

Podcast: [What If World](#)

Episode: 58: What if unicorns and narwhals had jedi sabers for their horns?

File Length: 17:14

Transcription by Keffy

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 Evan.

Evan: Hi, my name is Evan and I like Star Wars, and my what if question is what
if unicorns and narwhals had Jedi sabers for their horns? Thank you.

Mr. Eric: Evan, that is really creative. I've always thought that narwhal horns
looked kind of magical, so what if they were? Folks at home, we've had a
lot of Star Wars questions lately, as you might imagine. And while our
story is inspired by your questions, it will exist a little independently from
that universe for good reason.

So let's get you caught up on the story of Shark Wars.

[Rising harp scale.]

A long time ago, in a galaxy far under the sea, the Shellactic Empire had
fallen. Yes, Shark Gator had changed his ways at the end and the Breath
Star had been reduced to a pile of rubble and coral. Now, you probably
expect narwhals and unicorns to come into the picture first. But instead,
we see a little golden ray skating across the bottom of the ocean, its
pectoral fins flapping like wings and its spiny tail tracing along the depths
of the ocean, looking for old salvage from the Breath Star.

Her name was Mana Ray, and she found lots of old gadgets and pieces of
coral that she could sell as scrap.

Mana Ray: Oh, today's been a very good day.

Mr. Eric: Said Mana, her haul strapped to her back with a little netting.

Mana Ray: Now I've just got to go sell all this clunky junk.

Mr. Eric: And just then, she saw what looked like a little round white button mushroom covered in orange spots? Only it was sort of upside down. Its big round cap was on the ground, and its little stem was sticking straight up.

Mana Ray: How strange. This looks like a land mushroom. How could it have gotten all the way to the bottom of the sea. Well, I bet this would be worth a whole lot.

Button Bait: Weh oh weh oh.

Mr. Eric: A tiny slit of a mouth opened on the stem of the mushroom.

Mana Ray: Excuse me, your name is Button Bait?

Button Bait: Weh oh oh oh woo.

Mana Ray: And bad people are coming to get you?

Button Bait: Weh oh oh wehoh weh wooo.

Mana Ray: The Uni Order, what is that?

Button Bait: Weh oh wehohwee.

Mana Ray: Okay, I'll help you find the Refishtance, but why?

Mr. Eric: And the perfectly round cap of this button mushroom started rolling! But the stem stayed where it was somehow.

Mana Ray: So that's how land mushrooms get around.

Mr. Eric: And Mana Ray swam after the little mushroom.

Narwhal: Nowww wwwwaaai. Waaaait.

Mr. Eric: It was a narwhal speeding towards them, coming faster and faster wearing a cool leather jacket and Button Bait started rolling faster to get away from it.

Button Bait: Oh weeow woahohoh weeh.

Mana Ray: That big narwhal stole your friend's jacket? Oh, I'll show it a thing or two.

Mr. Eric: Mana turned around and swam right toward the narwhal.

Narwhal: Whoa, heeey, I'm just trying to help.

Mr. Eric: Mana brandished her spiny tail threateningly.

Mana Ray: Why do you have his friend's jacket?

Narwhal: I helped his friend escape from the Uni Order. His name is Pony Dameron, and he can't swim as well as me. So he gave me this jacket, that way you'd know he sent me.

Mana Ray: A likely story. You're probably with the Uni Order.

Narwhal: No. Haven't you noticed I don't have a horn?

Mana Ray: Oh, what difference does that make?

Narwhal: Oh, the Uni Order took it. They like to be the only ones with horn sabers.

Button Bait: Oh weoh weohohwe ee?

Mr. Eric: From the bottom of the ocean, Button Bait was rolling back and forth in alarm trying to point with its little stem of a head behind the narwhal and Mana Ray.

Mana Ray: Oh, what now, Button Bait?

Mr. Eric: [Zoom!] Mana looked up to see a blessing of unicorns flying straight towards them. A blessing's like how you'd say a pack of wolves, or a herd of sheep. But when it's unicorns it's actually called a blessing. But these unicorns didn't seem to be up to any good. [Laser noises]

Their horn sabers, skinny little cones of light that grew right out of their foreheads, were quite magical. They were able to conjure up a bubble of air around the unicorn's head, and they also had a beautiful long, curly, narwhal horn tied along the length of their tails. And those longer horns blasted out like jets to help them swim super fast through the sea.

Mana Ray: Um, I'm not sure I like the look of these.

Mr. Eric: The narwhal saw the approaching unicorns.

Narwhal: Oh, swim!

Mr. Eric: And he took off like a flash.

[Pew! Pewpewpew!]

Little laser light darts shot from their horn sabers, cutting through the water as they burned their way through the water towards Mana Ray and the narwhal.

Mana Ray: Why is every boy I meet immediate trouble?

Narwhal: Wha? I'm not always trouble. Name's Finar by the way.

Mr. Eric: And the narwhal held out a fin. Mana Ray smacked it out of the way just as... [Pew!] a laser blasted by.

Mana Ray: My name's Mana Ray, now let's focus on staying alive.

Finar: Oh, of course.

Mr. Eric: And the unicorns whinnied as they zoomed even closer.

Unicorns: We're just trying to help. Why don't you just give us that little button mushroom.

Mana Ray: If you're trying to help, why are you blasting lasers at us.

Mr. Eric: And the unicorns zoomed by again one after the other.

Unicorn: Those are just happy beams. They just tickle. Ugh, I'm getting really dizzy!

Button Bait: Weeoh woo wooh we?

Finar: I know not to trust them, they took my horn.

Mr. Eric: The little button mushroom rolled behind a big shell as cover. Then Mana Ray slid beneath the sand beside it, disappearing, as if camouflaged.

Finar: Oh, hiding's a good idea.

Mr. Eric: Then Finar tried to hide behind the same shell as the mushroom. Do you think that shell was big enough to conceal a narwhal?

Unicorn: Hey, where'd they go?

Mr. Eric: Said one unicorn.

Unicorn: At least that narwhal's really bad at hiding. I got sick in my air bubble, I can't see a thing!

Mr. Eric: The one nauseous unicorn swam back towards the surface while the other two started closing in on Finar. And just as they were getting close... Mana Ray lashed out with her spiny tail from her hiding spot and the three ties holding that narwhal horn to the unicorn's tail were severed and the narwhal horn floated down to the ocean's floor.

Unicorn: I'm hit!

Mr. Eric: Said that same unicorn, blasting up with its unicorn horn to push itself backwards, bottom first, straight toward the surface.

Mana Ray: Finar! The horn!

Mr. Eric: There was only one unicorn left and it was blasting a beam straight toward Finar. But Button Bait flipped up the narwhal horn with the stem of its mushroom and Finar caught that horn with his nose and... [lightsaber noise] it immediately turned into a long beam of blue light and deflected the unicorn's beam.

Finar: Now it's my turn.

Mr. Eric: Said Fin, and his narwhal horn started to glow even brighter. He waved it back and forth through the water as it gathered power.

Unicorn: I was just following orders, I'm out of here!

Mr. Eric: And the last unicorn started swimming toward the surface as fast as it could.

Mana Ray: Ooh, that was close. Now, Button Bait, why were all these unicorns after you?

Button Bait: Weeoh oh woo.

Mana Ray: A map?

Mr. Eric: And Finar said,

Finar: Look.

Mr. Eric: Pointing with his blue horn saber toward the cap of that little button mushroom, white with orange spots. And as his deep blue light lit up the area, Mana Ray could make out an intricate map of orange on the button mushroom.

Mana Ray: I've seen this before, in a shell book. It looks like a map of the globe on this little mushroom. The white would be the water and the orange would be the land.

Mr. Eric: And as she was looking at Button Bait, the orange spots seemed to shift as if the map was zooming in. And one tiny little orange dot appeared right in the middle of a big ocean.

Mana Ray: This is near us, isn't it?

Finar: Nope, it's exactly where we are. Button Bait can make a map anywhere any time, anywhere in What If World.

Button Bait: Weeow weoh wooaah.

Mana Ray: And they were using you?

Mr. Eric: She turned to look at the little button mushroom.

Mana Ray: So they've been trying to find the Refishtance.

Finar: The Refishtance is fighting to keep the whole ocean free and has been ever since the fall of the Shellactic Empire.

Mana Ray: We've got to warn Luka Seawalker, the last of the Fish-eye Knights.

Mr. Eric: They heard a distant grumbling growing louder, and louder. It sounded like all of the ocean's floor was being slowly crushed beneath a massive weight, and they could practically feel this giant structure pushing its way through the ocean towards them, until it appeared on the horizon. It was like the Breath Star, only ten times as big! The top of it was nearly touching the surface of the water.

Finar: This is why they made narwhals like me work for them.

Mana Ray: What is it?

Kylo Corn: I give you, Breathzilla!

Finar: Oh, no. It's Kylo Corn.

Mr. Eric: And indeed. A unicorn the size of a Clydesdale was walking down one side of this giant sphere. He wore a white helmet that was almost completely solid, and it covered his entire head. It had three white bars that looked like little unicorn horns stretching above the eyes. Covering

the face was a perfectly smooth clamshell. The only hole was at the top to let out one, long, red, glowing unicorn horn.

The massive unicorn was swimming toward them slowly.

Kylo Corn: I don't know why you bothered dodging all of our fluffy, huggy, happy, tickle rays.

Mana Ray: Because we didn't ask to be fluffy, happy, huggy, tickled.

Kylo Corn: But me and all my unicorns just want everyone to be happy all the time. And unlike those mean sharks, my Breathzilla is big enough to hold everyone in the whole ocean like one big neverending hug.

Finar: Are you listening to yourself, that sounds creepy.

Mr. Eric: Said Finar. And a hundred unicorns swam out the sides of the Breathzilla, and they shot out of their horns a hundred rainbow colored beams blasting all at once focusing in the center to create one massive, swirling, colorful ball of energy. And Kylo Corn added his own red beam into the middle and that ball started to grow bigger and bigger.

Kylo Corn: Well, you won't be able to get away from this happy ray. Oh ho ho. I made a rhyme.

Finar: Mana, look!

Mr. Eric: And Finar gestured with his blue horn saber to a far-off bit of the Breathzilla, where a little dappled pony pried at the side of the giant rolling machine with what looked to be a narwhal home.

Finar: It's Pony Dameron.

Mana Ray: Who?

Finar: I know, he is hardly in this story.

Mr. Eric: And Kylo Corn followed her gaze over to the little dappled pony.

Kylo Corn: No. That's not nice.

Mr. Eric: And he stopped blasting his red ray into the center ball of energy and started swimming toward the little pony.

Pony Dameron: [Grunting with effort]

Mr. Eric: The pony seemed to be having a hard time holding its breath. It started swimming back towards the surface. Finar and Mana Ray rushed right up to Kylo Corn's hooves, catching up just as Pony Dameron's head breached above the surface to take in one gasp of breath before Kylo Corn pulled him back under.

Kylo Corn: Pony Dameron? I thought you were living happily inside the Breathzilla with all of us.

Mr. Eric: The pony was holding its breath again. The big narwhal horn still held in its teeth and he shook his head.

Kylo Corn: You aren't happy in there?

Mr. Eric: And as Mana Ray swam right by Pony Dameron, the little pony spat out the narwhal horn and stuck out his tongue at Kylo Corn.

Pony Dameron: [Blows loud raspberry]

Mr. Eric: And that sound you could hear even underwater.

Kylo Corn: How rude!

Mr. Eric: And Mana Ray snatched up the narwhal horn with her spiny tail and pointed it at Kylo Corn. It glowed green.

Kylo Corn: But that's impossible. You're a manta ray, not a unicorn. Only we can use the Horse.

Mana Ray: Down here we call it the Dorse, and any fish can use it.

Mr. Eric: Kylo Corn looked back at the glowing rainbow ball that all of his fellow unicorns were blasting into with their horns.

Kylo Corn: Fire the warm snuggly ball! This ocean's got too much attitude.

Mr. Eric: And the colorful sphere exploded outward in every direction.

Finar: We were too late.

Mana Ray: Oh, this actually feels kind of nice.

Button Bait: Wee wowowoh wooo.

Finar: Yeah, what were we so upset about.

Mr. Eric: And Finar and Mana Ray started floating gently back down to the bottom of the ocean with Button Bait. And three unicorns swam out from the Breathzilla to bring them in. Kylo Corn waved at them with one of his hooves.

Kylo Corn: You're gonna love being part of the Uni Order.

Mr. Eric: And as they were being pulled into the Breathzilla, Mana Ray saw the narwhal horn she grabbed, its green light flickering out as it sank to the bottom of the ocean. And Finar saw his friend Pony Dameron gasping for breath above the surface of the water. The rainbow ray didn't seem to affect him, since his whole body hadn't been underwater. And Finar looked at Mana Ray and Mana looked back at him, and without knowing quite why, the two of them had broken away from their unicorn captors, and were swimming toward the surface as fast as they could.

Mana Ray: Ugh [coughs]. Air is terrible.

Finar: I kind of like it.

Mr. Eric: And just like that, the rainbow spell was broken over Mana Ray and Finar.

Mana Ray: Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Mr. Eric: The narwhal nodded and his horn lit up blue again. And Mana Ray swam underneath the ocean and gave a sharp look at the narwhal horn beneath the waves, and it shot back through the water and into her waiting tail, and it lit up!

Kylo Corn: No, we're all just supposed to be happy together forever.

Mana Ray: People can't be truly happy if they don't have freedom.

Mr. Eric: Said Mana Ray, swimming into the Breathzilla with her horn saber drawn.

Finar: Um, what she said.

Mr. Eric: Said Finar. And he crashed through the thick shell surface of the Breathzilla, following right after Mana Ray. But they didn't destroy the structure. Instead they swam round and round and round the center, making a spinning vortex throughout the Breathzilla. It carried up and up and up and up, all the way through the top and to the surface of the ocean. And a little trickle of air from above came into the water, waking all the creatures within the Breathzilla from their rainbow spell.

Unicorns in bubbles, narwhals and sharks, sea anemones and button mushrooms. They all came to, as if waking from a dream.

Kylo Corn: No, this isn't how it's supposed to be. If I'm not happy, it's bad, right?

Finar: No, I think you just need to get your priorities straight.

Button Bait: Weee oh oh weooo. We-ee-ee-wewe eeoh ohoh weeeoh.

Kylo Corn: I've never looked at it that way. Wow, Button Bait, you are a real seer, I'm gonna turn over a new leaf. I just promise. Everybody, you can stay here if you like, or go if you like. As for me, I'm gonna get away for a while. I gotta figure myself out.

Finar: Wow, what did Button Bait say.

Mana Ray: Let's just say that's one eloquent fungus.

Mr. Eric: Most of the people didn't leave Breathzilla after all. They were happier living there under their own terms. And Pony Dameron? He got a permanent air bubble cast on him so he could swim around with his new friends as much as he wanted.

As for Mana Ray, she found the narwhal whose horn she'd been using and gave it back. But she kind of wanted to learn how to use the Dorse all by herself.

Mana Ray: Button Bait?

Mr. Eric: She asked.

Mana Ray: Can you tell me how to find Luka Seawalker.

Button Bait: Weererrer weeeeeooo.

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Well, Evan, I hope you liked your story. I'd like to thank Karen Marshall O'Keeffe, my editor and producer. Craig Martinson, our theme song writer and performer. Jason O'Keeffe, our resident artist, and all you kids at home who are accepting of every peaceful and loving way of life there is out there, in all their variations.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]

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