

*(The ALLEY CATS exit.)*

MADAME

It's so nice to be home.

ARISTOCATS

Meow.

MADAME

Duchess, Kittens — I had a nice visit with my attorney today. We've made out my will and I've decided to leave you all my money.

ARISTOCATS

Meow?

MADAME

Yes, money. And Edgar can take care of you for the rest of your lives! Isn't that wonderful?

*(MADAME exits.)*

EDGAR

*(aside)*

What? What? What-what-what?!? No!!!

*(EDGAR storms off.)*

DUCHESS

All right now, darlings. Time for your lessons. Line up.

*(MARIE moves to the front of the ARISTOKITTEN line.)*

MARIE

Me first, me first!

BERLIOZ

Why should you be first?

MARIE

Because I'm a lady.

TOULOUSE

You're not a lady, you're a sister.

BERLIOZ

Mama!

DUCHESS

No shouting, Kittens. Use your inside voices.

BERLIOZ

But Marie cut in line!

MARIE

Ladies do not "cut" – they deserve to be in front.

TOULOUSE

That's cheating!

MARIE

Ladies do not cheat. They get their way.

TOULOUSE, BERLIOZ

Mama!

DUCHESS

Now Kittens, you must not fight.

TOULOUSE

But someday we might have to fight some tough Alley Cats, like the ones we saw today...

*(shadow-clawing)*

Meow-fft! Meow-fft!

DUCHESS

Toulouse! Aristocats do not fight. Aristocats behave like ladies and gentlemen.

TOULOUSE

Yes, Mama.

DUCHESS

Now, it's time for music practice.

TOULOUSE, BERLIOZ

But Mama!

DUCHESS

It's important to have a well rounded education. You never know when a knowledge of music might come in handy.

*(MARIE sticks out her tongue at TOULOUSE and BERLIOZ. DUCHESS lifts her paws, as a conductor.)*