

Nyan nyan nyan! Nyaaan nyaaan!

I'm sorry, The Ship's Catgirl, I know you're disappointed and frustrated. I haven't managed to get any myself recently, but we have to keep on course for our mission, so please be good.

Nyan. Nyam.

If we don't find a good take-off place for the Heart of Choko, the Princess and Her Excellency the Ambassador will have to spend all night in a wet patch and they won't be at all pleased.

Nyan?

Yes, it has got a bit damp on the decking here. I thought this aluminium hull was watertight. Perhaps you should pump the bilge.

Nyaaan nyan?

I don't know what it means either, but you hear it a lot in wet navy dramas so I thought it might help create the right atmosphere.

Nyannnn.

Tch...Pfizzzz....

Do you know what? I don't think whisky and tonic water goes any better together than gin and soda water. Maybe a bit better. Still, there isn't much choice right now. The gin is all gone. We'll be down to neat Scotch soon enough.

Nyan?

No, you can't. Remember the last time I let you have strong spirits.

Nyan nyan~ ~ ~

Well that's exactly the point, isn't it?

Nyam. >: C

Sorry, I'm so selfish! Would you like some milk to go with your cheese? Maybe with some tonic water in it?

Nyan.

I don't know. Milk and tonic water sounds quite interesting. You probably need full cream milk, or it's going to be very thin. Let's give it a try.

Nyan nyaaaaan nyan.

Not bad! There used to be a drink called Cal Piss which was a bit like that.

Nyanyanyanyan.

Straight milk it is, then. There you go!

Nyaaan!

The curious thing is that either whisky or gin both go well with ginger ale. Does that make ginger ale the ultimate mixer? I wonder how it goes with rum. Ginger beer goes well with rum.

Nyan!

You got that right! Oh well, I suppose I had better get back to rowing. Or sculling, whichever it is.

Some time later....

Nyan! Nyan! Nyannyan!!

What's that? Lights ahead? Well done, The Ship's Catgirl! You have saved us all.

There are brightly coloured lights strung along a seafront boulevard. Tomoko brings the Just Testing close to a dock. Miss The Ship's Catgirl throws up... Damn hairballs. She throws up a line and someone catches it for them.

Tomoko and The Ship's Catgirl climb up to the boulevard and tie the painter to a bollard. There are people walking up and down wearing skimpy swimsuits or resort dresses.

This is lucky. If you put your dress back on and I wear my suit liner, we will fit right in.

Nyan?

I'm sure no-one will notice the gun.

Nyan, nyan?

Okay, I admit it is bigger than you are, The Ship's Catgirl, but even so I'm sure there won't be any trouble.

NYAN!

Well, maybe you're right. I'll stick it in the bilge along with my cricket bat and spacesuit. Can you hide the pistol under your dress?

Nyaan!

Good. I'll just send in a sitrep by text and then we'll go.