Disney's KATBOT

# "Christmas On Katatonia"

(Formerly "Christmas In Katatonia") 723A-136/723A-137

FADE IN:

EXT. LEBORE HOUSE - UNDER SNOWFALL - DAY

SNOW blankets the Lebore house and environs.

KATBOT (O.S.)

I admit that when I first saw this fluffy white stuff laying all over everything--

INT. LEBORE HOUSE - KATBOT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

KATBOT talks to PROFESSOR MEEW in her laptop.

KATBOT

I thought it was a fungus.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Like the one that grew on Planet Itchy. (SHUDDER) What did this one turn out to be?

KATBOT

They call it, "snow."

PROFESSOR MEEW

Snow? Is that one word?

KATBOT

Yeah. It's flakes of frozen water.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Remarkable!

KATBOT

(mysterious)

That's not even the weird part. In the last few weeks, everything around here...has changed...

RIPPLE TO:

## INT. FLAT HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Three teachers stand together sipping from Christmas mugs: MR. FERMIHEIMER wears a tie that looks like a Christmas stocking. MRS. HAMBURGER wears a red cardigan with green presents on it. PRINCIPAL MAIN wears a Santa hat.

KATBOT (O.S.)

People have started wearing strange costumes, all in the same peculiar color combination: red and green.

PROFESSOR MEEW (O.S.)

Most unattractive...

As KATERINA eyes the faculty suspiciously, GEEKY GIRL passes wearing reindeer antlers, tree ornament earrings, and candy canes.

RIPPLE TO:

#### INT. LEBORE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The room is heavily decorated for Christmas as DELORE walks around with a box, setting out figurines of snowmen, nutcrackers, angels, snow globes, etc., on any exposed surface.

KATBOT (0.S.)

Mrs. Lebore is redecorating the living room so it looks like a... figurine store--

# EXT. LEBORE HOUSE - THE NEIGHBORS' HOUSES - DAY

Looking down the street, the houses are heavily lit up and blink in coordination, making the street look like a landing strip.

KATBOT (O.S.)

And the houses have gotten together to install some form of security lighting. Either that, or they are converting the street into an airport landing strip.

#### EXT. LEBORE HOUSE - RAIN GUTTERS - DAY

DICK stands on a ladder leaning against the rain gutter, entangled in a frustrating knotty mess of string lights.

KATBOT (O.S.)

Which might explain what Mister Lebore has been doing outside all day today.

DICK

Consarnit!

(sheepishly, skyward)
Oop. Sorry Papa Christmas!

# INT. LEBORE HOUSE - KATBOT'S ROOM - DAY

Back to Meew and Katbot.

PROFESSOR MEEW (O.S.) Are they expecting alien visitors besides yourself?

KATBOT

I don't know.

PROFESSOR MEEW
Very curious Katbot. I look
forward to learning more when you
return home for the Katatonian
Upgrade Procedure.

KATBOT

Sure. Yeah.

PROFESSOR MEEW
You forgot about the Upgrade
Procedure didn't you?

KATBOT

Of course not! No way! (BEAT) Okay, yeah. I forgot.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Katbot, let me remind you that you are not, in fact, a "teenage" Earth girl. You are a robotic cat alien from Katatonia and it is our duty to upgrade our software once a year with our fellow Katatonians. So--

KATBOT

--I know, I know, if I don't go, the upgrade can't be completed. I get it.

PROFESSOR MEEW

No Katatonian has ever missed one, and you will NOT be the first is that clear? Surely you can make room in your busy "teenage" schedule for this.

KATBOT

Quit saying (mimicking Meew) "teenage". You make it sound all not important.

PROFESSOR MEEW I certainly would not want to do that.

DELORE (O.S.)

Whoooo wants a great big mug of steaming Christmas?

KATBOT

Gotta go!

PROFESSOR MEEW

Meow for n--

Katbot slams the laptop shut. She <ZAPS> her antennae together turning into KATERINA.

Delore <KNOCKS> and enters carrying a tray with a steaming Christmas mug, a candy cane sticks out of it.

**DELORE** 

Were you talking to someone dear?

KATERINA

No, that was my... English Language learner tape. What's this?

DELORE

I'm trying out a new egg nog recipe. It's a traditional yak milk drink from the Sherpas of Mount Everest, but I used regular eggs instead of owl eggs, then added nutmeg and a candy cane stir stick!

She holds it out to a skeptical Katerina.

KATERINA

So Christmas is a time of slimy milk drinks?

DELORE

(dreamy)

No, Christmas is a time of gingerbread and peppermint!

(matter of fact)

It's also a time of joy and wonder, you'll see. On Christmas morning, you come down the stairs and see the tree and the trimmings and the presents—it's the best day of the whole year!

KATERINA

Really? Cool! <LICK, YUM>

She cat licks from the mug. It's good!

### INT. MARCELLA'S ROOM - DAY

MARCELLA lies on her bed reading a huge catalog. She talks into her tape recorder.

MARCELLA

Marcella Curd here, indulging in my favorite Christmas ritual: The holiday catalog from the Siberian Spy Company!

CATALOG SHOTS OF: a mirror, a gizmo with a satellite dish on it, a picture of a model wearing braces and a smug eavesdropping pose.

MARCELLA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Three-way mirror--own it.
Satellite broadcast disrupter-that is so "last year." Soundmagnifying braces--on backorder.
<GASP> What's this?!

She turns a full-page ad for "TEMPORARY-PARALYSIS MISTLETOE", with a picture of a man standing stock-still under mistletoe while a sinister-looking spy lady leans in to kiss him.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

"Temporary-Paralysis Mistletoe?"
"Used by the KGB, whoever walks
under this innocent-looking
evergreen is <u>quaranteed</u> to
temporarily lose mobility in his
limbs, ensuring a Christmas kiss
from even the most elusive target."

Marcella sits up with the phone and hits <SPEED DIAL>.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

(calling off)

Mother! I'm ordering a seasonal love talisman from Siberia! It's on sale!

MARCELLA'S MOM (O.S.)

Anything, sugar plum, as long as Momma can stay under the electric blanket.

MARCELLA

Much appreciated!
 (into phone, sweetly)

Ah, Dosvidanya Svetlana...

WIPE TO:

## EXT. FLAT HILLS MALL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The Mall is decorated in Christmas.

JUNIOR (O.S.)

<DROOLING SOUNDS> The world's first
scooter--

# INT. FLAT HILLS MALL - SPORTING GOODS WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

JUNIOR and ROCKY, backs to camera, gaze into the window of a sporting goods store.

JUNIOR

--that's also a pair of boots.

On display in the window is the "Scooter Boot"; a pair of wheeled ski boots connected by an upright scooter handle.

ROCKY

I would give anything for one of these! Except one of these...'cause then I'd just keep it.

JUNIOR

Let us bow our heads to the angel of coolness, and ask to be granted a Scooter Boot--the deluxe model--this Christmas.

They bow their heads. Katerina runs in, hyper.

KATERINA

There's this senior citizen, with a beard, and an all-red suit? And he's downstairs with a whole bunch of kids lined up to meet him.

JUNIOR

Dude, sometimes you are soooo from another planet.

KATERINA

What, you know this guy?

JUNIOR

That's Santa.

ROCKY

You tell him stuff you want for Christmas and he, like, drops it down your chimney on Christmas Eve.

KATERINA

Why doesn't he just ring the doorbell?

JUNIOR

The flying reindeer fit better on the roof I guess.

KATERINA

Are you guys making fun of me?

ROCKY

Not at the moment.

JUNIOR

He's mostly popular with just little kids, but hey--whatever rocks your holiday.

KATERINA

Hmm...you think he'd let me talk to these reindeer? Y'know, flying animal to flying ani--<GASP> The Scooter Boot!

She points to the Scooter Boot in the window.

JUNIOR

Is that awesome? I am definitely begging for that for Christmas.

Katerina presses her face against the window.

KATERINA

It's...it's even cooler in person than the one they ride in the video for that band with the guy who has the long hair. <GASP> I have to have one.

She thinks for a beat...

KATERINA (CONT'D)

Be right back!

She takes off.

WIPE TO:

# INT. FLAT HILLS MALL - ATRIUM - SANTA'S VILLAGE - DAY

The MALL SANTA sits on a candy cane "throne" in front of a plastic candy "house". He has a SMALL BOY on his knee, and is flanked by TWO ELVES (in their twenties). A long line of KIDS and PARENTS wait their turn.

ON KATERINA at the back of the line as she forces her way through the line--they do not approve.

KIDS

<FRUSTRATED WALLA> No skips!/Lady!/
That's my knee!/ Watch it!/ Your
hair's weird!

KATERINA

'Scuse me...just be a second...move please, thank you...just be a second...yeah? Well, you've got one eyebrow, now move it!

ON THE TWO ELVES. One talks into a walkie-talkie.

ELF #1

Jingles one: we've got a line skipper, over.

Elf #2 replies into his walkie-talkie.

ELF #2

Copy that Jingles two, I'm closing in, over.

Katerina busts out of the line and heads for Santa. The elves approach her cautiously.

ELF #2

Okay, little girl, why don't we take a nice, slow walk over to the gingerbread holding area?

Katerina eyes both of them and then leaps over their heads.

KATERINA

RRRRREEEEEOOOOW!

She cat lands in front of the startled Santa.

MALL SANTA

I'm sorry, but there's no cutting in line at the North Pole.

KATERINA

This'll only take a second. Okay, I sit on your lap, is that how it works? Seems weird but--

She hops onto his lap in a cat stance. Jingles 1 and Jingles 2 run up ready to haul her off.

MALL SANTA

Oof! I'm good, boys.

They back off.

KATERINA

Now, you GIVE AWAY <u>free</u> gifts of <u>anyone's</u> choosing?

MALL SANTA

I suppose you could say--

KATERINA

With free shipping?

MALL SANTA

Er...yes...

KATERINA

Okay. We need to talk "Scooter Boot."

WIPE TO:

## INT. KATBOT'S ROOM - LATER

Katbot lies on her bed making a list. Junior sits on the floor involved in an elaborate art project.

KATBOT

I can't wait to go back to Santa tomorrow. I've got a whole list of stuff I want. Ooh! I almost forgot--

She writes as she speaks.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

--high performance clumping litter...with multi-crystals. (to Junior) Makes it prettier.

JUNIOR

Did not need to know.

KATBOT

What are you making?

JUNIOR

A Secret Santa gift for Darcy.

KATBOT

What's that?

JUNIOR

It's a present you give someone at Christmas but they don't know who it's from...what do you think?

He holds up a heart-shaped piece of construction paper with red and green designs. It looks like a kindergarten art project.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

It says, "A most hot Christmas to a most hot female. Love, Junior."

КАТВОТ

Uh-huh. I think you skipped a step.

JUNIOR

Right! Forgot the macaroni snowman! B-R-B.

He exits.

COMPUTER (O.S.)

Incoming K-mail!

PROFESSOR MEEW (O.S.)

Katbot?

She puts her list down and takes a seat at her laptop. Meew is on screen.

KATBOT

Hey Professor!

PROFESSOR MEEW

What news on the seasonal strangeness?

KATBOT

This season is all built around a day called Christmas and it's considered "the best day of the year," and...right now I'm working on getting stuff for it.

PROFESSOR MEEW

And what will you do with this "stuff"?

KATBOT

Depending on the stuff I get, I'll do different stuff with it.

PROFESSOR MEEW

This makes my fur hurt.

KATBOT

That happens a lot.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Should I arrange your transport home for the Upgrade Procedure?

KATBOT

No, I'll be there. Um, when is it again?

PROFESSOR MEEW

<SIGH> The fourteenth rotation of
Zinquox. In Earth time that's...
December twenty-fifth.

Katbot jumps up, alarmed.

KATBOT

December 25th? I can't go! That's Christmas! I have to be here for Christmas!

PROFESSOR MEEW

No Katbot. On December 25th, you have to be here for the Upgrade Procedure.

KATBOT

I'm not going.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Yes, you are.

KATBOT

No! Nuh-uh.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Yuh-hu--er...Katbot! I'm afraid you have no choice in this matter. You are going to be there.

KATBOT

No. I'm. <u>Not!</u> Can't you guys just move it to another day or something?

PROFESSOR MEEW

You are being very selfish. Even for a cat.

KATBOT

What's so selfish about me doing something for me for once? I mean, I am me!

PROFESSOR MEEW

I find it hard to believe that your precious humans have a season to celebrate such selfishness.

KATBOT

I've made my decision and there's nothing you can do about it!

She <SLAMS> the laptop closed and pouts.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

<POUTY CAT GROWL>

WIPE TO:

### INT. LEBORE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Delore stands in front of a large Christmas tree stringing popcorn. The strand goes around the back of the tree.

DELORE

I can't seem to get to the end of this popcorn string! I wonder--

She yanks on it and Dick pops out from behind the tree holding the other end and eating popcorn off of it.

DELORE (CONT'D)

Aha! A mischievous elf!

DICK

Fa la la la! Happy Christmas Eve!

They bust out in <GIGGLES>.

DICK/DELORE

<GIGGLE>

ON JUNIOR AND KATERINA on the floor, taking ornaments out of boxes.

JUNIOR

So aren't they gonna be mad at you for not going to the thing deal on your planet?

KATERINA

Oh, probably. But it's, like, upgrading my software? Or getting lots of presents on the best day of the year? Not too tough.

JUNIOR

Cha!

KATERINA

Maybe they'll forget all about it.

### EXT. LEBORE HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Marcella steps out from behind a bush wearing an elf costume and a utility belt, from which hangs a large sack and a three-pronged hook on a long rope. She holds the Temporary-Paralysis Mistletoe in her hands.

MARCELLA

Ho ho ho, Junior Lebore! With my new Temporary-Paralysis Mistletoe, I shall force you into my embrace...of romance!

She tucks the Mistletoe in her sack and takes the hook, swinging it over her head like a lasso. She lets it go up towards the Lebore roof and--

## INT. LEBORE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

<THUNK!> Everyone looks up at the ceiling.

DELORE

Charred marshmallows! What was that?!

DICK

Could be one Mister Santa <u>Claus!</u> Eh, kids? Better be nice, now!

KATERINA

I hope he didn't drop my Scooter Boot.

## EXT. LEBORE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Marcella walks up the wall, pulling on her line.

MARCELLA

(singing)

On the first day of Christmas my Junior came to meeeee!
Poor Katerina Botenskeeeee!
Bwa ha ha!

She reaches the roof and stands up, coiling up the rope and setting it aside. She pulls out the Mistletoe.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

I shall dangle the mistletoe over the roof, rappel down the wall, and ring the doorbell. "Merry Christmas, Lebores! May I see Junior outside for a moment?" The second Junior steps under the mistletoe, he shall freeze...and I shall embrace him like an octopus on a scallop!

She grabs herself in a hug and kisses the air. A sudden green glow brightens the night. Marcella looks up.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

What's this?

The glow gets brighter and brighter.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

An alien space ship? Christmas comes early for one Marcella Curd!

She tucks the mistletoe into her sack and jumps out of the way as a KATATONIAN SPACESHIP lands on the roof <THUD!>

## INT. LEBORE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Lebores and Katerina look up at the ceiling, alarmed.

KATERINA

Is Santa back already?

## EXT. LEBORE ROOF - CONTINUOUS

A large VACUUM TUBE snakes out of the spaceship and down the chimney.

## INT. LEBORE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Lebores and Katerina crowd around the fireplace. Dick sticks his head in to look up the chimney.

DELORE

What is going on up there, Dick?

DICK (MUFFLED)

Well I'll be...it looks like some kind of--yeeeaahhhhh!

<VOOOOOP!> Dick is sucked up the chimney.

DELORE

Dick, you come back here! Yaaaa!

She sticks her head up the chimney and <VOOOOOOP!> She is sucked up. Katerina and Junior look at each other nervously.

KATERINA

Is this like another Christmas tradition or something?

JUNTOR

Nope.

He sticks his head up the chimney. < V00000P!>

JUNIOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Awe....sooooome!

Katerina sticks her head up the chimney.

KATERINA

Junior? Juni--yaaaaaahhhhhh!

She is sucked up the chimney.

## EXT. LEBORE ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Marcella watches as the spaceship retracts the vacuum tube. It rises in the air a few feet.

MARCELLA

This is my chance to follow the fiendish outsider to her home planet! Bwa ha!

As the ship rises, Marcella grabs onto the bottom and pulls herself into the bottom of the ship. The spaceship < ZOOMS > into the night sky.

KATERINA (O.S.)

Mister and Mrs. Lebore? I have something to tell you...

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE

### ACT TWO

FADE IN:

## EXT. OUTER SPACE - LATER

The spaceship zooms through space.

DICK (O.S.)

So lemme get this straight: you aren't really a foreign exchange student?

## INT. SPACESHIP - CONTINUOUS

Dick, Delore, Junior, and KATERINA sit in seats facing one another.

KATERINA

Right.

DICK

You're actually a cat.

KATERINA

A robotic cat.

DELORE

Don't forget the alien part, dear.

JUNIOR

She's a robotic cat alien, what's so hard to understand about that?

KATERINA

Maybe this will help:

She <ZAPS> her antennae together and turns into Katbot.

JUNIOR

I mean, is that awesome, or what?

DELORE

Ooh, I see the similarity in the eyes.

Dick looks very confused.

DICK

And Junior's an alien too then?

DELORE

No, Junior is still a teenage boy.

DICK

And we know this because ...?

DELORE

We had him. In the hospital.

DICK

Right. So why do I understand the alien cat robot better than Junior?

DELORE

(reconsidering)

Oh...

KATBOT

I'm sorry I lied to you, but I was bound by the Intergalactic Katatonian Treaty of seventy-one-eighteen.

Dick and Delore look confused.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

Plus I'd get way grounded.

DELORE

Don't be silly dear. I'm sure you were just worried that we wouldn't understand. Right Dick?

Dick stares off, brows furrowed.

DICK

So Junior is just a regular earthling...

JUNIOR

Dad!

Katbot gets up and pushes some buttons on a panel.

KATBOT

At least I can try to get this thing to go back to Earth so we don't miss Christmas.

DELORE

Don't do anything illegal!

KATBOT

On Katatonia, we get our spaceship licenses when we're six months old.

DELORE

Very progressive!

Katbot hits a series of buttons. <CLICK! CLICK! >

KATBOT

It's not working! <CAT GROWL>

SHIP'S COMPUTER (V.O.)

Bad kitty! Shoo! Scram!

Katbot sinks back in her seat, defeated.

KATBOT

<ANGRY CAT GROWL>

# EXT. KATATONIA - LOADING DOCK - DAY

The spaceship slowly flies up to the loading dock and stops. Professor Meew and three Katatonian councilmembers approach. RAGGLES, CRUMPET, and LADY SHORTCAKE all wear robes.

The spaceship door opens and Katbot marches out, furious.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Greetings, Katbot. Good of you to come.

KATBOT

Like I had a choice.

She turns to the Councilmembers.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

<HISS!>

PROFESSOR MEEW

Katbot--

LADY SHORTCAKE

That is most uncalled for.

Katbot starts pacing back and forth, tail twitching.

KATBOT

I'll tell you what's <u>uncalled</u> for! Dragging me and the Lebores out of our house on Christmas Eve!

**RAGGLES** 

Don't get a burr in your fur, we--did you say...The Lebores?

PROFESSOR MEEW

The <u>Lebores</u> are <u>here</u>?!

DELORE (O.S.)

Dick! Stop asking me to pinch you, I'm seeing it too!

The councilmembers and Professor Meew exchange alarmed looks.

KATATONIANS/MEEW

<GASP!>

Dick and Delore walk out followed by Junior. They look around in amazement.

DTCK

Well now I've seen everything!

**DELORE** 

Except for the Great Pyramids. But this is probably better!

PROFESSOR MEEW

I don't remember saying you could invite guests.

JUNIOR

She didn't invite us. We got sucked up the chimney all on our own!

Meew turns sharply to the council members.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Wasn't anyone watching the retrieval ship?

Raggles, Crumpet, and Lady Shortcake exchange "don't look at me" shrugs.

KATBOT

Mister and Mrs. Lebore, this is Professor Meew.

Dick reaches out and pumps Meew's hand, man-to-man.

DICK

A Professor, eh? Then we have something in common. I teach over at the community pet clinic every other Saturday.

Junior approaches Meew with a "gimme five" hand.

JUNIOR (cont'd)

Domo Arigato, Professor Meew dude!

Professor Meew stares at Junior's hand. Then <SNIFFS> it.

Junior takes Professor Meew's paw and <SLAPS> it to his.

JUNIOR (CONT'D)

Yeah, gimme five. Here's your change.

Junior reverses his paw, and slaps him "five" back.

The Katatonian councilmembers surround the Lebores, curious.

**RAGGLES** 

This is a rare opportunity. Crumpet, Lady Shortcake: let us learn more about the humans. Take them to my office, sniff their fingers, and rub your cheeks against their ankles.

CRUMPET

Yes Sir! This way, please.

Crumpet leads Dick, Delore and Junior off.

JUNIOR

Kat?

PROFESSOR MEEW

She will see you in a short while.

KATBOT

Professor, we have to get back for Christmas! You can't keep us here!

RAGGLES

We brought <u>you</u> back for the Upgrade Procedure. No Katatonian has ever missed it. You are not going back.

Dick, Delore, and Junior are each led off by a councilmember.

KATBOT

But I have to, have to, <u>have to</u> be home for Christmas!

(whispers)

I'm getting a Scooter Boot!

He gives no reaction. She leans in to whisper again.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

For Christmas? The boot with a scooter in 'em?

No reaction. She whispers again.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

Tomorrow.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Goody. I will see you at the Upgrade.

He turns to go.

KATBOT

I'm not going!

PROFESSOR MEEW

Yes you are.

KATBOT

No I'm not! Not not notty not not!

PROFESSOR MEEW

<SIGH> Katbot, these human teenage
dramatics are quite tedious. The
fact is, you will not leave here
until you finish the Upgrade with
your fellow Katatonians.

He leaves.

OTS MARCELLA: peeking out from ship's open door, she watches Meew leave and Katbot pout.

KATBOT

I am not dramatic! <FRUSTRATED CAT
GROWL>

Katbot drops to all fours, claws angrily at the ground, and flops dramatically onto her back.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

<HEAVY SIGH>

<CREAK> Katbots ears prick up and turn towards the ship's door.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

Huh?

The top of an elf hat sticks out from behind the ship's door. Katbot starts towards it,

KATBOT (CONT'D)

Okay, either the hyperspeed travel affected my vision, or--

She approaches the elf hat stealthily and...grabs it!

MARCELLA (O.S.)

<STRUGGLE SOUNDS>

Katbot pulls Marcella out by the hat.

KATBOT

Marcella?! What are you doing here?!

Marcella pushes Katbot's hands away.

MARCELLA

Unclaw me, vile space creature!

If you plan to chew on my brain, you'll have to put up a fight first.

KATBOT

Oh please! First of all, if you wanna get chewed, go to the dog planet. Second, I don't know why you're here or how you got here, but, unless you want your Christmas ruined too, I've gotta find a way to get me, the Lebores, and now you back home in time, okay?

She starts to walk away. Marcella looks around, and her gumption turns to fear.

MARCELLA

So you're going to leave me here at the mercy of your nefarious peers? Ah-ah. Don't think so.

She walks up and stands nose-to-nose with Katbot.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

I am sticking to you like glue on a glueboard!

KATBOT

Then quit talking and start thinking. We gotta get a space ship and this one won't let me drive it.

They glare at each other for a beat...

MARCELLA

Your whiskers tickle me.

WIPE TO:

#### EXT. A KATATONIAN URBAN STREET - DAY

Katbot and Marcella walk along a city street in Katatonia. Marcella is looking around everywhere.

KATBOT

Are you happy now Marcella? You've been right about me all along, except I'm not evil.

MARCELLA

Is there anywhere we could stop to get a camera? Maybe a video camera? Camera phone, anything?

KATBOT

No, we're looking for a space ship!

Katbot walks off as Marcella lingers behind. They pass a public trash can, lined with a red bag. Marcella peers inside, looks around, then hoists the bag up and over her shoulder, making her look even more elf-ish.

MARCELLA

I've got to gather some form of evidence for my expose to the government!

WIPE TO:

## INT. KATATONIAN INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Junior, Dick, and Delore sit on a sofa. Crumpet, Raggles, and Lady Shortcake interview them.

CRUMPET

We are very curious about Christmas. Our sources tell us it is about getting "stuff". Is that correct?

JUNIOR

Yep. That's it exactly. Now I ask you a question: when you eat a mouse, do you also eat the fur?

WIPE TO:

## INT. RENT-A-SHIP - LATER

Katbot and Marcella stand at a counter. An officious looking KATATONIAN CLERK is behind the counter, grooming herself.

KATBOT

Hello! I'm interested in renting a spaceship please.

MARCELLA is crouched where the clerk can't see her. She is stuffing any object she can into her bag.

MARCETITIA

Dilemma: my earthly conscience tells me not to steal--yet I am in outer space, where those laws do not apply, so stealing should be okay. Plus, it's not really stealing, it's evidence gathering! Yes! That makes me feel better!

She gleefully fills her bag more.

ON KATBOT AND THE CLERK: She looks Katbot over.

KATATONIAN CLERK
You don't look old enough to rent a ship on your own, hang on--

She flips open a communicating device.

KATATONIAN CLERK (CONT'D) I'll just call up the council and give them your data.

Katbot gives up right away, leaving by walking backwards.

KATBOT

My data? Uh...I just have to use the litter box...be right back! (to Marcella) Run!

She grabs Marcella by the wrist and they race out of there.

WIPE TO:

### INT. KATATONIAN INTERVIEW ROOM - LATER

Junior, Dick, and Delore sit on a sofa opposite Crumpet, Raggles, and Lady Shortcake.

CRUMPET

And Christmas is the one day to be kind and charitable to others?

DICK

(LAUGH) No, no. We can do whatever we want on any day!

JUNIOR

We can?

DELORE

It just at this time of year we pay careful attention to think of others.

JUNIOR

Wait, go back to the part about we can do whatever we want...is that, like, written down somewhere?

WIPE TO:

## INT. SPACE SHIP - LATER

Inside the ship the Lebores flew in on, Katbot has opened a panel, and operates on a tangle of wires connected to a box of some kind. Marcella reads the operator's manual.

MARCELLA

Why do they always have to make these operating manuals so complicated?

ROBO-BRAIN (V.O.)

Warning: attempted reprogramming of ship unauthorized.

SHIP'S COMPUTER (V.O.)

I tried telling her that before.

KATBOT

I know it's unauthorized. I can't get a ship any other way so I'm just asking for help this one time! Can't it be like, a Christmas present?

ROBO-BRAIN (V.O.)

Okay. Downloading navigational codes...

SHIP'S COMPUTER (V.O.)

But just this once. Overriding security lockout.

KATBOT

Thank you!

ROBO-BRAIN (V.O.)

Merry. Christmas.

SHIP'S COMPUTER (V.O.)

Merry. Christmas.

WIPE TO:

#### INT. DOCKING STATION CORRIDOR - DAY

In a generic room, Katbot unrolls blueprint-like plans and points to various spots.

KATBOT

Okay, Crumpet, Raggles, and Lady Shortcake are probably down for their seven hour nap so rescuing the Lebores should be pretty easy. Are you listening Marcella?

Marcella is helping herself to a variety of odd mechanical objects and gadgets which fill a nearby shelf. She puts them into her bag and looks up innocently.

MARCELLA

I'm listening.

KATBOT

But we're still gonna have to be careful not to trip security alarms located here, here, here, here, here, here and here. Oh, and here. Marcella?

Marcella stuffs more loot in her bag.

MARCELLA

Listening!

WIPE TO:

## INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE KATATONIAN INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Katbot and Marcella sneak up to a closed door. Marcella drags her huge bag filled with Katatonian stuff. <CLANK CLANK>

KATBOT

Shh! (whispers) We have to be quiet. Are you ready?

Marcella nods. They are about to open the door when Delore steps out.

DELORE

Katerina, I thought I heard your voice out here! These darling cats have been snoozing for hours. We could use some company! Marcella?

MARCELLA

Hello Mrs. Lebore.

DELORE

I always knew you were an alien and I just want you to know we're okay with it.

KATBOT

Mrs. Lebore! We're coming to take you back to the ship. I've got it all arranged so we can still make it back home for Christmas!

DELORE

But won't--

KATBOT

Shh! Let's get the others!

Katbot sneaks into the room.

## INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Crumpet, Raggles, and Lady Shortcake are asleep in a heap on the floor, Junior is asleep sitting sprawled on the couch. Dick is happily reading the paper.

DELORE

Oh, Dick, Junior, Katerina is here to "spring us"! Isn't that exciting?

DICK

Terriffic! Where we going?

## EXT. KATATONIA - LOADING DOCK - LATER

Marcella stands just inside the door to the ship. She puts two fingers in her mouth and gives a <PIERCING WHISTLE>, spittle flying everywhere

MARCELLA

Let's move it people! March! March! Time's tickin'!

WIDEN TO INCLUDE KATBOT AND THE LEBORES standing outside the door.

KATBOT

Thanks, Marcella, but we're good.

Marcella salutes.

MARCELLA

Roger that. I shall take my seat. FYI: the seat next to me is already reserved.

She looks all googly-eyed at Junior, then disappears inside the ship. Junior turns to Katbot:

JUNTOR

I can't even go into outer space without her droolin' on me.

Katbot ushers Dick and Delore to the door.

KATBOT

Okay, you guys next. We are so gonna be home for Christmas!

DELORE

Katerina--I mean, Katbot--<GIGGLE> goodness! I can't get used to your new name! Are you sure it's okay if we leave like this?

КАТВОТ

Oh sure...I mean if we do it really fast and don't let anybody see us.

She practically shoves Dick and Delore inside. Junior steps up.

JUNIOR

Countdown to Scooter Boot unwrappage has begun!

She and Junior high-five. Junior steps inside. Katbot looks all around and is about to step in when...

PROFESSOR MEEW (O.S.)

Katbot!

She freezes.

KATBOT

(to herself)

Perfect.

REVEAL PROFESSOR MEEW standing on the loading dock. Katbot walks up to him with a too-broad smile on her face.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

Hey-ho Professor!

Katbot's expression turns to complete innocence.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

Just giving the Lebores a tour of Katatonia's impressive spaceship technology? Okay!

(calling out)

And that's what the Katatonians call a "chair"!

PROFESSOR MEEW

You're not fooling me.

KATBOT

Fine. But you can't stop me from going back to Earth for Christmas.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Okay.

KATBOT

Okay?

PROFESSOR MEEW

0-kay.

KATBOT

Hm. Okay then.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Although I am disappointed in your actions, I did not come here to stop you. In fact, I want you to take these.

He hands her three wrapped gifts.

KATBOT

Christmas presents?

PROFESSOR MEEW

Yes, for the Lebores and the strange girl. Merry Christmas.

KATBOT

Thank...you.

He pulls a HANDHELD VIDEO PLAYER out of his robe.

PROFESSOR MEEW

And this is for you.

KATBOT

Wow, a new paw-sized player! Thanks!

He pushes a button and a video recording of Delore and Crumpet come ON SCREEN.

#### INT. KATATONIAN INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Junior, Dick, and Delore are interviewed while sitting on a sofa.

CRUMPET

Excuse me for saying this but Christmas sounds rather...selfish...with all the receiving of gifts--

DELORE

Oh, no! The presents are just a bonus. During the Christmas season we try to <u>not</u> be selfish, to think of others. That's what Christmas is truly all about. It's wonderful!

ON PROFESSOR MEEW AND KATBOT. Katbot considers this.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Now you may go.

KATBOT

<SIGH> I guess I have sorta been
thinking about what I want...a
little...

PROFESSOR MEEW

Maybe just a smidge.

KATBOT

I didn't even consider what anybody else was thinking or feeling...

PROFESSOR MEEW

No, you didn't.

КАТВОТ

I'm sorry, Professor. You can count on me to be at the Upgrade.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Thank you, Katbot. I know that isn't an easy decision for you.

KATBOT

Yeah, but it's the Christmasy one.

Katbot runs up the ramp. Junior sticks his head out.

JUNIOR

Kat, come on!

KATBOT

Junior, I have to stay here.

JUNIOR

What? But, you'll miss Christmas!

KATBOT

Well, not totally. I mean, I'll miss opening presents and your mom's snowman-shaped bacon, but I'll still be celebrating the real part of Christmas. But with the other Katatonians.

She looks back towards Meew.

JUNIOR

Dude, did they put a chip in your head or something?

KATBOT

No. Now, you guys better get going.

JUNIOR

So you're staying, but you're sending us back so we can have Christmas?

Katbot smiles.

KATBOT

Consider it my present to you.

JUNIOR

Okay. (BEAT) But you did get me something else too, right?

She hands him the presents from Professor Meew.

KATBOT

Oops, almost forgot. These are from Professor Meew. Now go!

She shuts the door from the outside and pushes some buttons on a keypad.

She steps back and watches the ship take off into the starry sky.

KATBOT (CONT'D)

Merry Christmas.

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

### ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - DAY

The SPACSHIP flies back the other way through the stars.

DELORE (O.S.)

What a lovely gesture.

INT. SPACESHIP - SITTING AREA - LATER

Dick, Delore, and Junior sit in their seats, glum.

DICK

Yes, Katerina certainly has shown us what this holiday is all about. You could learn a valuable lesson in selflessness from her, Junior.

JUNIOR

(depressed)

Is it okay if I don't learn any lessons today? I'm too bummed out.

Junior walks to the back of the ship.

INT. SPACESHIP - REAR - CONTINUOUS

Junior surprises Marcella.

JUNIOR

Oh, hey Curd.

He slumps down on a chair.

MARCELLA

Yaaaahhhhhh! You...here ...alone...one moment!

She turns away from him.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Okay, focus! Focus! Mister Junior Lebore has sought you out to be alone. It's a Christmas miracle!

She turns back and gives him a huge smile.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

(with difficulty)

Hi-lo..there...Junior...Sir.

JUNIOR

Sorry to scare you. I just needed somewhere to think.

She turns away from him again.

MARCELLA

(to herself)

What handsome thoughts he must have!

She turns back, same ridiculous smile on her face.

JUNIOR

<SIGH> I wish I could figure out
how to turn this ship around to go
back to Katatonia. But the only
one who knows how to do that is
Katbot.

Marcella snaps to brag mode.

MARCELLA

Oh, puh-leeze. It's so easy. I just saw her fix this thing anyway.

Junior jumps up and stares at her.

JUNIOR

For real?

Marcella realizes she said too much.

MARCELLA

I mean...I didn't...I mean...oh,
fudge.

JUNIOR

Curd, Dude! You have to get us back to Katatonia. Please?

CLOSE ON JUNIOR looking extra-adorable in a halo of love.

CLOSE ON MARCELLA gazing back, bewitched.

MARCELLA

(monotone)

Of...course...I...will...help...you ...Junior...Le...Bore...

JUNIOR

Sweet! Thanks, Curd!

Marcella snaps out of it and turns away.

MARCELLA

What have I done? Even when the fiendish alien isn't here she ruins everything! Still, perhaps I can get something out of this too?

She turns around to face Junior.

MARCELLA (CONT'D)

Yes, I shall assist you. But perhaps you could first stand under this?

She suddenly has her Temporary-Paralysis Mistletoe in hand and raises it over Junior's head. He freezes.

JUNIOR

Huh? I can't move...

Marcella leans in, lips puckered, eyes closed.

MARCELLA

Give me some Christmas sugar, mi amore!

JUNIOR

(to himself)

In the name of spending Christmas with my bud, Kat, I shall do it. Even though it's way wrong.

Marcella leans in closer and Junior <PECKS> her on the lips.

CLOSE ON MARCELLA, eyes wide, dopey smile.

**BEGIN FANTASY:** 

## EXT. A PASTEL MEADOW - FANTASY - DAY

MUSIC: A SWEET, MELODIOUS TUNE.

Underneath a blue sky dotted with cotton candy clouds, Marcella and Junior gallop on a unicorn as he embraces her.

They ride through a butterfly-filled meadow sprinkled with sparkling flowers. A glorious rainbow is in the distance.

They look up and a fluffy cloud <WINKS> at them.

JUNIOR (O.S.)

Curd! Hey!

END OF FANTASY.

## INT. SPACESHIP - REAR - CONTINUOUS

Junior <SNAPS> his fingers in front of Marcella's face.

JUNIOR

You promised! Turn this ship around!

He walks off, followed by a dazed Marcella.

MARCELLA

Yes...captain...of my heart. (BEAT) Oh, and the limb numbness should wear off in thirty minutes.

WIPE TO:

## EXT. KATATONIAN CENTRAL SQUARE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

ESTABLISH a city center with the Art Deco majesty of "Metropolis" and the glimmering splendor of Oz. Royal music underscores. The P.A. Announcer sounds just like Kat's Robo-Brain.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.) Upgrade Procedure to begin in twenty-two shakes of a cat's tail...

### EXT. CENTRAL SQUARE - GROUND LEVEL - DAY

This <u>vast</u> open plaza features a GRAND PODIUM. MANY KATATONIANS mill about in casual conversation, others are curled up sleeping, scratching at posts, grooming, etc. DISCOVER Professor Meew talking with Katbot.

KATATONTANS

<WALLA>

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

--Twenty-one shakes...

KATBOT

I can't believe everyone is here, and they're all on time, too!

PROFESSOR MEEW

That's robots for you.

IN THE DISTANCE: PUSSBOT stands weak-kneed, girlishly braiding her whiskers, as EDDIE cooly leans on a wall. She's talking, but we can't hear her.

KATBOT (0.S.)
Is that Pussbot talking to Eddie?

PROFESSOR MEEW

You can visit with your friends after the procedure.

KATBOT

Hm! I will!

PROFESSOR MEEW

I'm proud of you Katbot.

KATBOT

Why, because I did what I'm supposed to do, or because I didn't make you come and chase me down a second time?

PROFESSOR MEEW

Your time away on planet earth is changing you. You're not the kitty who once did whatever I programmed her to do.

KATBOT

(reluctantly)

Thanks. And Merry Christmas, Professor Meew.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Merry Christmas, Katbot.

SFX: A HARMONIOUS CHORD plays. They look up when they hear it.

ON THE DAIS: UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY regally takes the stage, followed by Raggles, Crumpet and Lady Shortcake. (NOTE: Fluffy is a fat longhair, but NOT a white puffball like the villain in "Cats and Dogs"). He is even more imperious than Meew.

UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY

Felines of Katatonia. Meow. As your Uber-chairman, I feel I should say something...but it's just a mandatory upgrade, so: "begin!"

Lady Shortcake whispers into Fluffy's ear. Fluffy holds up a paw, listening with sudden concern.

LADY SHORTCAKE

<Meow, meow, meow, meow>

UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY

Oh yes. And a special thank you to Ping-Pong and Fishbreath for arranging the refreshments. Very well. Begin!

Crumpet interrupts with a worried look to the skies.

CRUMPET

What's that?

RAGGLES

(calling to arms)
Man the spray guns!

The Lebore's spaceship descends on the Central square!

As the ship gradually sets down right in the plaza, HUGE MECHANICAL ARMS unfold to aim menacing WATER SPRITZ BOTTLES at the intruders. (STAGING NOTE: There will need to be a good distance between where the ship lands and the dais. We'll allow that sound travels well here, when all else is quiet.)

Katbot and Meew share a worried glance.

UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY I hear something. What's that sound?

RAGGLES

It's...singing, Sir.

KATBOT

It's Christmas carols!

WE NOW HEAR: the Lebores singing as the portal opens, and they walk out down the ship's front ramp. They are happy, holding hands.

JUNIOR/DICK/DELORE

(singing)

FOLLOW ME IN MERRY MEASURE, FA LA-LA-LA, LA-LA-LA LA, LA, LA. WHILE I TELL OF YULE TIDE TREASURE, FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA.

FAST AWAY THE OLD YEAR PASSES, FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA. HAIL THE NEW, YE LADS AND LASSES, FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA.

The spray bottles antic menacingly.

The councilmembers look on with concern. CROWD CATS look on with bewilderment. Katbot looks on with worry.

Marcella peers out from inside the ship, agog at what she sees.

MARCELLA

<GASP> Why, why, why didn't I bring a camera!

Katbot breaks away from Meew and the crowd.

PROFESSOR MEEW

Katbot! (then, to himself) Oh I
give up.

Katbot leaps up to the Lebores, and Dick and Delore put a hand on her shoulders.

КАТВОТ

(calling)

Don't spray, they're my family! (to the Lebores)
Why did you guys come back?

JUNIOR

Wait--one more verse:
 (sings merrily)
SING WE JOYOUS, ALL TOGETHER,
FA LA LA LA LA--

ON THE DAIS:

UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY Not to sound cliche, but what is the meaning of this?

ON THE LEBORES AND KATBOT:

DICK

Sorry to interrupt everything, we were trying to park this baby more towards the back but the steering thing's a little wonky.

UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY
But you have interrupted our
upgrade procedure! What--I mean-couldn't you have at least waited a
few HOURS?

DELORE

Well, your Honor, it's Christmas, and we're Lebores. And we just couldn't go have Christmas without our whole family, and that includes Katerina.

DICK

(formally announcing)
She means the one that you call,
"Kat-bot."

ON THE DAIS, the Katatonians confer:

UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY
Oh yes, the girl who went to Earth.

LADY SHORTCAKE

You risked the anger of an entire planet of cats upon your heads.

КАТВОТ

And not having Christmas together at home.

PROFESSOR MEEW

You risked all of this...for Christmas?

JUNIOR

Yeah, families are supposed to be together. Ah-duhhh!

DICK

Katerina gave up her Christmas, so we could have ours.

DELORE

(emotional, to Katbot)
And it's the most Christmassy thing
I've ever seen!

Delore gives Katbot a weepy hug.

ON MARCELLA, dragging her big red sack to some nearby Katatonians. She is fully emotional.

MARCELLA

<CHOKED UP> And...and...I have
gifts! Gifts for everybody!

She hands a gizmo to a KATATONIAN standing behind her.

KATATONIAN #1

Hey! I needed a pocket
nutrometron, somebody just swiped
my old one!

ON KATBOT AND THE LEBORES. Katbot breaks into song.

KATBOT

WEEEEEE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS,

DELORE/JUNIOR

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

DICK

Come on everyone!
You can all just "meow" along!

JUNIOR

(singing the tune)

Professor Meew is the first to join in.

PROFESSOR MEEW

They all "Meow" the tune to "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." (Lyrics provided here only as a guide:)

KATATONIANS

(sung all in spoken

"Meows")

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! GOOD TIDINGS WE BRING, TO YOU AND YOUR KIN, GOOD TIDINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

RAGGLES

We must begin the Upgrade, Uber-chairman Fluffy.

UBER-CHAIRMAN FLUFFY

Begin!

The singing continues as:

Fluffy takes Lady Shortcake's hand which <CLICKS> like a seat belt. Their antennae ripple waves between them, then the waves connect to each other's antennae. Then they take on a LIGHTED GLOW, especially in their eyes. It's "Katbot Green".

Then Raggles and Crumpet each take an outside hand of Fluffy and Lady Shortcake, and the process continues with them in a chain that extends out from both directions.

THREE KATATONIANS <CLICK> together in succession up hands on both sides. Waves ripple between all their antenna, and they glow.

TRUCK PAST A ROW OF KATATONIANS at hand level, <CLICK, CLICK, CLICKING> together.

VARIOUS ANTENNAE come to life and connect via wave ripples, including Pussbot and Eddie.

KATBOT AND MEEW click hands together, and connect with the current of wave ripples now filling the air.

AERIAL SHOT OF CENTRAL SQUARE: The multitude of cats start forming concentric circles.

A small CIRCLE OF GLOWING CATS surround CHAIRMAN FLUFFY. They robotically lift him up. An outer circle of cats encircle the first ring, and robtically lift them and Fluffy higher. Then the ring behind them lifts the rows in front of them (they are forming a cone).

ON THE LEBORES and Marcella: watching in wonder as they are bathed in a glow of green light.

WIDE: as the "cone" of Katatonians grows to form what looks just like...a big green Christmas tree.

DELORE (O.S.)

It's beautiful!

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

#### INT. LEBORE HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The Lebore Christmas Tree. The family sits around the living room in bathrobes, each with a nice pile of gifts.

DELORE

Use this in good health, sweetie.

Junior tears it open and doesn't even look at what it is.

JUNIOR

Righteous! You got us Scooter
Boots! Knew it!
 (leaps to his feet)
Thanks Mom. Thanks Dad. You dudes
rock solid!

Katerina holds up hers: a pair of old roller skates.

KATERINA

These are roller skates.

DICK

I know they're not that scooter dealie you both wanted so much...

DELORE

But those are all being recalled by the manufacturer ever since that boy in that one band who has the long hair broke his leg in five places.

Now Junior holds up his pair.

JUNIOR

So you got us used roller skates?

Dick puts his arm around Delore.

DICK

They're our roller skates from our roller-disco phase.

KATERINA

Thanks, that's really great.

DICK

Lookie here. This is that present we got from Professor Meew up on Katatonia--

DELORE

Dick! You promised you'd keep a secret.

Dick covers his own mouth with sheepish guilt.

DICK

(laughingly, sincere)
Woop! Sorry Earthlings. I'm gonna
have to learn to be better at
secrets!

Katbot rises and pulls Junior toward the door.

KATBOT

That's okay...we'll be right back.

Katbot pulls Junior out of the living room.

CUT TO:

## EXT. LEBORE HOME - FRONT PORCH - MORNING

Katerina and Junior step out of the house. As they close the door we hear a <POOF!> like a soft explosion. A cloud of gas comes out from the crack beneath the front door.

JUNIOR

What's that?

Katbot <ZAPS> into Katerina.

KATBOT

Meew gave them boxes of Forget-It gas. They'll sleep for a few minutes, and when they wake up they won't remember anything about Katatonia.

JUNIOR

So Marcella's not going to remember that you're an alien, either?

KATBOT

Not if she opened her present.

CUT TO:

## INT. MARCELLA'S HOUSE - DAY

In front of a Christmas Tree, Marcella is <SNORING> in front of an open box.

THE CAMERA MOVES PAST HER and to the window. There we see JUNIOR and KATERINA disco roller skating down the sidewalk.

JUNIOR

Hey Marcella, Merry Christmas!

KATERINA

Merry Christmas!!

IRIS OUT.

END OF SHOW