRIND, the car herks and jerks all over the road.

CONRAD

Whoah, how am I supposed to do this?

CAT

Where's your imagination? Haven't you ever pretended you're a race car driver?

Conrad looks confused.

CAT (CONT'D)

Make the noise. It helps.

(makes a "car noise")

Vrrrrrrrr!!!!

CONRAD

(shrugs)

Vrrrrr...

The car accelerates. The stick shift on the car moves by itself into a higher gear!

CAT

See, there you go. Now punch it!

Conrad makes higher and higher pitched REV SOUNDS, as if he's "going up through the gears". The stick shift works it's way from second up to EIGHTH GEAR.

The car does an amazing spinning 360 move and hauls ass down the street.

CONRAD

This is awesome!

CAT

You're doing great! Really!

The Cat touches his hat, it becomes a RACING HELMET, he fastens NINE EXTRA SEATBELTS.

FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD

Conrad comes up behind a slow woman driver. Conrad leans on the horn.

CONRAD
Move it Grandma!

He guns it and blows by her.

REVEAL: the slow woman driver is MOM!

MOM
(yells after them)
Your Mom did a great job raising you, you jag-off.

INT. KULCHAK'S CAR

He drives along having a pretend conversation with Mom.

KULCHAK
Please Joan it was nothing. I'm just glad I found the dog before something horrible happened. Hero? I guess you could call me that, as long as I get my reward...

NEVINS'S POV (DOG-VISION): Kulchak morphs into the shape of a fire-hydrant.

Nevins smiles, moves toward Kulchak.

FROM OUTSIDE THE CAR we hear:

KULCHAK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Aiiigh!! What are you doing? Not on me!!!

BACK WITH S.L.O.W. - IN HOT PURSUIT

Sally's feeling left out, and pokes at Conrad.

SALLY
I want to play. I want to drive too.

CONRAD
Ohh sorry, but I checked your palm pilot. It's not on your schedule.

SALLY
(throwing a fit)
I want to drive!

CAT
Why not? You can both drive.

The Cat presses a button and another steering wheel pops up in front of Sally.

SALLY

Yeah!

(makes engine noise)

Vrrrrr!!!

Now they're both steering and making the engine noise. The car fishtails as Conrad and Sally each control a wheel.

CONRAD

Two people can't drive at the same time!

CAT

I guess you're right. We should all drive.

The Cat pulls out another steering wheel and sticks it into the dash board. Even the Fish has a little steering wheel, makes a bubbling engine noise.

Now everyone is driving! Each wheel is going in its own direction and the car crazily veers from side to side and spins out of control down a...

FISH

One way street!

CAT

No worries.

The Cat sprays the "Do Not Enter" sign with the green paint.

FISH

That doesn't do anything!

He's right. HONK! HONK! S.L.O.W. is heading right for an oncoming truck.

SALLY

Truck!

CONRAD

Truck!

CAT

A Rhode Island license plate! You never see those!

They all turn their wheels hard in different directions causing the car to spin and fly sideways into...

AN ALLEY- CONTINUOUS

The car bounces off the wall and crashes into a pile of boxes. The Cat's hat inflates like an AIRBAG to soften the impact.

S.L.O.W. is now a bent and twisted wreck. The kids emerge from the car, sputtering and dirty but loving it.

CONRAD

That was sweet!

The fish rolls out of the wreckage, looking quite pale.

FISH

I think I wet my jar.

CONRAD

Hey Cat, can I drive again later?

The Cat looks at Conrad and GASPS.

CAT

Oh my God Conrad! What happened to you?

CONRAD

What?

CAT

Your head. In the crash you must have-- don't touch it!

Conrad is starting to freak out. Although as we can see there is clearly nothing wrong with his head. The Cat and Sally trade looks -- they're just MESSING WITH HIM.

CONRAD

(really panicking now)

What is it? Tell me! What's wrong with my head?

SALLY

We've got to get you to a hospital.

CAT

Why, so he can live the rest of his life like that? Let him go out with dignity.

Conrad is a blubbering mess.

CONRAD

Help me! I don't want to die! I never kissed a girl! I never even held hands!

He looks up to see the Cat and Sally LAUGHING their heads off.

CAT

There's nothing wrong with you. Except that thing about holding hands. That was a little disturbing.

Conrad realizes he's been had, and he's not happy.

CONRAD

That's not funny! You shouldn't make jokes about stuff like that! Tell them fish!

FISH

(laughing)

They played you like a harpsichord.

Conrad fumes.

CAT

Hey, relax. What was it you said?
"Just a harmless prank."

He pats him on the head, walks away. Conrad calls after.

CONRAD

For the record, you didn't teach me anything. This was not a learning experience! I didn't learn a thing! I never do!

CAT

Maybe that's why you haven't kissed a girl. Now let's go find that unpleasant pet of yours.

(starts to go, then stops)

Almost forgot to lock the car.

The Cat pulls out a club. He surveys the crumpled pile of metal that was the car, trying to find a place for it. Finally, he just sticks it in the middle of the pile.

CAT (cont'd)

You can't be too safe.

The Cat hustles down the alley to catch up to the kids when suddenly: a GUY with a CLIPBOARD and a HEADSET sticks his head out of a door.

GUY

What are you doing back here? Get in here!

The guy yanks the Cat inside, the door slams shut.

CONRAD

That guy grabbed the Cat! Who was that?
What's going on in there?

SMASH CUT TO:

A large banner reads: "14th Annual International Cat Show
- Today!"

Pan down to reveal we are...

INT. EVENTS CENTER - THE CAT SHOW

Conrad and Sally search the rows of creepy cat people
primping and preparing their creepy cats for the show.

The Fish pops out of the back pack, shudders at all the
cats.

FISH

Children, I really have to thank you for
bringing my worst nightmare to life.

CONRAD

Shut up, Fish.

SALLY

He's got to be in here somewhere...

The kids turn to go. They don't notice that the Fish has
hopped his jar out of Conrad's backpack.

FISH

(pouty)

"Shut up Fish?" They'd never tell a puppy
to shut up. Or a bunny. That's it. This
ends now!

He rocks the jar on to its side and starts running on the
inside of the jar like a hamster on a wheel.

He rolls his jar past several cats, who hiss and paw at
him.

FISH (CONT'D)

Eat me! (beat) That's just a figure of
speech.

The Fish rolls away.

CONRAD AND SALLY - SEARCH A ROW OF CATS

Each cat has a sign in front with the Cat's name on it:
"Her Lady Leonora Lulu Lemondrop", "Dr. Snowpuff", "Fanny
Frisky Whiskers, esquire" and "General Calico Kaboodle".

And there, on one of the stands is THE CAT, doing his best to sit on the perch like a real kitty: licking his paw and straightening his whiskers, as he waits for the judges who are a few cats down.

CONRAD

What are you doing Cat? We don't have time for this.

CAT

I think I can take this field. Hey for the talent competition, should I play with a ball of yarn or wow them with some improv?

The Cat starts doing VOCAL EXERCISES from a bad acting class. But the kids quickly shut the Cat up as a JUDGE approaches.

JUDGE

Very interesting. What breed do we have here?

CONRAD

It's a, uh, Cattus Hattus.

JUDGE

(puzzled)

Cattus Hattus?

SALLY

You have heard of a Cattus Hattus before, haven't you?

JUDGE

(defensive)

Of course I've heard of it. After all, I am a licensed Cat Show Judge, as well as a girls' high-school volleyball referee. I've just never seen one...this size.

Conrad and Sally exchange a look: he's buying it.

JUDGE (cont'd)

And she doesn't complain about wearing the hat?

CAT

She?!

Conrad grabs the Cat around the neck, MUFFLES him, pretending the scratch his ears.

CONRAD

She loves the hat.

The judge inspects the Cat, pulls his fur, looks at his teeth, then works around to the back.

JUDGE

Let's check out those scent glands.

CAT

(whispers to Conrad)

Where's he going? I lost him. Is he --

(a surprised grimace)

Whoa Nellie! There he is. I got him.

Arrghhh...

Conrad has to muzzle the Cat again.

CONRAD

Good girl, nice kitty.

The Judge comes back around to the front.

JUDGE

Impressive. I've never seen a Cat quite like this before. We'll let you know.

The Judge moves on. The kids breath a sigh of relief.

CAT

I like my chances at the title. I think I had real rapport with the judge.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. EVENT CENTER - SIDE DOOR - MINUTES LATER

Conrad and Sally drag the Cat out of a side door kicking and screaming. He wears a "fifth place" ribbon.

CAT

Fifth prize? Fifth? And they give the trophy to some sickly skinny Siamese with big fake whiskers who duct tapes her teats together! How's a full figured Cat supposed to keep a healthy body image in this climate?

CONRAD

Come on.

CAT

The whole thing was rigged. They skipped over my best event: the swim suit competition!

The Cat pulls his hat down around him like a curtain, forming a CHANGING STATION.

Several lacy female undergarments and some spiked leather chaps are slung over the top as he changes.

He tugs at the bottom of the curtain and it SNAPS up becoming a hat again, REVEALING: The Cat is now wearing a tiny tight red-and-white striped SPEEDO BATHING SUIT.

CAT (cont'd)

Surfs up!

The kids are grossed out by the tiny suit.

CONRAD

Nice pickle suit.

CAT

I'll have you know this is very stylish in Europe! Although it is a little tight. Can you tell I've been fixed?

Conrad and Sally make a face, head off. The Cat struggles to walk in his tight bathing suit.

CAT (CONT'D)

(re:Speedo)

Suck it in, Cat. Suck it in. Can't feel...my legs.

He falls down out of frame. We hear a POP and see his bathing suit shoot away like a popped balloon.

CAT (O.C.) (cont'd)

Oh yeahhh.....

Conrad and Sally return, look down..

CONRAD

Cat, stop goofing around! Get up and help us look for stupid Kulchak and his stupid...

The sun glints off of something. Conrad looks up. Parked right across the street is Kulchak'S YELLOW TRANS AM!

CONRAD (CONT'D)

...Car.

CAT (O.C.)

Could someone get my Speedo out of that tree?

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - THE FISH

Rolls in his jar. He stops when he spots...

A POLICE OFFICER across a busy street.

FISH

This is for their own good. They'll thank me later. Maybe not today, or tomorrow, or next week...maybe after college.

He takes a deep breath, starts rocking back and forth to time the traffic going by.

FISH (cont'd)

Steady. Steady now. And...
(shrieks like a girl)
Eeeeeeeeee!

He rolls through several lanes of traffic. He has to keep running and stopping and backing up to avoid the cars, screaming all the way.

A huge truck bears down on him! But just misses him by inches.

Finally, he reaches the curb. He hops his jar up onto a wooden crate, tries to get the cop's attention.

FISH (cont'd)

Constable! Gather your men! The laws of this town are under assault! Your culprit is a large cat!

Just then a man wearing a walkman grabs the crate the fish is on.

FISH (cont'd)

What are you doing? Help! I'm being fishnapped!

The crate gets loaded into a truck.

FISH (O.S.) (cont'd)

I hope I'm going somewhere good.

The truck doors shut and the truck drives off. On the back in large letters are the words "FRESH FISH".

CUT TO:

A CURTAIN RISING ON:

A DANCE CLASS stage. A recital of *Swan Lake* is in progress.

Six little girls in tutus and swan costumes prance out on stage. Well, five little girls and Thing Two, in his Sally wig and tutu.

Then Thing One enters dressed as the Prince. He bows to each of the swans. He then unleashes a SHRIEK and tackles Thing Two.

The Things fight each other, wrestling all over the stage. The little girls in Swan costumes scatter crying.

Thing One grabs Thing Two, spins him around gracefully before smashing him into the scenery backdrop. They climb up the curtains and fight on the ceiling

Oddly, this entire melee is in perfect time with the SWAN LAKE THEME giving it the feel of an ultra-violent ballet.

In the midst of the chaos, as the Things spin their heads around Exorcist-style, the ballet teacher watches with a far away look in her eye.

BALLET INSTRUCTOR

When I was young I could dance like that.

EXT. THE DANCE STUDIO

The doors fly open as Thing One rockets out of the dance studio. Then CRASH! Thing Two smashes through a window.

They run over to where MRS. KWAN is SLEEPING IN HER CAR. They jump into the car, bounce around the inside of it then hop out the window and RUN OFF DOWN THE STREET, leaving their dance costumes in the backseat.

Mrs. Kwan wakes up, looks back and sees the costumes, assumes it's the kids.

MRS. KWAN

There you are children. Who wants ice cream?

Mrs. Kwan starts the car and drives off.

EXT. A SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Mom sits on the steps of a suburban home next to a "for sale" sign. She's now totally consumed by the game boy.

While she's engrossed, the THINGS run through the neighborhood behind her.

MOM

(re:videogame)

No! Don't run into the wall!

The Things looks at each other.

THING ONE

Meppa "don't run into wall".

THING TWO

Appa "run into wall".

The Things shrug, charge headfirst into a wall of the house behind Mom, making HUGE THUD NOISES.

MOM

Wow, this game has great sound...

Mom continues playing the gameboy.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

A shopping area. The kids and the Cat stand near Kulchak's car. Nevins is not inside.

CONRAD

Great, where did Kulchak go?

SALLY

He's not in the coffee place.

CAT

He's not in the other coffee place.

CONRAD

(points)

There he is!

They see Kulchak (holding Nevins) enter...

"MY HAIR LADY" a HAIR SALON.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

What is he doing in a ladies' hair salon?

They creep up to the window, peer into the SALON.

Inside, Kulchak walks up to FLORIAN, a snippety euro STYLIST.

KULCHAK

I'm here, where's the patient? Did you elevate her feet and put her on fluids like I told you?

Florian rolls his eyes points to an older lady (MRS. HALPERN) who sits in a chair.

FLORIAN

Yeah, we got her a foot stool and a Tab.
Why do you talk like that?

Kulchak crosses to Mrs. Halpern's chair

KULCHAK

Alright Mrs. Halpern, I know we've got
you down for a wash and a perm, but I've
got radical idea for you: bangs. We're
going to have you looking your best,
stat!

Kulchak takes off his coat to reveal scrubs. The EXACT
SAME SCRUBS that Florian the stylist is wearing.

ANGLE: Conrad and Sally. Conrad grins a giant grin.

CONRAD

He's not a doctor... He's a hair dresser!

SALLY

No wonder he had such a hard time in
military school.

CONRAD

This could not get any better.

BACK WITH: Kulchak and Florian. Kulchak is tying Nevins
to a chair.

FLORIAN

You were ten minutes late again, wacko.

KULCHAK

(bristles)

Hey. What does that say?

Kulchak points to a diploma on the wall.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Sanford Kulchak: Doctor of Cosmetology
and bikini waxing."

CONRAD

(grins even bigger)

I was wrong, it got better!

KULCHAK

(to Florian)

I demand to be treated with the
appropriate level of respect.

FLORIAN

You're right. I'm sorry. You were late
again Doctor Wacko.

KULCHAK

(takes this as a victory)
Thank you!

FLORIAN

Whatever. I'm clocking out.

Florian leaves. Kulchak finishes tying Nevins up, heads over to Mrs. Halpern.

OUTSIDE - THE CAT AND THE KIDS

CONRAD

How do we get Nevins out of there?

CAT

Let's see...

The Cat opens a file-drawer in his hat, flips through various files.

CAT (CONT'D)

(flipping through files)

"Monkey out of autoparts store", no help.

"Donkey out of Greek restaurant", nope.

"Donkey into Greek restaurant", nah.

(shuts file drawer)

Sorry kids, my files are a mess. We'll go to plan B.

The Cat peels a RED STRIPE off his hat, as if the hat were a large tape dispenser.

He sticks the stripe onto the curb next to Kulchak's car.

CAT (CONT'D)

Looks like someone parked in a red zone.

INT. SALON - CONTINUOUS

Kulchak places cucumbers over Mrs. Halpern's eyes.

KULCHAK

Yeah, so I'm inclining about two-fifty these days, it's really blasting my pecs. You work out?

(Sees something)

Hey!

THROUGH THE WINDOW: We see a tow-truck driver winching up Kulchak's Trans-Am.

EXT. SALON - CONTINUOUS

Kulchak comes flying out the door, runs down the street after the tow-truck which drives away.

KULCHAK

Hey, that's my ride!

The Cat and the kids watch him go, slip into...

INT. SALON - CONTINUOUS

They head past Mrs. Halpern, who reclines in her stylist's chair with cucumber slices over her eyes.

They head toward Nevins. who sees them, gets excited. He's about to bark and blow the gig but Conrad gives him the "stealth mode" sign and he assumes the position - paws over mouth.

They hug Nevins, who licks their faces. They untie him, start sneaking toward the door when...

MRS. HALPERN

So, Doctor Kulchak what are you going to do to my hair today?

The Cat and kids look at each other. Uh-Oh.

MRS. HALPERN (CONT'D)

Doctor Kulchak?

She starts to sit up, lift the cucumbers from her eyes. She's about to see the Cat!!! But the Cat stops her.

CAT

(imitating Kulchak)

Uh, yeah. Right here little lady amigo. I was just doing some pull-ups on the door jam. Working my glutes, my chutes, my noots...

MRS. HALPERN

Maybe I do need a whole new look. What do you think?

CAT

I dig it. And I'm just the Cat to give it to you.

The cat starts grabbing various shampoo bottles in a flurry, pouring liquids on Mrs. Halpern's head.

CAT (CONT'D)

Here we go. Emulsifier, humectant, cocoa-papaya-jojoba-ginger-cranberry... sauce.

It looks like the Cat has EIGHT ARMS, grabbing bottles and working her hair. With his tail he gestures to the kids: more bottles! They start tossing him different bottles of stuff as the Cat continues massaging the GIANT BALL OF GOOP on Mrs. Halpern's head.

CAT (CONT'D)

You have a wonderful coat of hair. No fleas.

The Cat pours a bottle labelled "tile cleaner" onto Mrs. Halpern's head, and another one labelled "bleach".

MRS. HALPERN

That tingles.

CAT

That's the nutrients. Now we're going to let this sit for a little while.

ANGLE: Kulchak walks back into the salon!!!

KULCHAK

(muttering)

Had to bribe that guy fifty bucks. I swear that curb wasn't red when I parked there.

(Spots something)

What the--

The Cat and kids are nowhere to be seen, but Mrs. Halpern sits in her chair. Her hair is piled high with goop, and it's SMOKING.

Suddenly, her hair BURSTS INTO FLAMES, falls off in clumps. Mrs. Halpern shrieks.

MRS. HALPERN

My hair! Kulchak, what have you done to me!?

KULCHAK

Nothing! I didn't do that. Who...

He hears something, turns to see Conrad and Sally hightailing it out the door, along with what appears to be a big guy in a red and white striped hat.

CONRAD

See you around Doctor Franken-perm!

KULCHAK

Conrad! Come back here!!!

Kulchak chases them out of the salon. Mrs. Halpern picks up some clumps of her hair, tries to put them back on her head.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

The Cat and kids run down an alley carrying Nevins. Kulchak chases after them.

The Cat and kids duck behind a VIDEO STORE. Kulchak goes flying past, oblivious.

CONRAD

He missed us. Let's go!

The Cat peers in the back window of the VIDEO STORE.

CAT

Look, that guy's renting a videotape! Doesn't he know DVD is the wave of the future? Better picture, and they come with all those cool extra features like commentary from people who worked on the film.

The screen NARROWS. And the right side now features the Cat sitting in a chair, wearing a robe and cool shades. That's right, he's DOING THE DVD COMMENTARY.

CAT (cont'd)

(actory)

This was a very tough scene for me as an actor. I didn't just have to "act", I had to "re-act". Plus I had to do all of my own running. It didn't help by the way that both the children were primadonnas who would never come out of their trailers--

FROM THE REAL MOVIE. Conrad looks over and yells at "Actor Cat"

CONRAD

Cat! We've got to go! Get back here!

CAT

(re: Conrad)

You see? The whole film it was like this. Frankly I don't know how I got through it.

The Cat gets out of the chair. He walks out of that frame and back in to the movie which now WIDENS back to FULL SCREEN just as Kulchak comes back down the alley, sees them.

KULCHAK

I see you maggots! You kids messed with the wrong hair stylist-- I mean Doctor!

CONRAD

Run!

They sprint off down the alley.

FURTHER DOWN THE ALLEY

The Cat and kids come around the corner - the alley dead ends. They have nowhere to run.

SALLY

We're trapped!

Conrad tries a door on the side of a dingy abandoned warehouse. It opens!

CONRAD

In here!

They run inside just as Kulchak comes around the corner. He heads inside after them and as he enters we realize we are in a ...

INT. RAVE - CONTINUOUS

Pulsing lights, thumping house music, glowsticks all over the place.

Kulchak looks around, grabs a guy wearing a glow-in-the-dark necklace, sucks on a glowing pacifier.

KULCHAK

(yells over the music)

Did you see two stupid kids and a big hairy guy wearing a red and white striped-- there he is!

Kulchak spots the Cat's hat in the crowd.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

You're mine!

He pushes past the raver, takes a running leap and clobbers... a shocked RAVER wearing a Cat hat. It's not the Cat!

RAVER

Dude, you must chill!

Kulchak looks around and realizes that there must be forty people on the dance floor -- ALL WEARING CAT HATS.

Kulchak's POV: ACROSS THE DANCEFLOOR The kids and the Cat run out, Kulchak sees the Cat's tail.

KULCHAK

Who is that guy?

Kulchak goes to follow, but is suddenly restrained by a bunch of ravers, who caress him lovingly.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Let me go you freaks!

(yells after kids)

No more Doctor nice guy! My prescription: pain!

CUT TO:

THE FISH - COMING TO

Groggy, he looks around, tries to get his bearings. He sees a fish next to him.

FISH

Hey buddy, where are we?

(pokes him)

Buddy?

The fish flops over. His "buddy" is a DEAD MACKEREL!

FISH (cont'd)

(realizes)

Oh my God!

PULL OUT to REVEAL: The fish is behind the counter at...

FISH (cont'd)

A sushi restaurant!

A sign says "One Fish, Two Fish Sushi." And below it, a smaller sign: "Today's specials: Red fish, Blue fish."

FISH (cont'd)

Aw fishsticks! I didn't say that.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

The Cat and kids run down the alley, duck into a tunnel to catch their breath.

INT. TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

CONRAD
I think we lost him.

SALLY
Welcome back Nevins! We missed you.

Conrad and Sally hug Nevins.

CAT
Uch, that's disgusting. He's an animal.
Who knows where he's been...

SALLY
(pulls out her palm pilot)
Okay, if we can get home in twenty minutes that leaves us an hour to clean the house, five minutes to empty the dishwasher, and four minutes and eighteen seconds of unstructured play time before Mom gets home.

CONRAD
Alright. I think it's this way.

They head down the tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL - A MINUTE LATER

The Cat and kids emerge from the end of a tunnel into daylight.

CONRAD
Alright, so far so good. Keep your eyes open Cat, we don't want anyone seeing you.

Then they look up to see...

A CROWD OF A THOUSAND PEOPLE staring down at them. They are standing in the middle of a FOOTBALL FIELD!

CAT
(re: crowd)
I think a couple of these people may have spotted me.

SALLY
What do we do? Cat say something, anything.

CAT
(Beat. Then quietly)
Meow...

Suddenly the crowd responds in unison.

CROWD
MEOW! GO CATS GO!

What's going on? The kids scan the crowd. Everyone is wearing red and white cat sports paraphernalia (whiskers, sweatshirts, etc...) for the home team "The Wild Cats". Even the scoreboard says "Welcome to Cat Country!"

CONRAD
(can't believe it)
They think you're the mascot.

CAT
Really?
(pumps fist)
Meow!

CROWD
MEOW!

The Cat is really loving this.

CAT
MEEEEEEEEEOOOOOOOOW!

The crowd ROARS with approval.

CONRAD
Okay, we fooled them. Now let's blow out of here.

CAT
What? We can't just leave without giving these people a show. They paid good money.

SALLY
Games are free with school I.D.

CAT
Nevertheless.
(points to the marching band)
Hit it fellas!

The marching band launches into *Stray Cat Strut*.

And just like that, the Cat launches into an impossibly elaborate Superbowl-style HALF TIME SHOW:

- A stage rises out of the field, explosions and smoke pots go off, a huge team of dancers emerges.

- A guy in a shitty cat suit stands off to the side smoking a cigarette. This is the REAL MASCOT.

MASCOT

Well, my life just got a little bit sadder.

- The crowd pulls cards from under their seats and holds them up. The side of the stadium now spells out "GO!" The crowd flips the cards to spell a giant "CATS!" They flip them again to reveal a giant picture of the Cat posing in his TINY BATHING SUIT. The Cat shrugs "How'd that get in there?"

-- The show is in full swing. The marching band now wears Cat hats and bow ties to go with their red and white stripped uniforms.

The Cat dances up to Sally, hands her some pom-poms.

CAT

This show needs some more cheerleaders.
Sally round up your friends.

SALLY

My friends?

The Cat points to the stands: Ginny, Denise, and Ellen sit watching the game.

Sally runs up to her friends.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Hey you guys, I need cheerleaeders.
(barking out orders)
You go get more pom-poms, and you two
hustle down to the field and await my
instructions.

GINNY

(bristle)
I don't think so.

Sally realize what she sounds like, tries a softer tack.

SALLY

You know what? I don't have to be in
charge. Why don't you be the head
cheerleader?

She gives the pom-poms to Ginny. The girls smile and join Sally, rushing back on to the field.

UNDER THE BLEACHERS

Kulchak looks around. He's the worse for wear from the chase -- scrubs dirty and torn, sweaty, a real mess.

He looks down the tunnel and sees the Cat from behind.

KULCHAK

Now I've got you!

He runs and tackles the Cat. Tears his head off. That's right, he's tackled the real mascot.

MASCOT

Help! Help!

The FOOTBALL TEAM sees Kulchak beating up the mascot.

FOOTBALL PLAYER

Hey! He's beating up the mascot!

The entire team tackles Kulchak.

CUT TO:

KULCHAK - WRAPPED IN ATHLETIC TAPE

Like a mummy as the football team stuffs him in a locker.

KULCHAK

This is just like military school.

Clank! The locker door shuts.

BACK ON THE FIELD

Sally and her cheerleader friends make an elaborate human pyramid, do a cheer:

SALLY & CHEERLEADERS

We're Cats, and we're here to say

We take Cat-naps
We make Cat-calls
Lick ourselves clean,
Hack up fur balls

The Cat and kids kick into the GRAND FINALE:

- Conrad wears a lion-tamer's outfit, holds a chair and cracks a whip as NEVINS runs around on a series of stools, jumping through flaming hoops.

- The song crescendos. The Cat does a split on the fifty yard line and FIREWORKS shoot out of his hat.

Everyone (the band, the crowds, the Cat) throws their hats into the air.

Sally and her friends celebrate. The crowd goes wild and gives a standing ovation. A guy with a rainbow wig holds up a card that says "Cat 3:16".

The Cat and the kids run off the field, high-fiving everyone as they exit.

EXT. STADIUM

The Cat and the kids walk out of the stadium, laughing.

CAT

Was that a good time or what? We fooled everyone, got the mutt back, plus we worked in an uptempo pop tune for the soundtrack.

SALLY

That was amazing!

CAT

See I knew once you got together with your friends you'd see that you can have fun even if you're not the boss.

SALLY

Yeah...

The Cat puts a fatherly hand on her shoulder, gets a warm, knowing look in his eye. SAPPY STRING MUSIC plays, signaling a LESSON is coming.

CAT

And didn't you also learn that being responsible is fine and dandy but there's more to life than a schedule?

SALLY

I guess...

CAT

And that making other people feel bad never makes you feel good; and that senior citizens are valuable members of our community; and that we're all astronauts on spaceship earth; that cats are waaaay smarter than dogs; that we should be kind and rewind; that we should take used oil to a neighborhood recycling center instead of pouring it down the storm drain?

SALLY

I didn't learn any of that.

CAT

What? You didn't?

The Cat pulls out a list, looks it over, disappointed.

CAT (CONT'D)

Well, then something went terribly wrong.
We may have to go back and do this whole
thing over.

CONRAD

Do what over? What are you talking about?

SALLY

(figuring it out)

Wait a second... My green jumper, now
this? You had this whole day planned from
the start, didn't you Cat?

CAT

Of course not. Nothing could be further
from the truth.

AN EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUY in coveralls taps the Cat on the
shoulder.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUY

Excuse me, Mr. "Theehat?"

CAT

It's "The Hat."

The Rental Guy produces some paperwork, hands it to the
Cat.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUY

Right. I just your need your signature
for all the equipment you rented for the
half-time show.

The kids give the Cat a look, busted.

CAT

(covering badly)

I've never seen this man before in my
life.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUY

(hands the Cat another paper)

Your receipt.

CAT

(reads bill, shocked)

Hey! This isn't the price we agreed on!
If I had known you were charging me
seventeen dollars a flashpot I would have
gone somewhere else!

The Rental Guy shrugs and leaves. The Cat smiles a guilty
smile.

CAT (CONT'D)

Alright, you got me. Maybe I had a little hand in a few of the things that happened today. But we had fun didn't we?

The kids nod, it was pretty fun.

CAT (CONT'D)

Now let's head back, clean up the house and your Mom will never be the wiser. If you thought S.L.O.W. was fun, wait until you see this...

The Cat pulls off his hat, knocks on it three times, reaches into his hat and... stops?

CAT (CONT'D)

Hey...

CONRAD

What's wrong?

CAT

(quiet surprise)

This...this is not my hat. I must have picked up the wrong one at the stadium.

Conrad looks inside the hat.

CONRAD

But it says "Made in the Philippines."

CAT

Yes. But unfortunately that is this Philippines.

SALLY

So?

CAT

So without the hat I'm just your garden variety six-foot tall talking cat.

CONRAD

You're totally powerless?

CAT

(shrugs)

I still know a few musical numbers.

SALLY

So we're not going to make it home in time. And Mom's going to see what we did to the house? We're going to be in so much trouble!

Sally starts to cry.

CONRAD

Oh, stop crying you baby.

SALLY

Shut up! Why did I have to get you for a brother? It's all your fault we're never getting home!

CAT

We can still get home. Maybe we could hitch a ride with that pretty lady.

The kids look over at an intersection and see a car stopped at a light. And driving the car is...

SALLY

Mom!

CAT

Hey, your Mom's a looker. If things don't work out with her and that Kulchak dude, what do you think about setting me up?

INT. MOM'S CAR

Mom waits at the light, talking on the cell phone

MOM

(into phone)

I waited at that house all day. If Mr. Sokolow calls, tell him I went home.

Mom hangs up. The light changes and she pulls away.

SALLY

What are we going to do?

CAT

I know! We could track down everyone who was at that game and search their hat closets one at a time until we find my hat.

SALLY

(sniffles)

We're never getting home.

Sally slumps onto the curb. But Conrad stands with a look of determination in his eye.

CONRAD

Yes we will. Look, I know we -- I -- have made some mistakes. But we got Nevins back, right? We're good responsible kids, damn it.

SALLY

We're not supposed to swear.

CONRAD

Quiet, I'm going somewhere with this. If we don't succeed, then everything that liar Kulchak says about me will be true. I'm not going to disappoint Mom. It can't end this way. It just can't.

CAT

But what can we do Gorman?

CONRAD

I don't know, something. Anything. Things have to work out, don't they? Come on things, work out.

Just then we hear a car horn blasting "La Cucaracha."

A YELLOW TRANS AM with a license plate that reads "DOCTOR K". But the car's been tricked out: oversized tires, flame decals on the side. The car raises and lowers on hydraulics as it's driven up by... THE THINGS!

Conrad's ecstatic, he's somehow summoned them!

The Things hop out wearing cool-looking shades.

THING ONE

Midda peppa meppadap?

CAT

What? No. No one called you. Why would anyone do that? Now we don't have time for your amateurish shenanigans, we've got a bit of a crisis on our hands. So get back in that fast car which can carry people great distances in a short amount of time and get out of here.

CONRAD

No wait! Now at least we've got a chance. Let's go!

Conrad hops in the driver's seat. Sally and the Cat hop in. They peel out. Now it really is a race home.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The crate still lies open and wavy tendrils of SEUSSIAN MATTER are radiating from it.

They swirl around a floor lamp and starts to transform it, curving and bending it into a living LAMP-PLANT -- a crazy Venus flytrap with glowing lights for eyes.

The FRONT DOOR OPENS, and in comes Mrs. Kwan.

MRS. KWAN
We're home children.

Oblivious, Mrs. Kwan shuffles toward the couch, taking off her sweater. The FLOOR LAMP reaches out and GRABS FOR HER, but only gets HER SWEATER.

MRS. KWAN (CONT'D)
Thank you Conrad. You're such a gentleman.

Mrs. Kwan gets to the couch, settles in and is instantly snoring again. More and more of the Seussian matter flows from the crate.

EXT. STREET - THE TRANS AM

Conrad screeches around a corner. The Things have their heads out the window like dogs.

The Cat sits in the passenger seat, holding the imposter hat and moping.

CAT
I'm going to miss that hat...

They speed towards a RED LIGHT.

CONRAD
Cat, snap out of it. Where's that squirt gun with the green paint?

CAT
(lost in memories)
It was all the hat. I was just a Cat. A Cat who loved his hat.

CONRAD
Fine, we're going to have to do it on our own.

Conrad blazes through the intersection using some of his NIFTY DRIVING MOVES to avoid an accident.

SALLY
Nice job!

CAT
(sniffing)
The hat would have loved that. I hope he's happy...wherever he is.

Conrad looks over and sees: A block away, Mom drives on a parallel street. They've caught up to her.

CONRAD

Hey Things, don't do anything to slow down my Mom.

The Things look at each other, smile excitedly, and JUMP OUT of the moving car, nail incredible dismounts and run off.

CUT TO:

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT

The SUSHI CHEF is busily preparing sushi.

ANGLE: at the far end of the counter a PIECE OF EEL is slowly creeping away. And UNDERNEATH is the Fish, grunting with the exertion.

FISH

Almost there...

(sniffs the eel)

Yuck. I hope this isn't what I smell like.

The Fish crawls out from under the eel. He's almost free when...

FEMALE CUSTOMER

Hmmmm....I want some of that.

The Fish realizes to his horror that she is pointing right at him!

FISH

Me? Oh dear God!

The SUSHI CHEF grabs the Fish, and pulls out a huge knife.

SUSHI CHEF

Handroll? Or cut roll? Or we can take slice from live fish. Freshest sushi there is!

The chef holds the Fish up to eye level.

FISH

How do you sleep at night?

The surprised chef drops him. The customer screams. Chaos ensues as the Fish makes his escape jumping from water glass to water glass.

FISH (cont'd)

Excuse me, pardon me, coming through,
sparkling water tickles, ooh hot soup!
Coming through--

The Fish gets to a window. It's two stories down, but the
Sushi Chef is coming for him, knife in hand.

FISH (CONT'D)

(resigned to death)
Goodbye cruel world. Diver Dan, I'll miss
you most of all...

The Fish jumps his water glass out of the window.

FISH (cont'd)

I'm a bird. I'm a beautiful bird!

He bounces off an awning and flies right through the
sunroof of...

THE TRANS AM

As it drives by! He lands right in CONRAD'S BACKPACK.

The Fish pops his head out.

FISH (cont'd)

Boy, am I glad to see you guys! And from
now on I'll be good, I promise. No
complaining, no whining -- you are going
a little fast -- I didn't say that. I
love you guys. Come on, group hug.

CONRAD

Oh sure, now you speak up. Some help
you've been the last few hours.

They had no idea he was ever gone.

CUT TO:

MOM - DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD

When she hears a police SIREN. A motorcycle cop is
behind her. She curses silently and pulls over to the
side of the road.

The cop slowly walks up to the car.

MOM

I'm sorry officer, was I speeding?

REVEAL: the police officer is THING ONE dressed like a
motorcycle cop with police helmet and shades. Behind the
car, Thing Two sits on the motorcycle jabbering into the
radio.

THING ONE
(to Mom, very serious)
Mekka dekka license appa registration.

Mom sighs, reaches into the glove compartment for her registration. As she's looking down...

Conrad, Sally and the Cat speed by in Kulchak's Trans-Am, but Mom doesn't see them.

MOM
I guess I was in a hurry to get home. I'm throwing a big party tonight.

Thing One just takes her registration, sniffs it, and puts it in his mouth.

CUT TO:

THE CAT AND KIDS - RACING HOME

The Trans Am speeds through the neighborhood.

CONRAD
Almost home...

FROM BEHIND A HEDGE

Andy and Spencer watch the Trans Am approach.

ANDY
Here comes Kulchak.

Spencer holds up a HUGE ROTTEN TOMATO.

SPENCER
Let's get him.

Spencer lobbs the tomato at the oncoming Trans Am and...

SPLAT!!! Tomato splatters on the windshield, completely obscuring Conrad's view.

CONRAD
I can't see!

Conrad swerves wildly, losing control.

SALLY
This is poetic justice.

CAT
(wistful)
The hat loved poetic justice.

The car PLOWS up onto the sidewalk, right into...

CRAZY OLD MAN LUDWIG'S YARD

The Car comes to a stop in the middle of his prize tulips.

INT. LUDWIG'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ludwig is vacuuming and watching TV, oblivious.

We hear SOAP OPERA MUSIC coming from the TV.

LUDWIG

(to TV)

Aw for the love of Mike, Ramón, don't be such a pantywaist! Just admit you love that woman!

OUTSIDE

The Cat and kids grab Nevins, scramble out of the car. Conrad and Sally jump Ludwig's fence, the Cat runs RIGHT THROUGH it again. They head for the house.

INT. THE HOUSE - DAY

Inside is a raging cauldron of Seussian mayhem.

OUTSIDE

The Cat and kids come running up the front steps when...

Kulchak jumps out of the bushes! His clothes are torn, his hair's a mess, strips of athletic tape hang off of him.

KULCHAK

Not so fast you two little maggots!

The kids look around, the Cat's abandoned them.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

The party is over! Your Mom's gonna be home any minute, and by the time I get through telling her all the things you pulled today, there are going to be two new cadets in the family. Eat it Conrad! Doctor's orders!

The kids look upset. Sally starts to cry. Then...

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Achoo! Achoo! Why am I sneezing?

There's a tap on Kulchak's shoulder. He turns to see...THE CAT!

CAT

That'd be me.

KULCHAK

(beyond shocked)

What... What are you?

CAT

(offers his hand)

Cousin Ray, from Tampa. Darn glad to meet ya!

KULCHAK

But you're a giant... cat!

CAT

Indeed.

The Cat hisses, extends his claws, does "jazz hands"

Kulchak faints dead away into the bushes. From O.C. we hear him sneeze.

The Cat and kids run to the house, burst through the door into...

INT. THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Cat and kids are shocked at what they see.

CONRAD

Whoa, what happened to the house?!!?

Their POV: Not the madness we're expecting, but exactly the opposite! THE HOUSE IS SPOTLESS! Not a fiber of carpet is out of place.

They slowly step in, treading lightly on the clean floor.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

I don't understand. It's cleaner than it was when we left.

Conrad SETS NEVINS DOWN. Nevins runs off into the house.

CAT

And you doubted me. I told you it would all work out.

The Cat smugly leans against a wall. It RIIIIIPS like it's made of paper! The walls fall away...

REVEALING: The floor of the entry way is suspended impossibly high atop a Seussian PRECIPICE. It's as though they're standing on a needle-sharp mountain peak.

Thousands of feet below them, we see odd Seussian clouds. A flock of birds fly by, but as they get closer we see they are actually books, flapping their page-wings.

SALLY

Oh my God...

CAT

Maybe it's just my extraordinary cat-like powers of perception, but I think something's a bit off here. Anyone?

FISH

I told you this would happen! It's exactly as I predicted.

(off their looks)

Well, perhaps not exactly. My version didn't have as many mountains...

CONRAD

Uh... You don't think this could have anything to do with that crate do you?

CAT

Impossible. That crate was locked.

The Cat looks at Conrad and puts it together. Conrad spills the beans.

CONRAD

I was curious. I picked the lock and I guess I forgot to close it again. I didn't know this was going to happen.

SALLY

What do we do?

CAT

Well, unless you think your Mom will enjoy having a mountain in her foyer, we need to find that crate and shut it. Shall we?

They head across the HALL CARPET which is suspended in mid air. A bridge over the yawning void. They pass a WINDOW suspended in mid-air. Conrad parts the curtains and looks out..

FROM OUTSIDE THE HOUSE it couldn't look more normal: A guy rides by on a bike, waves. Conrad waves back.

BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE Conrad shakes his head, they head off down the bridge until they reach...

THE FAMILY ROOM

Is now an insane Seussian funhouse torn right out of the pages of a Dr. Suess book. A wild, multi-leveled complex in crazy bright colors with zig-zagging stairs and ladders going every which way. Nothing is the right size, a teeny tiny end table is topped by a gigantic lamp.

A river of purple carpet runs down a jagged set of stairs. A sleeping MRS. KWAN floats along like a log in a flume ride. She snores loudly and PLUMMETS down a waterfall and out a door at the far end of the room.

CAT (CONT'D)

On the plus side, I think people will talk about tonight's party for the rest of their lives.

SALLY

The crate should be in the living room, wherever that is.

CONRAD

That must be the hallway bathroom.

Sally points to a grumbling toilet that ERUPTS like old faithful, blowing flames a hundred feet into the sky.

CAT

Yeow...You might want to hold it for a while.

SALLY

So the crate must be this way.

They enter a ROOM full of intertwining ESCHER-LIKE STAIRCASES. Conrad is on one staircase, Sally appears sideways on another. The Cat enters upside-down on yet another staircase. They leave the room, and re-enter, each of them appearing on a different staircase sideways, upside down, etc.

CAT

This would be so much cooler with Pink Floyd playing.

Finally, they all appear on the same staircase and head out the door.

INT. FRONT ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS

The front door flies REVEALING: Kulchak.

KULCHAK

Alright! Okay! My ass is now officially chapped!

He takes one step into the house, and FALLS off the giant precipice, a thousand feet down and SPLASH! He lands in a carpet-ocean.

WITH THE CAT AND KIDS

Who enter the LIVING ROOM. The heart of the Seussian madness. Impossibly large furniture arcs upward toward an endlessly high ceiling. The walls seem to expand and contract almost as if they're breathing.

CONRAD

I think this is it...

And there at the far end of the cavernous room is the CRATE, still bubbling forth its iridescent ooze.

SALLY

There's the crate! Let's shut it!

CONRAD

Sally, wait!

Sally runs toward the crate just as...

A GIANT SCARY LOOKING FIGURE thrusts up from the carpet on the floor. It's a giant Kulchak! The Seussian magic has made him TWENTY FEET TALL. He's got muscles on muscles and his skin is made of the orange living-room carpet, giving it a furry Seussian look. He's wearing the house's ugly drapes like a toga.

CAT/CONRAD/SALLY

AAiiiiighhh!!!!

CONRAD

Is that Mr. Kulchak?

Kulchak roars in a giant's BOOMING VOICE.

KULCHAK

It's Doctor Kulchak!

CAT

This is not good. But I am starting to come around on those drapes.

Kulchak flexes and roars.

KULCHAK

My pecs are busting out! I am ripped!

Sally tries to run back to Conrad and the Cat, but Kulchak grabs her.

KULCHAK (CONT'D)

Where do you think you're going?

SALLY

Conrad! Help!

Conrad turns to the Cat.

CAT

Don't look at me. This hat is worthless.
Damn your Philippines

Conrad realizes he's going to have to do this on his own.
He looks around the room and sees what he needs.

THE FLASHLIGHT lies on the floor across the room. Conrad
tries to grab it but...

Kulchak's big hand swipes it up. He flicks it on, laughs.

KULCHAK

What are you going to do with that amigo?
It's just a flashlight.

Kulchak tosses it back to Conrad.

CONRAD

Just a flashlight? You have no
imagination Kulchak.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

It could be a baseball bat...

He clicks the flashlight on. The beam takes the shape of
a BASEBALL BAT. He wacks Kulchak on the shin. Kulchak
doubles over in pain.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

It could be a microphone...

Conrad speaks into the flashlight, there's horrible
FEEDBACK SQUEAL.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Is this thing on?

Kulchak covers his ears in pain, letting go of Sally, who
flies into the air.

SALLY

Help!

Conrad jumps onto the living room couch which acts like a
suped-up TRAMPOLINE and springs into the air, grabs
Sally.

CONRAD

And I just thought of another one. It can
be a fire pole.

Conrad clicks the flashlight and the beam of light shoots down to the floor, creating a pole that they slide down to safety.

Kulchak hops up and down in pain.

KULCHAK

Alright maggot! You're meat!

CONRAD

I don't think so.

Conrad takes a painting of a train off the wall. And just like the Cat did with painting of fruit in the kitchen, he opens the glass...

And the train blasts out and nails Kulchak!

It chugs around the room and then zips back INTO THE PAINTING dragging Kulchak with him!

Conrad closes the glass.

IN THE PAINTING - We can see the train chugging off in the distance, dragging a screaming Kulchak.

CAT

You did it!

CONRAD

Imagine that.

Sally gives Conrad a big hug.

SALLY

You saved me!

CONRAD

Of course I did.

(smiles)

I'm your big brother. Now let's get this crate shut.

They approach the crate. When all of the sudden...

IN THE PAINTING

Kulchak rushes back toward them then BURSTS THROUGH angrier than ever.

KULCHAK

No more Mister-Doctor-Nice-Guy!

Sally and the Cat try to run but Kulchak leaps in front of them and backs them in to a corner.

CAT

We're going to die! Kids, there's something I never told you. I never told anyone. There's a reason I always wear a hat.

The Cat takes off the hat, revealing a bald patch on his head.

CAT (cont'd)

I'm bald! I tried the pill, the spray, nothing works! There I said it! What a load off.

Kulchak bears down on Sally and the Cat. He's about to pounce on them when...

MRS. KWAN (still sleeping) slides into frame and trips Kulchak, sending him flying into a giant CABINET FULL OF CHINA which shatters on top of him, burying him in a pile of broken plates.

Reveal: The Fish pushed her! He pumps his fin, excited.

FISH

Steeeee-rikee!

(realizes)

Oh my! I just make a huge mess!

(beat)

It felt good.

CONRAD

Thanks for the help Fish. Now lets close this thing.

Conrad and Sally each grab an end of the crate and slam it shut.

Suddenly, a vortex of light and wind begins to SUCK all of the Seussian weirdness of the house back into the crate... including Kulchak.

KULCHAK

Maggottttttsssss!!!

He flies into the crate.

The mountains shrink, the wild stairways retract, and everything swirls in a blinding cloud down into the crate like the ark in Raiders and POW! The Seussian magic is gone.

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It looks as peaceful as ever..

THEN, a GURGLING noise emanates from a tiny round vent at the base of the back of the house.

Then the house begins SHUDDER like it's coughing something up and...

Kulchak is spit out of the tiny vent! He drops to the ground, covered in disgusting gooey muck.

BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE

The crate SHAKES and RUMBLES once or twice as if something is still fighting to get out. But then it stops. It's over.

SALLY

We did it! We did it, Conrad!

CONRAD

We did. But I think the place looked better before we shut it.

REVEAL: The house is back to normal... but the place is TOTALLED. It looks like a cyclone went through it, which it sort of did. Bookshelves overturned, furniture destroyed, a staircase missing. It's a wreck. Even Nevins is a filthy disgusting mess.

The Cat isn't troubled by this at all. Heck, he seems... HAPPY.

CAT

Whoo! That was a blast. What game should we play next?

CONRAD

What are you talking about? The house is destroyed.

CAT

Hey don't look at me, you broke the contract.

The Cat reaches up to his hat and spins the stripes of his hat like the dials of a combination lock (like he did the first time he met the kids). The top of his hat pops open and he pulls out the papers the kids signed earlier.

CAT (CONT'D)

Section 7 , article 2, paragraph B, subsection 394, down there near the jelly stain.

A magnifying glass shoots out of the hat on a large adjustable arm so they can read the contract.

CAT (CONT'D)

See? But I won't hold it against you.
What's done is --

CONRAD

Hey, your hat! It's magic again!

CAT

(bad acting)

Oops! You caught me!

He twists the hat into a boomerang, throws it. It circles the room, then magically turns back into a hat again and lands softly on his head.

CONRAD

You had your real hat this whole time?

SALLY

So you just pretended you couldn't help us?

CAT

(beaming)

Yep! And wasn't that a lot more fun? You guys did great! Nice work with the flashlight by the way.

SALLY

So this was all part of your plan: the screw ups, bumping into Mom, Kulchak showing up, the house getting destroyed, all of it?

CAT

Everything! Except coming in fifth at the cat show. That was a bit of a shocker.

CONRAD

You even knew I'd open the crate?

CAT

(laughing)

Why do you think I made it my one rule? I knew you couldn't resist.

Conrad and Sally can't believe what they're hearing.

CAT (CONT'D)

Well, now that the cat's out of the bag, to use an archaic and cruel sounding metaphor, how about a game of tennis?

The Cat pulls some tennis rackets out of his hat, is suddenly wearing old-fashioned sweatbands and a headband like Bjorn Borg used to wear.

CAT (CONT'D)

This scorchmark is the sideline, and that collapsed wall can be the net.

CONRAD

No.

CAT

Fine, no tennis. I'm more of a kickball man myself.

Conrad speaks quietly but firmly.

CONRAD

Get out.

CAT

I don't know that game.

CONRAD

It's not a game. None of this is a game.

SALLY

What are we supposed to tell our mother? Cat, you need to go.

The Cat looks a bit surprised.

CAT

But I thought you two wanted to have fun today?

CONRAD

Look around Cat. It's fun to have fun but you have to know how. And you don't know when enough is enough. Now go!

CAT

(it sinks in)

Oh. I see. Alright then...

The Cat sadly grabs his crate and starts to go. He heads for the door, makes one last attempt.

CAT (CONT'D)

Maybe we got off on the wrong foot. How about a do over? Let me introduce myself. Here's my comically misspelled businesscard--

SALLY

Get out.

CAT

Gorman, Suzy, please...

SALLY/CONRAD

OUT!!!

He looks at the kids' stern faces. He sighs and leaves head down. The door shuts.

FISH

Good riddance. Now this may not be the time for "I told you so" but--

(Sally and Conrad glare)

Like I said, not the time.

SALLY

I'll get the mop and bucket.

CONRAD

Don't bother. Mom will be home any second. Why don't you go upstairs, I'll tell Mom it was all my fault.

But Sally isn't going anywhere.

SALLY

I'm not going upstairs. I'm staying with you.

CONRAD

Really?... Why?

SALLY

Two reasons. One, there aren't any stairs. And two, this is just as much my fault as yours. We should share the blame.

She takes his hand, smiles at him. For the first time, they're sharing.

CONRAD

Thanks, Sal.

From outside, they hear MOM'S CAR pulling up, and see headlights turning up their driveway.

SALLY

By the way, you're a pretty good brother.

CONRAD

I'm glad you think that. Especially since we're going to be grounded together for the next fifty years.

They hear the key in the lock. The door knob starts to turn.

CONRAD (CONT'D)

Well, here goes...

The door swings open, but it's not Mom. It's...

The Cat!

And he's riding on an amazing, SUPER-SPLENDIFEROUS HOUSE-CLEANING MACHINE (it looks a lot like a suped up version of S.L.O.W.). The machine is part riding mower and part street cleaner with all sorts of mechanical arms holding brooms and dust pans and rags. It's a kickass real-life version of the one in the book.

CAT

I thought of one more game we could play.
It's called "Clean up the house." Who's
up for it?

And right behind the Cat, in their own superfast MINI-CLEANING MACHINES are Thing One and Thing Two, both dressed in cool looking racing/janitor's outfits.

The kids cheer. The Fish is giddy with joy.

FISH

I knew he'd come back! I knew he'd help
us!

Everyone stops and looks at the Fish.

FISH (CONT'D)

What? I did.

COOL CLEAN-UP MUSIC plays as the Cat's machine puts everything back on shelves.

The Cat starts his CLEANING SONG.

CAT

I ALWAYS PICK UP MY PLAYTHINGS
AND SO...
I WILL SHOW YOU ANOTHER
GOOD TRICK THAT I KNOW.
BECAUSE NOTHING PICKS UP STUFF
FASTER THAN S.L.O.W.

It mops and dusts and re-paints. It sucks up mom's dress and spits it out dry-cleaned and perfect. It even grabs the kids, scrubs them and puts new clothes on them.

CAT (CONT'D)

TOGETHER WE CAN PICK UP
ALL THE THINGS THAT ARE DOWN.
WE CAN PICK UP THE PLATES
AND THE BOOKS, AND THE GOWN.
AND THE MILK, AND THE STRINGS.

SALLY

AND THE BOOKS!

CONRAD
AND THE DISH!

THING ONE AND TWO
NEPPA FAN! DEKKA CUP!
DEPPA SHIP! NEPPA FISH!

The Things are cleaning the fish bowl.

FISH
Don't forget Diver Dan..

The Things drive their machines along the kitchen counters. The machines sweep up the chards of glass and piles of ruined food glop, and leave behind them stacks of clean plates and perfect trays of hors d'oeuvres.

CAT
WE'LL RE-PIT THE OLIVES
AND REBAKE THE CAKE.
I'LL TACK UP THESE DRAPES
BUT THEY'RE STILL A MISTAKE.

The cat puts up the drapes.

CAT (CONT'D)
WE'LL REPLASTER THE CEILING.
REPAIR THE COMMODE.
WE'LL REPLUMB THE PLUMBING.
IT'LL ALL BE TO CODE.

The machine picks up MRS. KWAN, SPINS her so fast all the muck flies off of her. Machine arms stick out, blow-dry and brush her hair. The machine deposits her gently on the now spotless white couch.

CAT (CONT'D)
WE'LL UNDIRTY THE DIRT.

FISH
IT'S WORKING! THANK HEAVENS!

CAT
WE'LL DEWORM AND FLEA DIP YOUR MANGY MUTT
NEVINS!

The machine picks up Nevins, gives him a bath. Plops him down, clean and dry with a little bow on his collar.

WIDE SHOT: The whole house is spotless. Maybe better than it was before. The Cat hops off his machine. The Things wave and drive their machines right into the crate.

CAT (CONT'D)
WELL I GUESS THAT IS THAT.
THE HOUSE IS CLEAN AND I'M GLAD.
(MORE)

CAT (CONT'D)
IT'S NOT AS FUN AS MAKING MESSES
BUT I GUESS IT'S NOT BAD...

The Cat shuts the crate as the song ends.

CONRAD
This day has been...amazing. Thank you,
Cat.

CAT
No, problem. This was actually one of my
smaller messes.

CONRAD
Not just for that.
(puts his arm around Sally)
For everything.

SALLY
Yeah, thanks.

The kids smile, hug the Cat.

CAT
Please, the pleasure has truly been mine.
You two were even more fun than I thought
you'd be. Conrad, Sally, adieu.

He tips his hat, revealing a bald spot.

CAT (cont'd)
And by the way... ix-nay on the ald-bay.

The Cat winks and heads for the door.

CAT (CONT'D)
So long Nevins.

NEVINS
(deep voice)
(Catch you later, Cat.

Nevins BARKS and runs off.

The Cat and the Things head out the back door. It shuts
behind him just as...

The front door opens. It's Mom.

MOM
Hey guys, I'm home. Sorry I'm late but
this insane little police officer crawled
under my car and wouldn't come out.

Mom puts her stuff down and hangs her coat in the closet.

The kids jump into their seats by the window as Mom turns around.

CONRAD
(as nonchalant as possible)
Hi Mom.

SALLY
Are you home already?

MOM
Have you two been sitting there all day?
Isn't that a little boring?

CONRAD/SALLY
No!

Mom looks around the spotless house in disbelief.

CONRAD
What's wrong?

MOM
(stupefied)
Nothing. That's what so... odd. Wait a second, where's the dog?

Nevins runs up, jumps into Conrad's arms. He looks like he's been professionally groomed. His fur almost SPARKLES.

CONRAD
We even gave him a flea bath.

Mom smiles to herself. She was right to trust her kids.

Mrs. Kwan springs up off the couch, wide awake.

MRS. KWAN
Ms. Walden, home so soon? The children were angels.

MOM
Thanks Mrs. Kwan, I'll walk you out.

Kwan slowly starts walking toward the door. Mom opens it for her REVEALING:

Kulchak standing in the doorway, thoroughly caked in sewer gunk, a wild look in his eye. He's been to hell and back.

KULCHAK
(deranged)
Hello, Joan.

MOM

Dr. Kulchak, what happened to you?

KULCHAK

Now do you see what I was talking about?
Look what your demon children have done!
They've destroyed your entire HOUSE!!!

Kulchak looks around, sees the house is spotless.

SALLY

(smiles angelically)

Mommy, what is he talking about?

Kulchak gets right in Sally's face.

DOCTOR KULCHAK

You know! You stole my car, and the house
was alive, and the carpet tried to drown
me! And cousin Ray! From Tampa! Tampa!

MOM

Who?

DOCTOR KULCHAK

Your cousin, the giant cat. He was here I
swear! With the talking fish who threw
the baby sitter at me. Doctor's honor!

CONRAD

He's not a real doctor, Mom. He has a
degree in cosmetology.

KULCHAK

And bikini waxing! Joan, you've got to
believe me. You know what kind of kid
your son is.

Mom looks at Kulchak, looks at Conrad. Mom sighs.

MOM

I do know what kind of kid he is. Sure
he's a little mixed up, and sometimes he
make me want to tear my hair out but he's
a good kid. And I believe him.

DOCTOR KULCHAK

Joan, come on, I thought we kind of had
something here...

MOM

Don't "Joan" me. We had nothing. I don't
want you near my kids, and I don't want
you near me. Goodbye, MISTER Kulchak.

KULCHAK

We can work this out. I'll give you a free bikini wa--

Mom slams the door on him.

EXT. HOUSE - WALKWAY

Kulchak has not had a good day. He's a filthy, bitter, defeated mess.

And to make matters worse... Ludwig appears.

LUDWIG

Kulchak! You want to tell me what your auto-mo-bile is doing parked in the middle of my prize tulips?

He points at the trans am, which is trashed and sitting in the middle of Ludwig's yard.

LUDWIG (CONT'D)

Unless you want me calling the po-lice, you better show up every morning at o-six hundred for some strenuous menial lawn fixin'.

Grushow trudges back to his yard. Nevins comes up, sniffs at Kulchak, growls at him.

KULCHAK

Oh you are barking at the wrong person today. C'mere you mangy mutt so I can kick the tar out of you.

Kulchak rears back to kick Nevins when... Nevins bears his teeth. But these aren't just any teeth. He's got a mouthful of GIGANTIC SEUSSIAN FANGS!

BACK IN THE HOUSE

We hear a CHOMP! and a SCREAM. Out the window behind Mom we see Nevins chasing and chomping at Kulchak.

Mom doesn't even notice as she gives her kids a big hug. She checks her watch

MOM

Ooh, it's late. I should start getting things ready for the party.

CONRAD

Okay. We'll go upstairs and get out of your way.

Mom heads into the kitchen as Conrad and Sally make their way up stairs.

Mom pops her head back out of the kitchen.

MOM

Hold it right it there!

The kids freeze. Uh-oh. What didn't they clean up? Mom looks at them for a beat. Then smiles.

MOM (CONT'D)

You still want to make those cupcakes?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The party is in progress. PANNING the room: Lots of nicely dressed clients and people from Mom's office.

The FISH is in a new luxurious tank, dancing to the music with Diver Dan.

Sally Mom and Conrad are serving a big tray of purple cupcakes. Everyone takes one.

MOM

Sally, your cupcakes are the hit of the party.

SALLY

The bayleaf makes all the difference.

Sally and Conrad share a laugh. Sally takes the tray of cupcakes over to her FRIENDS, who are all gathered together.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Here. I saved the best ones for you guys.

They dig in. They're all friends again.

Mom turns to Conrad.

MOM

So Conrad, this person in my office was wondering how you get past level three of Robowars on your Gameboy.

CONRAD

That's easy. Is the person here? I'll show them.

MOM

Uh... No. But why don't you show me, and I'll show them.

Mom hands him the gameboy.

ACROSS THE ROOM: A group of LADIES are gabbing.

LADY

I knew he wasn't a real doctor.

LADY #2

Tell me about it, it was the worst bikini wax I ever had.

Old Man Ludwig approaches holding a cup of tea.

LUDWIG

He fragged my tulips. If I weren't such a gentle soul I'd have knocked him to queer street.

ANGLE: Mom chats with her BOSS.

BOSS

Joan, this party is fantastic. It's a real hit with the clients.

MOM

Thanks, Mister H.

(turns to his wife)

And Mrs. Halpern, you look lovely tonight. Did you do something to your hair?

REVEAL: the Boss's wife is Mrs. Halpern from the beauty salon. Her eyebrows are painted on and she wears an incredibly OBVIOUS WIG.

MRS. HALPERN

(covering)

No, no. I just run a comb through it.

She does a combing motion, bumps the wig and it moves perceptibly.

MRS. HALPERN (CONT'D)

By the way Joan, I was meaning to ask if you could recommend a good baby sitter for my grandson?

MOM

Well, I'll tell you who I'll be using from now on...

Conrad can't believe it. He still needs a baby-sitter?

MOM (cont'd)

And the best part is, he lives right here in this house. Isn't that right, Conrad?

Conrad beams. He and Mom share a moment.

CONRAD

And I promise that everyday will be as uneventful as today.

Conrad and Sally share a knowing look. Mom looks puzzled.

MOM

So what did you kids do today?

Well, what would you do if your mother asked you?

Just then, the phone RINGS. Mom answers.

MOM (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Hello? Oh, Mr. Sokolow. You missed your plane? Well, we can try again next week.

THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE: TIGHT on someone speaking into the phone.

VOICE

No, that won't be necessary. My office has transferred me. I'll be moving to Tampa.

Widen to REVEAL: It's the CAT on the phone!

CAT

And please, call me Ray. It's been a pleasure doing business with you, Mrs. Walden. Give my regards to your wonderful family. And your fish, and your dog.

He smiles, and hangs the phone up in his hat. The Cat planned the whole day from the very start.

The Cat looks in the window of Conrad and Sally's house, sees Mom and the kids eating cupcakes and smiling together.

The Cat smiles.

CAT (cont'd)

(checks his watch)

Ooh, look at the time. I'm going to be late...

And he heads down the road, silhouetted as he walks INTO THE SUNSET...

Then he's joined by another silhouette -- it's the Equipment Rental Guy again.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUY

Mr. Theehat?

CAT

You again? I'm walking off into the sunset here.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUY

You still owe us for the Super Splendiferous Cleaning Machine.

CAT

I prepaid!

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUY

You were supposed to return it with the tank full. There's a small penalty.

CAT

Acchh! Fine.

The Cat signs a form. The Rental Guy moves off, leaving the Cat alone, heading off INTO THE SUNSET, on to the next family...

THE END

FADE TO BLACK.