

# Feline Fury

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*Chihiro finds Haku in the forest. But something is wrong with Haku. He has had some kind of accident and is turning into a cat. Can Chihiro save him before he turns into a cat forever? Will Haku end up chasing mice for the rest of his life?*

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# 1 - Finding A Feline Friend

Chihiro stood in the forest. She heard someone coming towards her. She looked around and saw Haku. Haku looked the same as Chihiro remembered him, except that he now had the tail and ears of a tabby cat.

"Hey, Chihiro," Haku said.

"Hey, Haku," Chihiro replied. "Uh...why do you have a cat's tail and ears?" Haku's cat ears lowered. "There was some kind of magical accident," Haku told her. "It was like a small explosion of magic. I was caught in the middle of it. Now, I'm like this," His cat ears were drooping. That showed that he didn't like talking about this. The tip of his tail twitched from side to side. It showed that he was uncomfortable. Chihiro noticed that his hands were changing into cat's paws. Then, she and Haku walked through the streets. Some people stared at Haku. Others whispered mean things about him to their friends. Women with their young children ushered their children away, looking back at Haku with fear in their eyes.

"What is that creature doing here?" A woman asked. She said 'creature' as if it were a curse word. Tears filled Haku's eyes. Chihiro noticed this and glared at the woman.

"Look what you've done," She said angrily. "You've hurt his feelings," Tears were streaming silently down Haku's face. Then, Haku ran. Chihiro was shocked for a few minutes. Then, she ran after Haku. She looked around for him. After a while, she found him in an alley. Haku was crying. Chihiro sat beside him and put her arm around his shoulders. Haku looked at her. Chihiro felt really sorry for him.

"Maybe I shouldn't go out in daylight," Haku said. "Maybe I should just go out at night," Chihiro was silent for a moment. Then, she had an idea. She told Haku about her plan. Haku nodded when she had finished.

"Sounds good to me," He stated. He grinned. Chihiro noticed that his teeth were changing into cat's teeth. Fifteen minutes later, Chihiro walked into her house. Haku followed her, except he was wearing a black cloak with the hood pulled up over his head. His cat ears were covered. So was his tail. Haku kept his hands hidden under his cloak.

"Chihiro," Her mother said. "Who is that wearing that cloak?" Chihiro looked at Haku. Then, she noticed that his tail was showing at the bottom of his cloak.

"The better question would be, 'What is that wearing that cloak?'" Chihiro's father interjected. He walked over to Haku and pulled Haku's hood down. Haku's cat ears were revealed. Haku looked at Chihiro's parents. He took off his cloak. Chihiro took it from him. Haku's ears drooped sadly.

"I wish I knew how to explain this," He said. "But I don't," Chihiro's parents stared at Haku. The way they saw him, he was half human and half cat. They didn't trust him at all. Just then, Chihiro's mother fainted from shock. Chihiro's father pulled out a gun and aimed it at Haku's chest, right at his heart. Chihiro gasped. Haku sighed and closed his eyes. He hadn't seen the gun. Then, Chihiro's father prepared to shoot. Haku heard the click of the gun. His ears pricked up alertly and he opened his eyes. He looked at Chihiro's father. His eyes widened in fear.

"Dad!" Chihiro cried. "Don't shoot him. Please don't shoot Haku,"

"I don't know if this thing is human or animal, or if it's both," Her father replied. "If I kill it, it won't put up a fight when scientists study it to find out what it is,"

"You're going to let a bunch of scientists study Haku, experiment on him, and run all sorts of tests on him?" Chihiro asked. Her father nodded.

"I won't put up a fight," Haku said quickly. "Just please don't shoot me," Chihiro's father lowered the gun. Then, he walked over to the phone and began dialing the number for the Science Institute. Half an hour

later, three scientists came into the house. When they saw Haku, one of them exclaimed, "Oh, jeez! What in the name of Ninigi is that thing?" Haku's ears drooped, showing that he was ashamed of himself.

"It's half human and half cat," Another scientist said.

"It could be the missing link between humans and animals,"

Said the third scientist. The three scientists walked towards Haku. Chihiro could tell that Haku was scared. Two of the scientists grabbed Haku's arms. Haku began shaking in fear. The third scientist took out a hypodermic needle. He slid the needle into Haku's right arm and injected some kind of liquid into Haku. Haku fell limp in the scientists' grip. Chihiro realized what had happened. The scientist had just sedated Haku with a tranquilizer shot.

## 2 - In The Lab

Haku opened his eyes and sat up. \*Huh?\* He thought. \*What happened? Where am I?\* He looked around. He was in some kind of laboratory room. \*I've gotta get out of this place.\* He thought. \*But how?\* Just then, a scientist came into the room.

"It's good to see that you're finally awake," She said kindly. She came over to Haku and sat beside him. She began gently rubbing his left ear. Haku closed his eyes and purred contentedly. The purr surprised him. \*Did I really just do that?\* He wondered. The scientist laughed slightly.

"You like that. Don't you?" She remarked, sounding amused. She stopped rubbing his ear, and Haku opened his eyes. He looked at the scientist. He liked her. She was nice to him. The scientist carefully took hold of Haku's paw-like hand.

"Well, you've got quite some claws here," She stated. Haku pulled his hand back.

"What's going to happen to me?" He asked.

"Nothing that will do any harm to you," The scientist assured him. "Don't worry," She gently rubbed his left ear again. Just like before, Haku closed his eyes and purred contentedly. He soon fell fast asleep with his head resting on the scientist's lap. After Haku was asleep, another scientist came in.

"Dr. Karamoto, have you found out anything about the cat-boy?" He asked. Dr. Karamoto shook her head.

"No, I haven't, Dr. Ranma," She replied. "But I think he's taken a liking to me,"

"What have you been doing with him?" Dr. Ranma inquired.

"I've just been talking to him, and rubbing his ears a little," Dr. Karamoto answered. "He likes it when I rub his ears,"

"I'm not surprised," Dr. Ranma remarked. "He's part cat. Isn't he? All cats like it when someone rubs their ears. Anyway, we need someone to watch him daily, record information about him, write down what he eats, and take notes on his behavior,"

"I'll do it," Dr. Karamoto said. "I think he trusts me. He might not like it if someone else besides me came in here to visit him," Dr. Ranma nodded.

"Very well," He replied. "I expect you to start tomorrow,"

"I will," Dr. Karamoto told him. "Don't worry. I will," The next day, Dr. Karamoto went into Haku's room to see him. She was carrying a plate of food for him. Haku looked at her and smiled. Dr. Karamoto noticed that his eyes had become a little more cat-like, and his hands were more like paws.

"Are you hungry?" She asked him.

"Yeah," Haku answered. Dr. Karamoto brought the plate of food over to him. She put the plate down in front of Haku. The first thing Haku ate was the piece of meat. For some reason, he didn't eat the shrimp. Fifteen minutes later, Dr. Karamoto watched Haku through a window. Haku was practicing martial arts. After about half an hour, Dr. Karamoto returned to check on Haku. This time, the cat-boy was pacing back and forth in the room. It was the same routine for the next three days. On the third day, it was time to run the first test on Haku.

### 3 - Panic and Escape

As soon as Haku realized what was going on, he began to get scared. He started fighting against the thick ropes that bound him to the lab table. He was scared and panicking. The scientists tried to calm him down, but nothing worked. Haku was terrified and would not calm down. After a couple minutes, the rope binding Haku's right wrist snapped. Haku still fought. He soon snapped the ropes binding both his ankles. He climbed off the table, but his left wrist was still tied to the lab table. He pulled and clawed at it, and soon it broke. Haku started running towards the door, but two of the scientists got there first and blocked his path. Haku scrambled around and ran the other way. He leapt onto the table and landed in the catlike way. The scientists surrounded the table, and one of them tried to grab Haku. However, Haku leapt over them and landed on his feet. He ran towards the staircase, but two scientists blocked him. Haku leapt up and landed on the railing. Holding onto the wood with his claws, he ran up the railing on all fours. When he was a few meters away from the top, he leapt off the railing and grabbed the banister at the edge of the second floor. Unfortunately, he just barely made it. He clung to it with his claws, holding on for dear life. The scientists crowded below him, ready to catch him if he fell. However, Haku slowly pulled himself up and climbed over the banister.

"Get him!" Someone shouted. "Don't just stand there, you idiots! Somebody get that cat-boy! He's too rare to be lost like this!" Four scientists came running up the stairs. Haku stopped dead in his tracks, too scared to move, watching the scientists coming towards him. Then, one of the scientists grabbed him.

"I've got you now, boy!" He said triumphantly in a deep, strong voice. He was a big, strong, muscular man who could easily break Haku's neck if he wanted to. Haku began shaking in pure terror. Then, without warning, he clawed the scientist's face. The scientist yelled in pain as four diagonal scratches crossed his face, and he let go of Haku's arm. Haku ran, still scared out of his wits, towards a window. He reached the window and struggled to get it open. When he got the window open, he started to climb out. However, one scientist grabbed him by his tail and pulled. Haku yelled in pain that was half a cat's pained yowl. He scratched the scientist's hand with his claws. The scientist let go of his tail, yelling in pain. Haku tumbled out the window and hit the ground, miraculously landing on his feet. Then, he ran in the direction of Chihiro's house.

## 4 - Refuge

Haku ran as fast as he could and when he reached Chihiro's house, he stopped running and began climbing up the side of the house. He didn't know how, but somehow he knew exactly which window was Chihiro's. He found her window and tapped on the glass. Chihiro happened to be in her room at that moment, and she looked towards the window when she heard him tapping on the window and saw him there outside her window.

"Haku!" She exclaimed, running to the window and opening it for him. Haku climbed in through the window, and Chihiro flung her arms around him and held him close.

"Oh, Haku...I was so worried about you." She told him. "They didn't hurt you, did they?" Haku wrapped his arms around her and smiled.

"No...they didn't get the chance." He replied. "I escaped before they could." Chihiro looked at him and smiled, but then her smile faded.

"What's this?" She asked, gently touching a small tag that had been attached to Haku's ear. Haku reached up a hand and felt the tag.

"They must've put that on me while I was asleep." He remarked. At that moment, he heard footsteps coming towards Chihiro's bedroom door, and his cat ears pricked up alertly. Chihiro heard the footsteps as well.

"Hide!" She whispered urgently. Haku nodded.

"But where?" He asked. Chihiro looked around quickly. Then, it hit her.

"In the closet! Hurry!" She told him. Without waiting for an answer, she shoved Haku into the closet and closed the closet door, and then she grabbed a book, quickly lay down on her bed, and pretended to be reading. Her mother opened the door a second later.

"Chihiro? What's going on in here?" She questioned.

"Nothing, Mom." Chihiro lied. "I'm just reading." Her mother smiled.

"Okay, sweetie." She said. "I love you."

"I love you, too, Mom." Chihiro acknowledged. Her mother then closed the door and left. After Chihiro's mother was gone, Haku came stumbling out of the closet with his foot tangled in a fishing net, which Chihiro's father had shoved in the closet a week ago because it was in the way.

"What are you keeping in there, Chihiro?" He asked. "A bunch of mattresses?"

"Sorry, Haku." Chihiro said apologetically.

"Don't worry about it." Haku told her. "Just don't shove me in anymore closets." Then, he began trying to get his foot untangled from the fishing net, but he ended up getting his hands tangled in it as well. Within minutes, he'd gotten himself completely tangled up in the net. He looked at Chihiro helplessly, and she smiled at him and shook her head.

"You really are turning into a cat, Haku." She remarked. Haku smiled sheepishly, and Chihiro began to get him untangled from the net. Once she'd gotten him untangled, she helped him get up and hugged him again. As she hugged him, she could hear him start purring, and she smiled.

"My parents can't find out about you." She told him, looking at him. "So you can't leave my room, okay?" Haku nodded.

"I understand." He stated. "But if I can't leave, then you're going to have bring me food."

"I know." Chihiro replied. She began rubbing his left ear a little, and Haku began purring again and closed his eyes contentedly. The end of his long cat's tail began waving back and forth gracefully behind him. At that moment, a breeze blew in through the window and swirled around Haku, and Haku's ears pricked up alertly once again. He looked towards the window and gulped nervously. Then, he darted under Chihiro's bed and didn't come out. Chihiro knelt down by her bed and looked under the bed at him.

"What's wrong, Haku?" She asked.

"The scientists I escaped from aren't the only ones who are after me." Haku answered.