

Under no pretext

Cut to interior of townhouse adorned with all sorts of cat memorabilia – “Hang In There” kitten poster, scratching posts, cat toys, framed cat pictures, retro Max the Cat clock with the moving eyes and wagging tail.

SHAUNA

I'm ready. When's the movie?

KALYANI

Ah, no rush. We have plenty of tiiii...

KALYANI

...iiii...wow! So you like cats then?

The phone starts ringing.

SHAUNA

I love them! Oh - hold on while I get that.

SHAUNA

Hello? Yes, I'm Shauna MacDonald. Yes, that's my address. Mmm-hmm. Oo - My pet's name? Funny you should ask because he's right here, aren't you, Mr. Meowgi?

KALYANI

Shauna, who is that?

SHAUNA

It's a very nice man calling for donations for a local cat rescue.

KALYANI

How do you know?

SHAUNA

Well, I can read “9 Lives Shelter” here on my caller I.D. I was just about to give him my credit card number. The kitties need my help!

KALYANI

Look, Shauna, there is a chance this guy is pre-texting.

SHAUNA

Are you pretexting?

A dial tone signals that the caller has now hung up.

SHAUNA

Oh. Huh. What's pretexting?

KALYANI

It's when a scammer creates a false pretext for getting in touch.

SHAUNA

Like...?

KALYANI

They may pretend to be research firms, banks, government agencies, internet service providers ...

SHAUNA

Or an animal shelter!

KALYANI

Exactly. And while the questions might seem harmless - the name of your phone company, the name of your pet – these bits of information can be used to figure out your passwords or to convince a financial institution the pretexter is actually you.

SHAUNA

Oh, no! I DO use "Mr. Meowgi" as a password on some of my accounts.

KALYANI

Change it now!

SHAWNA

Oh. What should I change it to?

KALYANI

Something secret...

SHAUNA

Oh, right. OK.

SHAUNA

Oh, hey wait! If that guy was pretexting, why did my caller ID say it was an animal shelter calling?

KALYANI

Scammers can fake caller IDs now. It's called Caller ID Spoofing.

SHAUNA

Oh. So how can I tell what's real anymore?

SHAUNA

Oh. OK. "Mr. Meowgi Life Lesson. If someone calls YOU, THEY are the ones who should provide identifying information."

KALYANI

The cat gives good advice.

SHAUNA

Thanks again, Kalyani. Hey, what movie are we seeing?

KALYANI

Garfield.

SHAUNA

REALLY?!...

KALYANI

No. Not really. ... The Cat In the Hat actually.

SHAUNA

OH, REALLY?!...

KALYANI

No. Not really.

The camera pans over to Mr. Meowgi with his feet up in the chair in which Kalyani had been sitting. He cracks a can of diet cola and sips it and turns on the TV with the remote in his other hand.

TV ANNOUNCER

And now, back to tonight's feature: Karate Kat!

END.

