

Podcast: What If World

Episode: 004: What if robots could turn into dragons?

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Transcription by Keffy

[Rising harp scales followed by the What If World theme song.]

Lyrics: What if kittens played the glockenspiel? And what if unicorns were real? What if you could fly or travel back in time, we welcome you to What If World. What If World. This is What If World.

[Gentle bell music.]

Mr. Eric: Hey there folks, and welcome back to What If World, the show where your questions and ideas inspire off the cuff stories. Today is a very special day because we have our first kid question! Yeah! I am so excited. I want to play it right away. Let's listen.

Teddy: Hi, my name is Teddy. I like robots. What if robots could turn into dragons? That's it! [Fart noise] [Laughs]

Mr. Eric: Wow, Teddy that was an awesome question and I love how comfortable you are with your own flatulence problem, mm-hmm? Yeah. I think that was a noise you made with your mouth, but I like fun noises. What if yogurts could turn into flagons? Now, flagons are like a big mug that Vikings used to drink out of...

Randall Radbot: Brah? Beep boop bop? You're like, totally wrong.

Mr. Eric: Oh, hi? Oh, Randall Robot.

Randall Radbot: It's Randall Radbot, dude, and you misheard Teddy's question.

Mr. Eric: Oh, sorry Randall Radbot? Well, what was his question?

Randall Radbot: His question was what if robots could turn into dragons?

Mr. Eric: Oh, I'm so sorry. What if culottes could turn into wagons? Now, culottes are kind of like—

Randall Radbot: Dude. That wasn't his question, listen to my, like, beep boop, words, hume. It was: what if ROBOTS, like ME, could turn into DRAGONS, like the winged lizards?

Mr. Eric: Oh, well, why didn't you say so, Randall?

Randall Radbot: Well, that's why I'm here, dude. To like, beep boop, help you tell the story, hume. Because I'm the coolest robot ever.

Mr. Eric: Oh, oh that's great Randall. Hey, why do you keep calling me hume?

Randall Radbot: It's like, short for human, hume. Man, you are just not that rad.

Mr. Eric: Hey, I'm totally... no, I'm not. I'm not rad. But you are! You're the coolest. How is it that you got to be the coolest?

Randall Radbot: Oh yeah, like, you see this dent in my head?

Mr. Eric: Oh wow, yeah, that is a deep dent. It looks like a part of you broke off, are you okay?

Randall Radbot: Totes, man. I'm a robot. But like, one day, I got banged really hard in the factory and like, boom, a button came clean off of my head. But I was the first to get a cool dent like this, and I'm like real cool about it, so everyone thinks that I'm the coolest.

Mr. Eric: Wow, Randall, I'm glad you embrace what makes you different. Was that button important or anything?

Randall Radbot: Oh, like, I dunno hume. It was just a button. I mean, robots can't push their own buttons anyway.

Mr. Eric: Oh, I didn't know that. Well, hey, you think you're ready to tell the story.

Randall Radbot: Totes. Ready, hume, let's do it.

Mr. Eric: Okay, what if robots could turn into dragons?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: One day, Randall Radbot powered up in the middle of a factory full of robots.

They were all working hard as they always do, building other robots. But Randall was getting a little fed up with it.

Randall Radbot: Oh, dude, do we have to like, keep building robots. I feel like we could be having more fun than this.

Mr. Eric: His nextdoor friend, Squarebot, disagreed.

Squarebot: What are you talking about? This is the most fun we are programmed to have. We are robot-building robots.

Randall Radbot: Yeah, I know, but like, I don't know. Why don't we just do something different for once?

Squarebot: What do you suggest?

Randall Radbot: I don't know, have you ever thought of like, pushing that button?

Squarebot: Silly Radbot, we cannot push our own buttons. So the button has never been pushed.

Randall Radbot: Yeah, but like, I could totally, like, push it for you, if you were okay with that.

Squarebot: Oh, I've never thought of that. Yes, that would be acceptable. Curiosity is piqued. Please, push button on forehead.

Randall Radbot: Heh, okay dude. Let's do this!

[Beep!]

Mr. Eric: And the moment he pushed that button Squarebot suddenly grew to a hundred times his size, bursting through the ceiling of the factory as he grew giant metallic wings, a long tail, a massive snout with razor sharp metal teeth.

Squarebot: RARR!

Mr. Eric: And he breathed a dragon breath of chrome through the sky. Chrome's like a shiny silver color. And it sprinkled down on all the other robots and they looked over to Randall and Squarebot, who was now a dragon.

Robots: [Different voices] What is this? What is this? What is this? What is this?

Randall Radbot: Oh, I like, pushed Squarebot's button on his forehead, and apparently, it's like, a dragon button or something. You guys, like, want me to push your buttons so you can be dragons, too?

Robots: [Different voices] Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yeeees. YES.

Randall Radbot: Oh, no problem, dude. I'm gonna just beep boop all these buttons, bop. Boop boop boop boop boop boop boop boop beep bup bup boop boop boop boopboopboooooo

[Beeping and booping noises]

Mr. Eric: And Randall the Radbot pushed the button on every robot in the factory and they all turned into dragons of a hundred different

varieties. There were dragons that shot fire! There were dragons that shot ice! There were dragons that shot candy! There were dragons that shot fairy dust! There were dragons that shot flowers! There were even dragons that shot noises like that one Teddy made earlier if you happen to remember it? Ooh hoohoo. Quite silly dragons.

Dragon Robots: Thank you, Randall Radbot, for turning us all into rad dragons.
ROAR!

[Roaring]

Mr. Eric: They all breathed their dragon breaths into the air and flew off. Squarebot hung out for one extra minute.

Squarebot: Randall, why don't you push your button and fly away with us?

Randall Radbot: Oh, uh, no... uh. Actually that was the button I lost when I was a kid, remember, so like, I can't do that.

Squarebot: Oh, sorry Randall Radbot. Well, see you later! [Whoosh!]

Mr. Eric: And Squarebot took off. Randall Radbot felt very lonely. He didn't much feel like building robots anymore, so he went home. And as Randall walked home, he passed a rusted old robot by the side of the road.

Wisdotron: Bleep bloop, it's me, Wisdotron. Something bothering you?

Randall Radbot: Yeah, Wisdotron. I'm like, never going to be able to turn into a dragon or breath dragon breath and melt stuff or fly, and all my friends can do it. It's not fair.

Wisdotron: Well, I'm programmed to talk in this folksy manner and give you all kinds of wisdom to make you feel better about things.

Randall Radbot: Okay, cool, so like, make me feel better, please.

Wisdotron: Well, problem is, my programming ain't working so right, but you know what? I'm making the best of it.

Randall Radbot: Uh, how's that supposed to help me?

Wisdotron: Well, maybe you could be like me and make the... make the best of things?

Randall Radbot: So that's your wisdom?

[Error noise]

Wisdotron: Wisdom not found, please try again.

Randall Radbot: Um, so that's your wisdom?
[Error noise]

Wisdotron: Wisdom not found, please try again. Later, though. Not right now.

Randall Radbot: Oh, sorry, man. Okay, so. I've just got to be more like me.

Wisdotron: You've got to be more like me.

Randall Radbot: You've got to be more like me?

Wisdotron: No, that... you don't have to be like me... I mean, yes, you have to be like me, I don't have to be like you. [Error noise]

Randall Radbot: I'm just trying to figure out what you're saying. Who's supposed to be like who, here?

Wisdotron: Well, we could all learn from each other is the general wisdom, I think. I don't know. Sometimes bad things happen to good people, you gotta make the best of it. We don't have every advantage in life, but we all can be happy.

Randall Radbot: Uh, was that wisdom?

Wisdotron: Might have been. Might have been something I read on a fortune cookie once. Either way, you think on that, boy. You think hard.

Randall Radbot: Yeah, okay, I'll think on it, dude.

Mr. Eric: But Randall Radbot didn't think about it. He just thought about how bad he felt for himself as he continued all the way home.

But he hadn't been home for long when he heard [whooshing noises and a thump] like something gigantic landed right outside his front door.

Randall Radbot: It's probably one of those dragons coming to rub in how cool they are again. He opened his door [door opening] and there was Squarebot, the big chrome dragon, with a worried look on his dragon face.

Squarebot: Randall Radbot, we have a problem.

Randall Radbot: So what, man, you're like big superpowered dragons. There's nothing I can do that you guys can't already do.

Squarebot: But now we need your help. There is one dragon that has all the dragon breaths and he is the most powerful and he is trying to take over all the dragon bots.

Randall Radbot: Wow, that's way harsh of him, beep. We gotta like boop bop take him down or something.

Squarebot: We cannot take him down, he is too powerful. You must use your mind.

Randall Radbot: Ooh, ah, okay, I guess.

Squarebot: Why don't you let me fly you?

Randall Radbot: No, dude, I don't want you to fly me. I don't need your help. I'm just gonna walk, okay?

Squarebot: It's okay to accept other people's help. I can fly and cannot. Let's fly. We'll be there faster. You can save the robots faster.

Randall Radbot: [Sighs] All right dude, let's see what we can do.

Mr. Eric: And he took off on top of Squarebot. And you know what? Flying with Squarebot's help was actually really fun! He found himself giggling, beeping, booping, and bopping with delight. He never realized how much fun he could have accepting someone else's help.

And when they landed at the big dragon cave, they found, roaring inside:

Dracomax: I am Dracomax the mighty! [ROAR!] and he breathed out the top of this mountain and shot through the top, turning it into an open volcano and every kind of dragon breath, fire, ice, and flowers, flew out the top.

Randall Radbot: All right, so, I guess I'll just go in and like, talk to him? But if he, like, melts me or stomps me, I'm gonna be real bummed.

Squarebot: You are the bravest of us all. Good luck.

Mr. Eric: And Randall Radbot walked into the tiny opening to the mountain. And all the way deep into the center, where a giant dragon lived. Dracomax.

Dracomax: What brings you to my lair, puny robot?

Mr. Eric: And he breathed his sludge breath all over poor Randall.

Randall Radbot: Ew, dude. Gross man, I was just coming to like talk and whatever, because like, you've been being so mean to all the other dragons, and like, why?

Dracomax: I must unite all the dragons so that they might serve me.

Randall Radbot: Uh, why do you need to be served, man? You have like, every dragon breath power. You can breath yourself water and you can breath yourself food. I mean, you have it all. Why are you complaining?

Dracomax: Well, you see, it looks like I have it all, but when I pressed my dragon button for the first time, I grew up to the top of this mountain and I busted my button on the side of it. Now I'm stuck this way forever. And I'm stuck inside this mountain forever.

Randall Radbot: Oh. So you're kind of like me. Because I can never turn into a dragon, but you can never turn back into a robot.

Dracomax: Yes. How I envy you, little one. You can come and go as you please and talk to all the other dragons. I must rule them instead so that they will do my bidding!

Randall Radbot: Hey, man, there's like a hundred superpowered dragons right outside. Why don't you just ask them nicely, to like, destroy this mountain so you can get out of it?

Dracomax: Oh. Well, because, I... well.

Randall Radbot: Well, if you want, I can like talk to them for you.

Dracomax: Would you please. I'm nervous in front of other people, heh heh heh.

Randall Radbot: Okay, totally man. Just don't breath any more gross stuff on me, blech.

Dracomax: It's a deal.

Mr. Eric: And so Randall Radbot walked back outside and he talked. He talked to Squarebot, he talked to the fire breathing dragons and the ice breathing dragons and the metal breathing dragons, and the candy breathing dragons. And he got them all to agree that if Dracomax treated them a little more nicely, they would tear apart that mountain so he could get out.

Randall Radbot: Okay guys. On three. One, two, three.

[MANY ROARING NOISES!!!!]

- Mr. Eric: All the dragons breathed together and the mountain started coming apart and Dracomax used all of his breaths from the inside and started blasting it apart as well, until he was free.
- Dracomax: Ha ha ha ha ha! Now that I am free, I can take over the world!
- Randall Radbot: Oh dude, come on man. I thought you were gonna be cool?
- Dracomax: All right, a deal's a deal. After all, all I really wanted was to get free.
- Randall Radbot: All right, man, cool. Hey, you know you could give me a ride back home and hang out with me at my place. Maybe we could like play some music or like hang out or whatever.
- Dracomax: Really? After all I've done, you would hang out with me?
- Randall Radbot: Well, sure man. I'm Randall Radbot. I'm cool with everybody. It's like my superpower, dude.
- Dracomax: Wow, that's really rad.
- Randall Radbot: Yeah, I get that a lot.
- Mr. Eric: So Randall hitched a ride with Dracomax and as they flew back to Randall Radbot's house, all the other dragons flew along with them.
- A Dragon: Hey Dracomax, beep boop. We didn't realize you was stuck in there.
- Squarebot: Yes. We just figured you were being kind of a meany.
- Dracomax: Oh, you're right, I was. And I'm really sorry. And thank you all for helping me despite my meanness.
- Randall Radbot: Hey dudes, that's what happens when you all just like, listen to each other, man. And of course, do a little bit of listening to me Randall Radbot, right?
- Squarebot: Yes, Randall. You're right. I'm very sorry you can't join us as a dragon but I'm very happy you have kept your robot head.
- Mr. Eric: And so, they all had a great time together and whenever Randall needed a ride, the rest of his days, Dracomax was there to pick him up. And whenever Dracomax realized he was just too big to get the job done, there was Randall Radbot, ready to help out his new friend.

The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Hey, so what'd you think of the story, Randall?

Randall Radbot: Oh, totes cool, man. You're like, a great hume.

Mr. Eric: Oh, I'm glad you think so, Randall. Although sometimes I gotta admit, I really wish I were a robot.

Randall Radbot: Oh, haha, dude. Yeah, it's pretty awesome.

Mr. Eric: All right, see you later.

I'd like to thank Karen Marshall, my producer, Craig Martinson for our awesome theme, and Teddy for today's great first question.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]

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