MADAME

Oh Edgar, I still can't believe my dear cats ran away.

EDGAR

(wiping fake tears away from his eyes) Yes, Madame, it's a pity.

MADAME

I miss them so much, I've had to distract myself with a little shopping. (pulls a huge pile clothes out of the box) I'll go put these away. Then we should go out and search for them again.

EDGAR

Yes, of course, Madame.

(MADAME exits.)

Oh, this is the life! No stupid cats to take care of and all that money will one day be mine... mine!

(*sniffs*) A-a-a-choo! Oh, no. It can't be!

(The ARISTOCATS enter. EDGAR begins to panic.)

ARISTOCATS

Meow! Meow!

MADAME

(offstage) Edgar! Is that Duchess and the Kittens I hear?

EDGAR

(to himself)

I've got to keep Madame from seeing them... The box! Cats <u>love</u> boxes! (to ARISTOCATS)

Oh, so nice to have you back! And look, I've got a nice box for you to play in...