

# CATSAWAY – OUTLINE (animated feature film)

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NOTE: In this story:

- House cats can understand humans and read their language
- Street cats cannot
- Humans cannot understand cat language

## ACT 1

### BEGIN SEQUENCE A (1 OF 10)

**INSIDE NICE HOME:** ANBAR is a charming but spoiled house cat who enjoys the luxuries of his owner's home. With a wink and a confident smile he shows his GIRLFRIEND his mastery of an espresso machine, an electric can opener and an automatic shoe polisher. She rolls her eyes, but laughs and smiles, too. She and Anbar are obviously in love. Not so impressed by his antics - is her father, BOMBAY CAT, who gives Anbar a disapproving scowl.

**OUTSIDE NICE HOME:** Later, Anbar and his girlfriend are outside for a walk when they see, across a busy street, an angry shop owner trying to swat an alley cat with a broom. Anbar's girlfriend wants to help the cat, but Anbar says they shouldn't get involved. She's disappointed in him, "What if you were a homeless alley cat? Wouldn't you want someone to help you?" Anbar can't bring himself to cross the dangerous traffic to help the cat, so she dashes off without him. Halfway across, a crazy driver comes out of nowhere! A horrified Anbar YELLS out a warning, but it's too late! A CAR HORN BLARES ---

### **DAY 1 - NIGHT**

**UNDER A BRIDGE:** Anbar wakes up! He's been dreaming of the past! We can tell it's the past because now Anbar no longer looks like the carefree cat from his dream. He's dishevelled; his hair, a mess; his clothes, dirty; his slim body has a pot belly. He's sleeping under a bridge among the trash; using a ratty backpack for a pillow and a newspaper for a blanket.

Staring at him when he wakes up, is OWL - a haughty, cynical type who likes to know everyone's business. He asks Anbar why a house cat is sleeping under a bridge. Anbar resents the question and tells him to go away. He puts his newspaper in his backpack and heads out, but Owl persists. He says he sees a mystery in Anbar – his general appearance is that of a dirty alley cat, but his shoes are polished and he keeps a newspaper in his pack. Owl, the nosey detective, muses "**Things we see on the outside are rarely the same on the inside.**"

Anbar's had enough of Owl and scares him away with a SCREECH.

**DITCH BY SIDE OF ROAD:** Anbar trudges on through the late night feeling sorry for himself, when a passing car throws an apple core out a window and it lands on top of a drain hole cove next to him. Starving, Anbar rushes over to claim it. That's when he overhears two voices coming up through the drain. It's a man and woman talking. They're in love and talk of big plans to be together, which just makes Anbar more miserable. Suddenly, BOB CAT, KING OF THE DITCH, appears. He warns Anbar not to get too curious about those voices. "Who are they?" Anbar asks. Bob Cat tells Anbar about Ragdoll, the most beautiful feline in the city who lives in the Big House across the street; and the dangerous cat she's married to, a Mafia cat named Lucifurr. Anbar overhears Ragdoll say "My owner's car is here! I must get back to the house!"

That's when Anbar sees a big black SUV pull up to a huge security gate across the street. The gate opens and Anbar catches a glimpse of a long driveway leading to a beautiful mansion sitting on an island in a lake, before the gate closes again.

Anbar's mesmerized; he NEEDS to see more. Bob Cat, who has an ugly, crooked scar across his face, tells Anbar, "I'd forget you ever saw that house if I were you." Anbar's not listening. He scampers up a tree, but it's not high enough to see over the house's security wall. Desperate, Anbar looks around - further back, behind the tree, he sees a hill with an old water tank on top of it --

**HILL/ TOP OF WATER TANK:** He races up the hill and climbs a ladder on the side of the water tank. From the top, in the orange light of predawn, he can see over the security wall to the mansion. It sits on an island in the middle of a magnificent sparkling lake. Beside the house, is a large, solitary tree with wide, leafy branches. The whole vista looks like paradise to Anbar.

Owl flutters down and lands beside Anbar. Owl can see he's dreaming of the Big House. "There's no way in there, unless you want to take on the Mafia." Anbar's smile dissolves, uncertainty in his eyes

"Who's this guy, Owl?" Anbar spins around and sees JAY WHISKERS the CAT and JASPURR the RAT.

JAY WHISKERS is an optimist, always smiling and a bit naive. He believes people are good, but he'll need to learn to fight for himself if he really wants to live in peace. JASPURR's the opposite - he's a worry-rat; he always believes the worst is going to happen, so he makes his own plans, but he'll need to learn to look out for others if he really wants to survive.

Owl tells them Anbar's dreaming of the Big House. "That's a dangerous thing to do," warns Jaspurr. "I'm just looking for a place to live," Anbar says, defensively.

"Maybe Anbar can come live with us at Garbage Solitude," says Jay Whiskers. Jaspurr doubts Governor Zooz will let him in. New cats have to pay a tribute to get in and Anbar doesn't look like he has anything that Zooz would want. A disappointed Jay Whiskers wishes Anbar good luck and leaves with Jaspurr and Owl.

**SIDE OF WATER TANK HILL:** On the west side of WATER TANK HILL, at the foot of the water tank, is GARBAGE SOLITUDE - home to a cool collection of discarded, retro household items; old, overturned trash bins; and a community of twenty cats. In the center of Garbage Solitude is a small tent for their social and administrative activities.

That night, Anbar watches Garbage Solitude from the bottom of the hill. Even though it's a junky place, the light and noise from inside is warm and inviting. Much better than the cold loneliness of living on the street. Looking miserable, Anbar returns to his place under the bridge to sleep.

**UNDER THE BRIDGE:** Anbar uses his backpack for a pillow and his newspaper for a blanket. Shivering and cold, he pulls the newspaper up over his head to hide from the world. THAT'S when he sees an advertisement printed on the inside of the newspaper. His eyes go WIDE. He looks terrified. But THEN an idea sparks in his mind. He packs up his stuff and heads out, back up the hill to Garbage Solitude.

### **END SEQUENCE A/ BEGIN SEQUENCE B (2 OF 10) - approx. P.12**

**INSIDE THE TENT:** Music is playing; cats are dancing or smoking hookah pipes. At one end, sits an old TV box with a missing screen, with a big cushion inside and a curtain at the back (the whole thing looks like a throne). Behind the curtain is the...

**PRIVATE ROOM of GOVERNOR ZOOZ** - the lazy and corrupt founder of Garbage Solitude. His room's filled with old photos of him with an elderly lady, his former owner from long ago whom he misses terribly. Zooz just wants to be loved, and his insecurity has led to his lazy and corrupt ways.

In the middle of the floor of his private room, a drain hole that's normally hidden from view by a carpet, is open and ZOOZ is watching Jaspurr come out with a bag full of fancy food, like dates, cheeses, grapes etc. For his efforts, Zooz gives Jaspurr some stinky cheese, which Jaspurr savours like a connoisseur -- but Jaspurr also looks worried. He tells Zooz that, one day, Lucifurr may catch him stealing his secret stash of food. Zooz doesn't care. He detests Lucifurr, his