

CAT CHASE

written by

Christina Katsiadakis

E-mail: xkatsiadakis@gmail.com

EXT. DAY STREET
Summer in the city.

MARGOT and ZANDER, both early 20s, walk down a residential street, backpacks on their backs, sipping huge iced coffees.

MARGOT is almost dancing.

MARGOT
I can't believe it is over! Summer
can now officially begin.

ZANDER
How did you do?

MARGOT
Who cares? It is over. All I need
to do now is find tickets to the
River Festival.

ZANDER
It is only 100 dollars for the 2
days. Good luck with that.

MARGOT
I know. I picked up double shifts
at the café, but still... If
only...

Zander looks at her as she is sipping her coffee, a perfect vision of summer.

ZANDER
If only...

MARGOT
What can you do to get 100 dollars
in 2 days?

As they walk down the street, they come across a poster stapled to a lamp post. It has the picture of a cute black and white cat on it and a short message: HAVE YOU SEEN OUR CAT? 200 REWARD.

MARGOT (CONT'D)
Awww. Some poor kid lost her cat.

ZANDER
How do you know it is a kid?

MARGOT
It's always kids that lose their
cats.

ZANDER

Who would pay 200 to get their
stupid cat back?

Margot looks at him appalled.

MARGOT

Who would ask 200 dollars from a
poor kid that lost their cat?

FELIX

The cat is probably dead on the
side of the road or something.

They both turn around. FELIX, same age but taller and more
intimidating, has snuck behind them.

MARGOT

What a terrible thing to say. Would
you take the money for finding the
cat, Felix?

FELIX

Of course not. Just seeing the
smile on the kid's face would be
enough.

The words are a direct challenge at Zander to respond.

Margot points her finger to her head, like saying: told you
so.

ZANDER

Still, it is 200 bucks.

Margot rolls her eyes.

FELIX

It is not all about the money,
Zander.

As they walk on, Zander looks at the poster one last time.

EXT. DAY STREET

Zander is back at the same spot. He looks around and then
tears the number off the poster.

FELIX

I knew it!

Once more he has managed to sneak up, unnoticed.

ZANDER

Great! you solved the mystery.

FELIX

Not yet. But I will. Why the fuck to you care so much about a stupid cat? I thought you were allergic.

ZANDER

That would be nuts.

He circles Zander, like a tiger its prey, trying to understand.

FELIX

Unless...you are doing it for the girl.

ZANDER

I don't know the girl.

FELIX

Don't play dumb. I mean our girl. Smart move, my friend. Excellent strategy. I should have thought of that.

He takes out his phone and takes a picture of the poster.

FELIX (CONT'D)

May the best man win.
Hey, kitty kitty. Hey kitty, kitty.

INT. DAY STREET

Zander walks around shaking a container with kitty treats.

Felix watches him from a distance.

INT. STREET

Zander hears a meowing sound. He looks around. It seems to be coming from under a car. He gets on all fours and crawls to check. Nothing.

MARGOT

What are you doing down there.

Zander gets out from under the car, grinning.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Oh, my God. You were looking for the cat. That is so sweet, Zander.

(MORE)

MARGOT (CONT'D)

You know what, when I finish work I can come help you.

ZANDER

Sure, why not.

MARGOT

(walking away)

My God, Zander, such a sweet guy.

Zander is blushing, kinda proud of himself.

FELIX

You know that the sweet guy never gets the girl, right?

ZANDER

You have to stop doing that.

FELIX

Hey, we are looking for a cat, right? I thought I should start behaving like one.

INT. NIGHT BACK ALLEY

Zander is still looking, pointing at parts of the dark alley with his pocket lamp.

He bumps into Felix in the dark.

FELIX

Still looking for the stupid cat?

ZANDER

Mind your own business.

FELIX

So did Margot ever come help you look?

ZANDER

Just let me be, Felix.

FELIX

Of course she didn't because she does not care about the freaking cat. I am sure she would, if she know what you were planning to do with the money.

He imitates being in a concert, dancing and singing.

Suddenly there is a mewling behind Felix. Both boys point their flashlights at the same direction. Nothing.

INT. NIGHT ZANDER'S HOUSE
Zander walks into the kitchen.

ZANDER
Hello, grandma.

GRANDMA
Shhh, she is sleeping.

Zander shakes his head.

He walks up closer to his Grandma. She is cradling the cat in her arms like a baby. Zander is surprised.

ZANDER
Grandma, where did you find that cat?

GRANDMA
She found me. She just walked in and jumped on my lap.

ZANDER
Grandma, this cat belongs to someone, we need to take it back.

GRANDMA
(like stubborn kid)
It is a she. And NO. She found me .She is mine.

ZANDER
Grandma, please.

Grandma turns her back, covering the cat with her body.

EXT. DAY STREET
Zander walks down the street. Felix catches up.

FELIX
No search party, today?

ZANDER
Fuck off, Felix.

FELIX
I see what is going on..., you found the cat. You found it and you are not telling your friend.

He starts meowing in the middle of the street.
Zander walks on, amused.

ZANDER
You are nuts.

INT. DAY ZANDER'S HOUSE
Zander is pleading with his Grandma.

ZANDER
Please, please. Let me take the cat
back to her family. I will get you
another cat. I promise. Please.

GRANDMA
Why do you care so much?

ZANDER
It is important.

GRANDMA
Is there a girl evolved?

Zander nods.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
OK then.

Zander takes the cat in his arms like a baby.

Holding the cat he makes a victory dance, as if he were in a
big music festival.

EXT. DAY HOUSE
Zander, holding the cat, rings the doorbell.

The door opens, a family of four appears. The two kids, grab
the cat, beaming with joy.

The mother hands him the check.

Zander hesitates. He looks at the mom, he looks at the kids.
He does not take the check. He just puts his hands in his
pockets and walks away.

INT. DAY CAFÉ
Margot hands at Zander his iced coffee.

Zander takes a moment, hoping to say something.

FELIX
I'll have the same.
Did you hear, Margot, Zander found
the cat.

MARGOT
Which cat?

Felix gives Zander an "I told you so look".

FELIX
The one in the poster.

MARGOT
Really?

FELIX
And he did not even get the reward.

MARGOT
Of course he didn't Felix. He is not
like you.

Sweet words, but feel more flattering for Felix than for
Zander.

FELIX
So I guess he is not going to the
festival tomorrow.

Margot turns and looks at Zander.

MARGOT
Oh too bad. It won't be the same
without you.

FELIX
Yes. Unfortunately my dad could
only hook us up with two tickets...
Sorry, man.

MARGOT
But the coffee is on me.

EXT. NIGHT ZANDER'S BACK YARD

Zander is hanging out at his back yard, listening to music
very loud in his earphones. His phone buzzes. He picks it up.
It is a photo of Felix with Margot at the concert. The
message: "I can't believe you are missing this".

Zander rolls his eyes. Someone talks to him from the street.

JADE(OFF)
Excuse me. Hello?

He looks down. A very pretty girl, JADE, almost in tears, is talking to him.

He takes of his earphones

JADE (CONT'D)
Sorry to bug you. I am looking for my dog. He just ran off. Did you see him, by any chance? He is a black Portuguese water dog.

ZANDER
No, I'm sorry. (Pause) But I can help you look.

JADE
That would be great. We just moved and I don't know the neighbourhood very well.

Zander leaves his earphones on the table and joins Jade in the alley. They walk down the alley together, into the night.

The end.