

Podcast: [What If World](#)

Episode: 36: What if Paw Patrol were big and knights were small?

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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.

Mr. Eric: Hey there folks and welcome back to What If World, the show where your questions and ideas inspire off the cuff stories. I'm Mr. Eric, your host, and today we have our very first international question. This is from a listener originally from South Africa and the question's coming all the way from Kenya. Wow! Let's listen up.

Malachai: Hi, I'm Malachai. I'm four, and I like Paw Patrol and dinosaurs and knights. My question is what if Paw Patrol were big and knights were small?

Mr. Eric: Whoa, Malachai, there is a lot to unpack there. You like dinosaurs and knights, and you want to know what if Paw Patrol were big and knights were small. Hmm.

[Rising harp scale.]

Newscaster: [Old-timey news bulletin music] Breaking What If World News: Back in episode 25, our heroic president JF Kat was kidnapped by one Cthunkle, an evil squid monster who lives deep down in a lake outside of the Observatorium.

Cthunkle: I've got you now, JF Kat.

JF Kat: Yes, it, er, appears you do. All hope is likely lost forever.

Newscaster: But all hope isn't lost forever, you see, the Fur Force led by Fearless Fred the Dog with an extra long tongue, accompanied by Howdy Pooch, a wild west golden retriever and rounded out by Patty Pan, a precocious trickster of a flying schnauzer.

Fred: Oh dear. I didn't want to be leader.

Howdy: Well, I would sure as heck lead this group except I'm not all that smart.

Patty Pan: I'm sorry, what are we doing? Saving someone? I saw a squirrel so...

Fred: Okay, I guess I'll be the leader.

Newscaster: We join our fearless Fur Force just as they're about to take off on their first adventure.

Fred: Okay Howdy Pooch and Patty Pan, I call you here 'cuz we're gonna go save—Patty Pan just leave the squirrel alone for one minute.

Patty Pan: Oh, I... Okay. Okay.

Fred: We've got to save JF Kat from the wicked Cthunkle. He's like a giant squid that's my daddy, too, so it's a little weird.

Howdy: He's your dad? Oh. I'm so sorry Fred.

Fred: It's okay. He only adopted me like... a day ago.

Patty: So how are we going to catch the squirrel? I mean, squid?

Mr. Eric: Asked Patty Pan.

Fred: Oh, that's where my friend Abacus P. Grumbler comes in.

Abacus: I'm sorry, were you saying my name? Your tongue is so long it makes it very difficult to understand you.

Fred: Yes. You see, this is Abacus, the headmaster at the Observatorium.

Sully: Hey, and I'm Sully the Squid. I'm Cthunkle's son, but I'm still in school. I'm really young. Probably shouldn't go on this adventure.

Abacus: And that's why I have the solemn duty of looking after you and not going into danger, myself. Heheheh. Thank you, Fred.

Fred: You're welcome, Abacus. So it's up to us, the Fur Force, to go and—

Howdy: But you said Abacus was gonna help?

Mr. Eric: Interrupted Howdy Pooch.

Howdy: And then, I feel like you just kinda got sidetracked with all this exposition and—

Abacus: [Splutters] I never get sidetracked! What Fred was about to tell you, I'm sure, is that I'm going to make you all big using my magic and that way you'll stand a chance against a squid.

Patty: Oh, so a squid's like a big squirrel? Oooh, I want to chase that.

Mr. Eric: Said Patty Pan.

Fred: Oh dear. This whole Fur Force thing may be a little harder than I first anticipated.

Mr. Eric: But before Fred could have any second thoughts, Abacus P. Grumbler was already incanting!

Abacus: Ala kazaam and thingamagig! Make these little puppies big!

[Magic noises]

Mr. Eric: Fred the Pug, Howdy Pooch, and Patty Pan all grew until they were each bigger than a horse.

Howdy: Hoo-ee! Now I feel like I can finally chase thoses cars.

Fred: Uh, you probably still shouldn't do that. That's not very safe.

Mr. Eric: And Patty Pan zipped through the air, a big blur of green.

Patty: Now I finally feel like I can chase down those airplanes.

Fred: Yes, and I can finally catch a submarine with my extra-long tongue, but we're not gonna do that, guys. We're gonna save JF Kat.

Mr. Eric: So the newly formed Fur Force headed off to find JF Kat. And there was already a reporter following them around!

Newscaster: Newly formed Fur Force heads off to find JF Kat. Fur Sounds are all the rage!

Fred: Shh! We don't want Cthunkle to know we're coming!

Newscaster: This just in, desperate dogs doggedly deny do-goodery.

Howdy: Shucks, I don't deny nothing.

Patty: That's right, we're the Fur Force. Puppies by air...

Howdy: ...Land...

Fred: And sea, I guess.

Howdy: And there ain't nothing that can stop us.

[Record scratch]

Mr. Eric: At that very moment, a herd of rampaging dinosaurs crossed over the horizon, headed straight towards the Fur Force.

Fred: See what you did, Mr. Reporter.

Newscaster: Please, call me Chet Clues of Clues News.

Fred: Chet Clues, you just got all these dinosaurs on our tail.

Newscaster: This just in, tale told of turbulent tail trauma to come!

Patty: You know, he is good, though.

Howdy: Yeah, he's very good. And now we're going to get very squished.

Mr. Eric: And even though the dogs of the Fur Force were each as big as a horse, they were no match for a horde of giant dinosaurs.

Howdy: I think we should run away.

Patty: I think we should fly away.

Fred: I think we should dig holes and hide in them.

Mr. Eric: The three dogs were panicking, doing whatever they could to save themselves, when suddenly that long line of dinosaurs stampeding towards them came to... a complete stop.

Sir Squiggles: Back, a-back, you foul beasts!

Dame Dot: I believe that you should leave these dogs alone.

Mr. Eric: It was Sir Squiggles and Dame Dot, the tiniest, bravest knights in all of What If World. Sir Squiggles was just a squiggly little line. Granted, he was wrapped up in some shiny knight armor. But nobody could explain how he was so brave. Dame Dot, well, she was a purple polka dot wearing shiny golden armor.

He could turn the end of his squiggly line into any object, and she could shoot polka dots of any size anywhere she wanted. But really, they weren't able to hurt people.

Fred: Sir Squiggle, Dame Dot, get out of here before you get squished.

Sir Squiggles: I'm not afraid of getting squished by such dinosaurs as this! I am two dimensional.

Dame Dot: Flattening us will not do you much dinosaurs, for we are already flat.

Pops Dino: We are not here for you, knights.

Mr. Eric: Said a big T-Rex.

Tara Dactyl: Yeah, actually we're coming to see a dog named Fred. Anyone see a dog named Fred? Fred the dog? Also known as Fred the Pug?

Mr. Eric: Mumbled Tara Dactyl, who was perched on Pops Dino's large back.

Fred: Oh, sorry. We don't know any Fred the dog, you guys better go.

Mr. Eric: Said Fred the dog, still scared witless.

Newscaster: This just in! Scared, silly dog spouts spineless lies.

Mr. Eric: Pops Dino, the giant T-Rex, leaned over Fred.

Sir Squiggles: You cannot harm our friend!

Mr. Eric: Shouted Sir Squiggles, turning the top of his squiggly head into a large club.

Dame Dot: We will not let you!

Mr. Eric: Cried Dame Dot, blasting purple polka dots to cover each of Pops Dino's eyes.

Tara Dactyl: Relax.

Mr. Eric: Said Tara Dactyl.

Tara Dactyl: We're not here to hurt, we're here to help. We're sent by the president.

Howdy: But I heard the president was a giant squid monster.

Pops Dino: No, we mean the true president. He wanted the Rex Express to come tell you where he was.

Fred: JF Kat sent all of you just to deliver a message?

Tara Dactyl: He only sent one of us.

Pops Dino: That's right. The rest of these dino folks came with me to help you.

Mr. Eric: Said Pops Dino.

Howdy: Oh, I'm just real embarrassed.

Mr. Eric: Said Howdy Pooch.

Patty: I know, the first sign of trouble and we all lose our nerve.

Fred: Even at the size of horses, we're just scaredy-dogs.

Mr. Eric: They were getting closer to the What House where JF Kat was still locked up by Cthunkle.

Dame Dot: This is natural.

Mr. Eric: Said Dame Dot.

Sir Squiggles: That's right. We are all scared some times.

Mr. Eric: Said Sir Squiggles.

Fred: I don't believe it. You two are so brave all the time, even though you're little.

Mr. Eric: They were entering Whattington D.W., capital city of What If World.

Dame Dot: Do you see these dinosaurs behind you?

Mr. Eric: Asked Dame Dot.

Howdy: Well, sure. I want to take a nap on one of them after this is over.

Dame Dot: But weren't you afraid of these dinosaurs just a few short hours ago.

Patty: Well, yeah, but we thought they were gonna stomp us for sure.

Sir Squiggles: You were afraid because you didn't know enough.

Fred: Are you saying that learning makes you less afraid?

Howdy: Aw shucks, that ain't right. I'm just less afraid because I'm the size of a horse and I've got an army of dinosaurs behind me.

Dame Dot: We are saying if you want to be less afraid of something, you need to learn more about it.

Mr. Eric: As they walked deeper into the city, clouds grew dark and thick above them, and rain fell all over the strange buildings of Whattington D.W. Buildings shaped like letters and numbers and question marks and exclamation points and symbols they'd never seen before. Squid of all different shapes and sizes and colors clung to these buildings and lay with their tentacles soaking up the rain.

Fred: This is scary. Are these squiddies gonna come get us?

Mr. Eric: Asked Fred the dog.

Sir Squiggles: Why don't you ask them? Hey squiddy squiddy! Are you gonna come get us, or what?

Mr. Eric: A very large squid with black and orange stripes like a tiger climbed towards them making strange noises.

Squid: [Gibbering]

Howdy: Oh, I don't know what he's saying. Dinosaurs, go eat him up, please.

Dinos: Hm, okay.

Mr. Eric: Said a few of the T-Rexes and headed over to the giant squid.

Fred: No, wait.

Mr. Eric: Said Fred.

Fred: Sully only taught a little bit of Tentaclese, but I think he's just saying he's scared and thirsty.

Howdy: Thirsty? Oh, he's gonna drink us up. Let's get out of here.

Mr. Eric: But Patty Pan had already picked up a trash can with her big horse-sized paws and she was flying around catching raindrops until that barrel was full. Then she put it down in front of the thirsty squid, and it said:

Squid: [More gibbering]

Mr. Eric: And it drank up all that water in a flash!

Dame Dot: Think about these squid, Fred.

Mr. Eric: Said Dame Dot.

Dame Dot: They are from a far away lake. They are in a starnge new land, and very few people can understand them.

Fred: Are you saying that these giant squid led by an evil mastermind are actually just...

Howdy: People? Who need help?

Sir Squiggles: Oh man, did that took you a long time to figure out. Can we start helping them now, or what?

Mr. Eric: Fred suddenly got very serious.

Fred: Friends. This is what the Fur Force never trained for.

Mr. Eric: And he lashed out his tongue as far as it could go, as far as a city block, catching every raindrop and deflecting it into nearby barrels. And Howdy Pooch started doing his favorite thing in the world. He started digging and digging, and the hole kept biggering and biggering as he kept diggering and diggering. And the dinosaurs picked up barrel after barrel of rainwater, pouring it into this pool, this lake, this home.

Meanwhile, Patty Pan zipped from building to building, flying around, telling every squid, in as much squid language as she could muster.

Patty: [Gibbers]

Mr. Eric: The squid mostly shrugged their tentacles but followed her anyway. And when one of these little lakes was full, Fred's tongue would drag a line through the dirt and the ground all the way to the next hole. That Howdy Pooch was digging them as fast as he could. And Sir Squiggles had turned his head into a giant shovel, and he was digging, too.

And Dame Dot was blasting blue dots this way and that and once they got high enough into the sky, they turned into raindrops, themselves.

Fred: Good work, Fur Force and dinosaurs and little knights. But we've still got a president to save.

Mr. Eric: With all the squid taken care of, quite literally, the Fur Force made the last little journey to the What House. But when they got to where the What House should have been, all they saw was Cthunkle. A giant, green, [unclear] squid that looked like it was breathing pretty heavy, laying on a wide field of grass.



Fred: Cthunkle, how could you, Daddy? You destroyed the whole What House?

Cthunkle: Destroyed it? I couldn't even get inside. [Crying]

Mr. Eric: Cthunkle moved two of its big, slimy tentacles to reveal a very simple wooden door standing in the middle of the field.

Howdy: I don't get it. There's no What House? It's just a What Door?

Patty: I bet it's just very tiny people living in the door knob.

Mr. Eric: Said Patty Pan.

Cthunkle: No, I saw JF Kat go in there and there were other people in there too and then the door closed and...

Mr. Eric: Dame Dot, a polka dot so tiny you could barely see her in the stormy weather, walked right up to the great squid.

Dame Dot: Why do you want to be in the What House?

Cthunkle: I want schools to teach my kid what I think is right.

Fred: And what do you think is right?

Cthunkle: Well, whatever I want to be right at any particular moment.

Mr. Eric: Then Howdy Pooch joined in.

Howdy: But don't you want to make life better for all these squidfolk, too?

Cthunkle: My army of squid? I just want them to do what I say so that my son and I will always be safe and powerful.

Patty: So, you're afraid?

Mr. Eric: Asked Patty Pan.

Cthunkle: But I'm only afraid because I can't get in here no matter how hard I try. So maybe...

Fred: So maybe you and your son aren't as safe as you thought?

Cthunkle: Well, maybe. Yeah.

[Door creaks]

Mr. Eric: That plain wooden door creaked open an inch and JF Kat's little kitty nose poked out.

JF Kat: You know, we're all afraid sometimes. From the biggest dinosaurs and squid to the tiniest knights and presidents.

Cthunkle: Yes. Let me in. This is clearly the safest place in all of What If World if not even me and my army of squid—

Mr. Eric: And the door clicked closed.

Fred: Cthunkle, Dad. If you want to get in the What House, you have to want to learn.

Cthunkle: I don't need to learn anything. I have absolute power. [Coughs] Does anyone have a glass of water?

Mr. Eric: Fred's tongue lashed him over a whole barrel of drinking water.

Fred: Daddy, we're the Fur Force and we're here to save all people, even people like you who make really bad choices.

Cthunkle: Uh, yeah. I think I need to get in some water really fast.

Mr. Eric: And the Fur Force dug him out a little pool in a jiffy.

Cthunkle: Wow. I haven't felt this good in days. Oh my gosh, I forgot about my son Sully the Squid. Is he okay?

Mr. Eric: The door to the What House opened wide again, and out of nowhere stepped JF Kat.

JF Kat: That's a good start, Cthunkle. Who else are you forgetting about?

Cthunkle: Oh. All the other squid. If I could barely breathe then they must be really sick, too.

JF Kat: That's the spirit, squid.

Mr. Eric: The door to the What House opened even wider and Sully the Squid walked out beside Abacus P. Grumbler.

Sully the Squid: Oh, Cthunkle. You're okay!

Mr. Eric: All the squid got together again. Some went back to their home at the Observatorium. Some decided to stay and live in their new pools in the capital, and others went out into the wide What If World.

Fred: Nice job, Fur Force. Nice, dinosaurs. You all saved the president.

Patty: Wow! We did it!

Abacus: I never doubted you for a second.

Dame Dot: Oui! We are quite incredible.

Sir Squiggles: [Singing] Sir Squiggles is-a so proud!

Tara Dactyl: Yes, you couldn't have done it without the Rex Express, that's for sure.

Howdy: We saved the president? Well where is he?

JF Kat: I'm right here. I've literally been here for ten minutes.

Howdy: Hang on. JF Kat is a cat!

Fred: Howdy, I think you need to get back to school now.

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Hey Malachai. I hope you enjoyed your extra special story. I'm so happy JF Kat is finally safe. And if you're a listener who recently asked a question about JF Kat and Cthunkle, well, don't worry. I have a feeling they'll be mixing it up again some time very soon.

I'd like to thank Karen Marshall, my editor and producer. Craig Martinson, our theme song writer. Jason O'Keeffe, our awesome artist, and all you kids at home who've ever learned about something that you were afraid of and then found it wasn't so scary anymore.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]