

Podcast: [What If World](#)

Episode: 44: What if cats could turn into vampires?

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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've got a question from Tallulah.

Tallulah: Hi, my name is Tallulah and I'm seven and I like shooting my bow and arrow and what if cats could turn into vampires?

Mr. Eric: Thank you so much for this question Tallulah. I got to practice with a bow and arrow a few times and I wasn't that good at it, so you must do a lot of hard work with yours.

And you know what, folks? This is the perfect week for another add-on question from Evie.

Evie: My name is Evie and—

Evie's Mom: What's one of your favorite things?

Evie: My favorite thing is a fairy and—

Evie's Mom: And what's your question?

Evie: And my question is what if fairies could talk and what if they could—and what if they were real?

Evie's Mom: Thank you.

Mr. Eric: Evie, I'm so glad you love fairies. I do too. We're going to make sure we get a few into this story. And I'd also like to tell you and anyone else who's into fairies that they're in episode five, what if things were floating in outer space? As well as what if there were a summer camp in the clouds? And they sneak their way into a few other episodes as well.

Okay, let's get right into our story this week. What if cats could turn into vampires? And let's add in a few fairies for Evie.

[Rising harp scale.]

- Mr. Eric: Alabaster Zero thought himself to be What If World's greatest detective. However, his partner, Fair Elise, the fairy, she knew he still had a long way to go.
- Alabaster Zero: All right, Fair Elise. You've got your bow and arrow ready?
- Fair Elise: Yes, Alabaster, though I doubt it will be necessary.
- Alabaster Zero: It's been a slow week, crime-wise and that means there's gonna be something big and crime-y on the horizon.
- Fair Elise: That's not necessarily true.
- Mr. Eric: Said Fair Elise.
- Alabaster Zero: But my gut is telling me that danger is afoot.
- Mr. Eric: The two detectives were stalking around Whentral Park in broad daylight looking for nothing in particular.
- Fair Elise: Alabaster, I'm all for stopping crime and solving mysteries but we're in the middle of a well-lit park with lots of people around. What do you expect is going to happen?
- Alabaster Zero: That's the thing, Fair Elise. You've always got to expect the least probable thing to happen is going to happen.
- Mr. Eric: [Can opening] A nearby family cracked a can of seltzer water and Alabaster—in a dive, rolling up, pulling out his bubble wand to catch the whole family in one big bubble.
- Alabaster Zero: I've got you, you criminals!
- Mr. Eric: Said Alabaster to the family of frog folk.
- Frog Father: Ribbit. I never!
- Mr. Eric: Fair Elise came over and touched the tip of her arrow to the bubble.
[Pop]
- Fair Elise: I'm going to take my wand back if you misuse it.

Mr. Eric: And then she turned to the frog family.

Fair Elise: You're all free to go with our apologies. My partner's just a bit jumpy today.

Frog Father: Well, I'll say.

Mr. Eric: The father said with a croak, as his family settled back down.

Alabaster Zero: All right, so the soda wasn't a secret weapon, but that was just my first idea.

Fair Elise: Well, let's hope your second idea is better.

Alabaster Zero: So, what's the least likely kind of bad guy you'd find in the middle of the day.

Fair Elise: I don't know... a vampire.

Alabaster Zero: A vampire. Yeah. You got it right.

Cat: Meow.

Mr. Eric: They heard a cat in the tree hanging over them.

Fair Elise: Well, look. Here's a chance to make a real difference. We can help this little kitty down.

Alabaster Zero: All right, Fair Elise. You go help that cat and I'll stay on the lookout for vampires.

Fair Elise: Alabaster, I'm half the size of that cat.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, fine, I'll help.

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster shot a bubble out of his wand toward the little tabby in the tree.

Cat: Mraow.

Mr. Eric: [Pop] She popped it with her claws.

Alabaster Zero: Well, I'm out of ideas.

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster turned away from the cat, searching this way and that for a vampire.

Fair Elise: Oh, must I do everything?

Mr. Eric: Said Fair Elise. She sprinkled a little fairy dust from her hand onto the arrow in her bow and then shot it right into the tree limb by the cat. Unfolding from the arrow as it flew was a set of carpeted steps, standing in thin air. And the cat took its time stretching out as it slowly walked down each step to rest beside Alabaster's feet.

Alabaster Zero: Elise, why is this cat at my feet.

Fair Elise: It seems to prefer you. Probably because you didn't shoot an arrow at it.

Mr. Eric: Just then, the tree limb the cat had been waiting on cracked off of the tree and fell straight towards the little kitty.

Alabaster Zero: Vampire attack!

Mr. Eric: Said Alabaster, blasting a bubble up towards the great heavy tree limb and catching it in mid air. The kitty looked up at the limb and then purred and circled Alabaster's boot.

Alabaster Zero: I wasn't trying to save you, I was trying to beat a vampire.

Fair Elise: I think now it likes you even more. Look, doesn't have tags. You should rescue this stray.

Alabaster Zero: No, I'm too busy hunting vampires. It's not like I've got a cute name picked out already for Tabby Tallulah. Ooh.

Fair Elise: I think Tabby Tallulah is a wonderful name. We can take her back to your apartment and go find this vampire. How does that sound?

Alabaster Zero: All right, all right.

Mr. Eric: Alabaster picked up the cat just before the bubble popped and the tree limb crashed to the ground.

Alabaster Zero: That's strange. This tree limb looks all dried out.

Fair Elise: Whereas the rest of the tree is quite healthy. Well, good thing we got here when we did.

Alabaster Zero: Or I don't know what would have happened to Tabby Tallulah!

Mr. Eric: They got back to Alabaster's apartment and let Tabby Tallulah inside. Fair Elise conjured up some sand in a box and Alabaster Zero put out a bowl of water.

Alabaster Zero: So, what do cats eat, anyway? Dogs?

Fair Elise: No. Alabaster, we'll pick up some cat food later today, but she doesn't seem too hungry. Just make sure your plants are cat safe.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, all I have is a cactus and it's non-toxic to felines. Not like I looked that up when I got it or anything because I always wanted a cat. Hey, you know what, I think I might have left a few cans of cat food under my kitchen sink after all.

Fair Elise: Alabaster, it's okay to admit if you like cats.

Alabaster Zero: I don't like anything, Fair Elise.

Mr. Eric: Said Alabaster, cracking open a can of wet cat food.

Alabaster Zero: Here, kitty kitty kitty. There you go. Munchums, munchums, Tabby Tallulah.

Mr. Eric: But the cat didn't seem interested in the food at all.

Alabaster Zero: Well, that's not disappointing at all. Excuse me.

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster rushed out of the apartment, Fair Elise followed and shut the door behind her. [Slam]

Fair Elise: I'm sure the cat will grow to love your home and your food and you'll grow to love it, too.

Alabaster Zero: I don't love anything, partner. Except for not crime.

Fair Elise: Do you mean order?

Alabaster Zero: My thing sounded better. Now I bet that vampire's getting away. We wasted all this time on that ungrateful kitty. [Sniff]

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster stalked off towards the beach.

Fair Elise: And where are we headed now?

Alabaster Zero: Well, vampires don't like water, right?

Fair Elise: I thought that was just running water.

Alabaster Zero: Well, water's always running on the beach. Running onto it and then back off of it.

Fair Elise: You mean the tides.

Alabaster Zero: That's right, so if a vampire really wanted to hide, he'd go to the beach on a sunny day.

Fair Elise: Out of curiosity was there like a tip about a vampire? Where's this all coming from?

Alabaster Zero: It's a gut instinct.

Fair Elise: And what's telling your gut there's a vampire.

Alabaster Zero: Aha! See?

Fair Elise: That's Petrina the Pirate's ship.

Alabaster Zero: Exactly. She was the bad guy last time, so she'll probably be the bad guy this time.

Fair Elise: Alabaster, last time she was just teaching us a lesson about working hard and not giving up.

Alabaster Zero: Really? I didn't get any of that.

Mr. Eric: Alabaster was swimming out towards the ship but he started getting really tired about half way.

Fair Elise: Oh, here we go again.

Mr. Eric: She took out another tube of fairy dust and sprinkled it on a new arrow, then skimmed it across the surface all the way to the ship, making a line of floating ice in the ocean.

Alabaster Zero: Thanks, Elise!

Mr. Eric: Alabaster climbed up clumsily.

Alabaster Zero: Ah! Ugh! Can you make this ice a little bit less slippery?

Fair Elise: That's not really how ice works.

Mr. Eric: So he slipped and skidded all the way to the ship. Once he'd climbed aboard, he pulled out his bubble wand and burst into Petrina's cabin.

Alabaster Zero: I've got you red handed, vampire.

Petrina: Oh.

Mr. Eric: Said Petrina, trying on a pair of red mittens.

Petrina: I just finished making these for you.

Alabaster Zero: They're lovely, but you're still under arrest.

Petrina: What?

Mr. Eric: Alabaster shot a bubble towards Petrina but, [pop] Fair Elise popped it with her arrow again.

Fair Elise: What do you say to her for your nice mittens?

Alabaster Zero: Thank you, Petrina the Pirate.

Petrina: Oh, you're welcome. Will you be coming back for another weaving lesson tomorrow?

Alabaster Zero: Yeah, I'm making a tapestry of me, only with bigger muscles and also a cat's there. Do you have any cat food. Like really nice cat food?

Petrina: Just because I'm an old lady means I have cat food?

Fair Elise: That's not what he meant.

Petrina: Well, I have 10 cans, plus this spider plants. Kitties love them.

Mr. Eric: Alabaster left cupping his 10 cans of cat food in his red mittens, his new plant balanced atop it all.

Alabaster Zero: Okay, so maybe she's not a vampire. But as soon as we check in on Tabby Tallulah, we're going to find one.

Fair Elise: Oh, the cat's only been alone an hour, it will be fine.

Alabaster Zero: I said as soon as we check on Tabby Tallulah, we'll go find that vampire.

Fair Elise: Oh, for spell's sake.

Mr. Eric: And Fair Elise tied a little strand of her rainbow colored hair to her arrow and shot it straight into the sky. [Pew pew pew pew]. It went off like a flare, sending a bright, fluorescent, smoking rainbow through the sky.

Alabaster Zero: What was that for?

Fair Elise: I'm calling for some fairy help, Alabaster.

Alabaster Zero: Whatever gets us to Tabby Tallulah fa—I mean, back on the case faster.

Mr. Eric: And suddenly, Sprite Alright showed up, holding Pixicato’s hand.

Sprite Alright: Alright alright alright! I love your rainbow flare, Fair Elise.

Fair Elise: Thank you for coming on short notice. Sprite Alright, please teleport Alabaster back to his apartment so he can check on his cat.

Pixicato: And what am I going to do?

Mr. Eric: Asked Pixicato.

Fair Elise: You’re going to help me cast a spell. A searching spell.

Pixicato: Oh, cool.

Mr. Eric: No sooner had Alabaster appeared in his apartment then [crash] the 10 cans of cat food toppled out of his hands and the spider plant went tumbling, too. Sprite Alright caught the plant and set it aside the cactus.

Alabaster Zero: All right, let’s see if Tabby likes this fancy food.

Mr. Eric: The detective cracked open a can and set it on the ground, but the tabby cat was just sunning itself next to a warm window.

Sprite Alright: Uh, Alabaster?

Alabaster Zero: Sprite Alright, can’t you see I’m trying to get this stuck up cat to eat its food.

Sprite Alright: Well, I think it maybe already had some food.

Mr. Eric: And she gestured to the cactus, which was really just a saggy sack of green needles.

Alabaster Zero: Tabby Tallulah, you don’t eat my cactus.

Mr. Eric: Said Alabaster. But the cat just lifted its head and...

Tabby Tallulah: Mrow.

Mr. Eric: Gave him a flash of red eyes, extra long fangs—
[Record scratch]
—before laying back down for a nap.

Sprite Alright: Wow, that was really scary.

Alabaster Zero: I know. My poor kitty isn't getting enough food and now she's mad at me.

Sprite Alright: I think there might be something else going on here, Alabaster.

Alabaster Zero: Let's just get back to the case, please. Then maybe swing by a pet store.

Sprite Alright: Alright, alright, alright.

Mr. Eric: And Sprite Alright teleported them right back to Fair Elise and Pixicato.

Fair Elise: You're back just in time, Alabaster, we've actually got a lead.

Alabaster Zero: See, my gut is never wrong.

Pixicato: Oh, your gut was pretty wrong and our spell didn't find anything either.

Alabaster Zero: So my cat doesn't like me and there's no vampires.

Pixicato: Well, then I pulled out my phone and did a quick Whoogle search and What If World does have a vampire.

Alabaster Zero: I knew it. Let's go.

Fair Elise: Don't you want to learn a bit about him?

Alabaster Zero: He's a vampire. That's all I need. Plus, the pet store closes in ten minutes and I need to buy some luxury cat food.

Sprite Alright: Alright, alright, alright...

Mr. Eric: And Sprite Alright teleported all four of them to Cackula's house.

Cackula: Ah ah ah ahhh. I've been expecting you.

Alabaster Zero: And I've been expecting you... to go down.

Cackula: That's right. We're all going down. To my basement. For open mic night.

Sprite Alright: That's great! I've been working on my set.

Mr. Eric: Said Sprite Alright.

Cackula: I've got some new material, too. I've sewn it into the lining of my cape.

[rimshot]

Ah ha ha ha ha. Get it. The material.

Fair Elise: So, for the record, you're not drinking any blood or committing any crimes?

Cackula: We vampires learned to live off of different things. I, for example, live off of laughter, and also groans. Mostly groans lately.

Alabaster Zero: So you've committed crimes against comedy, eh?

Cackula: Not me, though you are acting like a Mister Meaner... ha ha ha ha.

Alabaster Zero: Ugh, let's get out of here.

Mr. Eric: And, bloop bloop bloop bloop, they were back in Alabaster's apartment.

Alabaster Zero: Oh wait, the pet store!

Mr. Eric: He checked his watch.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, it's closed. Now my kitty will never love me.

Tabby Tallulah: Mrow. Rwowrow.

Mr. Eric: He turned to see his cat sucking the last water out of the roots of the spider plant, and was wearing his clawed up curtains as a cape.

Tabby Tallulah: Meow, that's a more like it.

Mr. Eric: Said Tabby Tallulah.

Alabaster Zero: Tabby Tallulah, you can talk!

Mr. Eric: Alabaster went to give his cat a hug.

Pixicato: Uh, Uncle Alabaster, I think your cat's a vampire.

Mr. Eric: Said Pixicato.

Alabaster Zero: What? Just because she turned my black curtains into a cape and she sucked all my plants dry with her giant fangs and... wait a second. You actually do like my food.

Tabby Tallulah: Yes. We cat vampires need long naps in the sun and many plants to suck dry.

Alabaster Zero: Oh. Why didn't you say so.

Tabby Tallulah: I didn't know if I could trust you. But you try over and over again to make me happy, so now I think maybe I live here.

Fair Elise: Oh, I don't think Alabaster would want to live with a vampire cat. We've been hunting vampires all day.

Alabaster Zero: Whoawhoawhoawhoa. Not so fast Fair Elise. If Tabby Tallulah wants this place to be her home, it's okay by me.

Sprite Alright: Alright, looks like you're starting a little family of your own. I guess we'll get going.

Alabaster Zero: Wait, before you go, could you get me some more house plants.

Fair Elise: I think we can manage.

Mr. Eric: Said Fair Elise. And she, Pixicato, and Sprite Alright touched every can of cat food in the house and tiny trees and plants and cacti grew out of all of them. And then [pop pop pop] the three fairies disappeared.

Alabaster Zero: Well, cat. You spent all day napping and eating my plants. What do you feel like doing now?

Tabby Tallulah: I was thinking I would eat one of these plants and then take a little nap.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, uh, sure.

Tabby Tallulah: But, if you wanted to make a few bubbles for me to pop first.

Mr. Eric: She smiled, and so did Alabaster. The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: All right, Evie and Tallulah, I hope you liked your story. I'd like to thank Karen Marshall, my editor and producer. Craig Martinson, our theme song writer and performer. Jason O'Keeffe for our awesome artwork, and all you kids at home who keep an open mind when you meet new people. And pets, I guess.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]