

MAGGIE IS THE RUM TUM TUGGER

By Maggie Smith

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[ZACK, LOCKNE, and BRI are standing in a line. They are all holding scary cat masks. HOLLY is holding a clipboard.]

HOLLY

Alright, I need you all to take this seriously. Opening Night of the McDermott Family Fun Farm is no laughing matter. I need everyone to get their scary cat masks ready, gates are about to open. Role call. Lockne?

[LOCKNE does a cat noise.]

HOLLY

Bri?

[BRI hisses.]

HOLLY

Zack?

ZACK

Present.

HOLLY

Alright. Maggie?

[MAGGIE enters quickly. She's not dressed in the same scary cat outfit as everyone else. She is fully dressed as the Rum Tum Tugger from Cats.]

MAGGIE

Sorry I'm late.

LOCKNE

What's this?

MAGGIE

What's what?

BRI

The outfit, what's the outfit?

MAGGIE

It's my costume.

LOCKNE

Are you... A character from Cats?

MAGGIE

What?

LOCKNE

Cats. Like, the musical Cats.

MAGGIE

I don't know. I've never seen Cats.

ZACK

I don't understand how you could possibly not have seen Cats but have an accurate replica of a costume from the 1997 straight-to-VHS production of Cats.

MAGGIE

It was 1998, actually.

ZACK

So you do know Cats.

MAGGIE

I do not.

BRI

Holly, help us out with this.

HOLLY

Is she wearing a cat costume?

BRI

Technically, yes.

HOLLY

Then she's doing half of her job correctly. Doors are opening. Actors, take your marks!

[JACKSON and KATE enter. The actors take their places. JACKSON and KATE do a quick walkthrough where the actors take turns hissing and scaring them. They exit.]

LOCKNE

Everyone pause for, like, two seconds while we figure this out.

MAGGIE

There's literally nothing to figure out. I'm in the scary cat outfit like Holly asked us to be.

ZACK

Does Cats scare you?

MAGGIE

Oh, no.

BRI

Okay, then why did you feel like this was the route to go with the costume? Did you just, like, have that on hand?

MAGGIE

Costume department gave it to me.

LOCKNE

The costume department gave everyone else the same costume, but gave you the costume of a Jellicle Cat?

BRI

I don't know what a Jellicle Cat is.

MAGGIE

Do you want the historical answer or the lore-accurate answer?

ZACK

So she's seen Cats!

BRI

Could you back me up on this, Holly? She's dressed like a Jellicle Cat!

HOLLY

Did she offer you a lore-accurate answer as to what a Jellicle Cat is?

BRI

Yes.

HOLLY

And did you take it?

BRI

No.

HOLLY

Then that's not my problem. Next group's coming in!

I HAVE NO TITLE AND I MUST SCREAM — 4

[JACKSON and KATE enter again, wearing wigs. They do the same walkthrough as before, with everyone doing catlike scary stuff as they make ad-libbed commentary. MAGGIE jumps back in.]

MAGGIE

I literally don't know what you want me to say, we're supposed to be playing people who got turned into evil cats.

LOCKNE

That's not what happens in Cats, though!

MAGGIE

I wouldn't know. I've never seen it.

BRI

It kind of feels like we got the assignment to dress up as werecats for the McDermott Family Fun Farm, and you wanted to dress up as the Magical Mr. Mistoffelees.

MAGGIE

It's the Rum Tum Tugger, actually.

ZACK

So you've seen Cats!

BRI

You clearly made this costume yourself!

MAGGIE

Why would I want to be the bisexual cat from Cats?

ZACK

The fact that you know he's the bisexual cat means that you've seen Cats!

MAGGIE

Everyone knows he's the bisexual cat!

BRI

No, ma'am, everyone does not! Holly, back me up!

HOLLY

Is Maggie herself bisexual?

MAGGIE

I am.

I HAVE NO TITLE AND I MUST SCREAM — 5
HOLLY

Then she's allowed to dress up as the bisexual cat without it being an HR issue. Next group!

MAGGIE

No! No! I have to say something! Can I not be loved for who I am? Can I not be accepted when coming to work in a Cats-themed outfit? Everyone else gets to wear their costumes at work. Everyone else gets to hiss and dance. But I want to dress up as the Rum Tum Tugger at the Jellicle Ball and come to the haunted house and suddenly I'm the problem? This was my dream. But all of you... You all destroyed it. Destroyed it like... Like...

[JACKSON and KATE enter, wearing a second set of wigs over their first set of wigs.]

JACKSON

Like Macavity when he tries to electrocute Jellicle Ball?

ZACK

They... They've seen Cats.

KATE

That's right. Of course we've seen Cats.

JACKSON

We've seen it so many times we just had to come back through the werecat scare zone just to see your costume over and over again.

[JACKSON and KATE take off their top set of wigs.]

BRI

The people from the second group!

[JACKSON and KATE take off their bottom set of wigs.]

LOCKNE

And the people from the first group! It was you all along!

KATE

Of course it was. And we're here to tell you, if you make her take off her Rum Tum Tugger costume, we're blowing up the entire McDermott Family Fun Farm with bombs.

I HAVE NO TITLE AND I MUST SCREAM — 6
HOLLY

I don't care if she gets to wear the costume, and I don't care if you blow up the entire McDermott Family Fun Farm with bombs, either.

MAGGIE

No, wait! You might not care about whether or not they blow up the entire McDermott Family Fun Farm with bombs, but I do. I'll wear the Rum Tum Tugger costume.

LOCKNE

Don't act like that's some great sacrifice.

BRI

You literally walked in to work wearing it.

MAGGIE

Me and Christ are on the same level.

ZACK

Are we all going to brush over that they threatened to blow up the entire McDermott Family Fun Farm with bombs?

MAGGIE

Maybe we could... Get out of here? Get a drink? Talk about the fact that / Gus was the most deserving of all the cats to be the Jellicle choice?!

JACKSON/KATE

Gus was the most deserving of all the cats to be the Jellicle choice?!

[KATE, JACKSON, and MAGGIE laugh and exit, arm in arm. As they walk out, they sing the chorus to Skimbleshanks the Railway Cat.]

HOLLY

You're still on the clock!

[A beat. Everyone looks around.]

ZACK

So we all agree that she's seen Cats, right?

[Blackout.]