

Podcast: What If World

Episode: 084: [What if fair Elise and Fred the dog climbed up Mount Everest](#) (and Ginger & Otis got teleported to What If World)?

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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—

Laser dog: Pew-pew! Pew-pew-pew pew!

Mr. Eric: Whoa, whoa, whoa, okay, I'm sorry folks, a laser dog's loose in the studio.

Laser dog: Pew-pew! Pew-pew-pew! Pew pewpewpew!

Mr. Eric: Calm down there, flying laser puppy.

Mamma Jamma: He got loose from the flying laser puppy museum, but don't worry, me and Dracomax are chasing him down.

Mr. Eric: Oh, thank you Mamma Jamma, and thank you—no, you didn't say...

Dracomax: Yes, it is I, Dracomax! In your studio! This is quite a cramped studio. I don't know how I got in here?

Mamma Jamma: Oh, and I have no idea how you're gonna get out.

Mr. Eric: Okay, well, today we've got a question from Liam.

Liam: Hi, my name is Liam. I love dogs and [unclear] at school. I'm eight years old, and my What If World question is, what if Fair Elise and Fred the Dog climbed up Mt. Everest. Thank you, bye!

Liam's Parent: Thank you, bye.

Mr. Eric: Ooh, Fred and Fair Elise climbing Mt. Everest? And you like school, great. And found another question regarding Fred the Dog I'd like to add on.

Porsche: Hi, my name is Porsche. I am ten years old. I really like swimming and Fred the Dog. My what if question is what if Ginger and Otis got

teleported to What If World by Abacus P. Grumbler. I love your podcast. Thanks!

Mr. Eric: Wow, Porsche. That is a super cool question, and that really shows you were paying attention to past story. Ginger and Otis, if you didn't know, are my other dog and cat, and they've never appeared in What If World, but I guess they will, today.

Now, there is one more thing I'm going to add in to this story, and that's a brand new character named Hungry Bungry!

Hungry was invented by a patron named Peck, who is one of our biggest fans. He even filled out a little sheet with some questions, trying to get some info about Hungry so I could incorporate him into our story.

What is your character good at? Eating.

Well, that makes sense.

What is something your character struggles with? Forests. Ooh, interesting.

Who in What If World knows your character? Fred the Dog. That's why it's a perfect week to introduce him.

List three adjectives to describe your character. For example: kind, messy, hungry, whatever. And Peck's three adjectives were, messy, whatever, and hungry. This is awesome.

I think Hungry Bungry is exactly what this story needed. All right, so let's find out what if Fair Elise and Fred the Dog climbed up Mt. Everest and Ginger and Otis got teleported to What If World by Abacus P. Grumbler!

[Rising harp scale]

Mr. Eric: It was after school at the Observatory, but Abacus wasn't done for the day. He had an adult class on magical safety to teach and the only three students to show were Fred, Fair Elise, and Hungry Bungry.

Fred: I thought everyone would want to learn about magical safety.

Mr. Eric: Said Fred the Dog.

Fair Elise: Do not concern yourself, Fred.

Mr. Eric: Said Fair Elise.

Fair Elise: It just means more learning for us.

Hungry Bungry: I know Fred the Dog.

Mr. Eric: Said Hungry Bungry. He was a big lizard-like creature with four arms, two purple, two blue. A big yellow head with a long, toothy snout, and two giant red, reptilian eyes. You'd think he'd be scary, but he was just so friendly.

Fred: Wait a second? Hungry Bungry, did you just follow me to magical safety class?

Hungry Bungry: I followed you.

Fair Elise: But what about magical safety do you want to learn?

Hungry Bungry: I'm afraid of forests but my breath weapon is water and when I breath water on them, they just grow bigger.

Fair Elise: Oh, that is a bit of a magical conundrum.

Mr. Eric: Suddenly, the room went dark and they heard an echoing voice.

Abacus: He was the first wizard to wear a nightgown because he hadn't done laundry, but he called it a robe and now everyone's doing it. He's the first wizard to turn himself into everything you'd find in the supermarket, accidentally. And now he's here to teach you about magical mistakes. Put your hands together for Abacus P. Grumbler!

Mr. Eric: And the lights came back on!

[Clapping.]

Fred: Sorry, I am clapping but I just the paws, so it doesn't sound like much.

Fair Elise: Yes, and I have very small fairy hands.

Hungry Bungry: I have four arms, but I forgot to clap.

Abacus: Wonderful. Three students. That's a new record! I've never had anyone show up to this class before.

Our first lesson is about our most common mistakes. The ones we can barely see.

Mr. Eric: And Abacus lifted up his hand. He seemed to be holding something but it was really hard to focus on.

Fred: What is that?

Abacus: Look closely.

Mr. Eric: Fred, Fair Elise, and Hungry Bungry squinted their eyes.

Fair Elise: Oh, it's so complicated.

Hungry Bungry: I see a cat video.

Fred: Looking at it gives me a headache.

Abacus: That's because it is the Oops Stone.

Mr. Eric: And Abacus put the weird, half visible stone upon a pedestal.

Abacus: It is tiring for us to look upon our own mistakes and difficult to see them, which is why the Oops Stone is a swirling vortex of all of the mistakes we barely see.

Fair Elise: Professor Grumbler?

Abacus: Yes, Fair Elise? You've raised your hand.

Fair Elise: Is the Oops Stone responsible for our mistakes?

Abacus: Some people say it spreads mistakes, and some that it just records them. Study it too closely and you'll know your mistakes, but never fix them.

Fred: So we should just ignore it altogether?

Abacus: Heavens no! If the Oops Stone stands unseen, you could make the same mistakes over and over again.

Hungry Bungry: I'm hungry.

Abacus: Yes, Mr. Bungry. I know your first name.

Hungry Bungry: No, I'm hungry. I'm gonna eat the headache stone.

Fred: Uh-oh.

Fair Elise: Hungry Bungry, no.

Abacus: You know, that's what happened last time I brought out this stone. Heh. I should learn from my mista—

Hungry Bungry: [Loud eating noise.]

Mr. Eric: And the Oops Stone was gone. Abacus and Fair Elise drew their wands.

Abacus: Boy, you've got to cough up that stone!

Fair Elise: Hungry, be very careful.

Hungry Bungry: [Coughing and choking.] It's stuck in my throat.

Abacus: Okay, I will carefully remove it with magic. Just hold still.

Mr. Eric: And Abacus stuck his wand in Hungry Bungry's mouth!

Fred: I thought you said you'd remove it with magic.

Abacus: Well, it is a magic wand. But casting spells upon the Oops Stone is never a good idea.

Hungry Bungry: Abacus, you're tickling my throat. [Coughs.]

Mr. Eric: And Hungry Bungry bit down on the wand. [Crash!] in a swirl of purple and green, Hungry Bungry disappeared, leaving a little piebald red dog and a long-haired gray and white cat?

Fair Elise: Abacus, you've turned him into a dog and a cat.

Abacus: Maybe they've each got half an Oops Stone in their belly.

Ginger: Oh, hello.

Mr. Eric: Said the dog, going up to sniff Abacus.

Abacus: What are you doing—oh, get away from me.

Otis: What am I doing here?

Mr. Eric: Said the cat.

Fred: Okay, Ginger, Otis, I don't know how you got here, but you're not supposed to be in What If World.

Ginger: Okay, where's Mommy-Daddy? I miss them.

Mr. Eric: Said Ginger the Dog.

Fred: I know, that's why Mr. Eric never sends you to What If World, Ginger. Because you're too loyal.

Otis: There are too many people here. I'm going to hide in your closet.

Mr. Eric: Said Otis the Cat.

Fred: Otis, slow down, we need to get you off of What If World. You got a weak immune system, that's why you're an indoor cat and you can't go to What If World.

Otis: Balderdash! I'm as strong as ever. Now where's your closet, I wish to hide there.

Abacus: Fred, are you saying that these animals are from What Is World.

Fred: Yeah, they're my brother and sister. Ginger the Loyal and Otis the Aloofest.

Fair Elise: Don't you mean the "most aloof."

Abacus: We don't have time for nomenclature! Besides, "aloofest" is better. We've got to find Hungry Bungry. Now that the Oops Stone is infused with my magic, there's no telling what it's capable of.

Ginger: I like you. You smell like hamburgers. Where's Mommy-Daddy?

Fred: I'm sorry, Ginger. You're not gonna see them unless we can get back to What Is World. We're all gonna need to work together to find Hungry Bu—Where's Otis? [Record scratch.]

Fair Elise: I don't know.

Abacus: He was just here a second ago.

Fred: Oh, he's just so aloof!

Abacus: We can't worry about that, now. Fred, Ginger, can you smell Hungry Bungry's chair and help us track him.

Fred: Oh, that's a really good idea, but I old dog, and I think maybe I'm still a zombie, so my sense of smell isn't—

Ginger: Oh, I know exactly where he is. He smells just like a sort of lizard except with four arms and a yellow head.

Fred: Quit showing off, Ginger! Which way to Hungry Bungry?

Mr. Eric: And Ginger took off out of the classroom and as soon as she darted out, Otis appeared out of nowhere and fled into the hallway in the other direction.

Fred: No! There are too many germs around! You're an indoor cat.

Otis: Freedom, at last! I'm going to find a bird to give to Karen and Eric...

Abacus: We've got to stay focused on finding Hungry Bungry.

Mr. Eric: Fred, Fair Elise, and Abacus kept following Ginger out of the school to find her laying on the ground in the sun.

Ginger: Oh, I miss Mommy-Daddy. How many forevers until I see them again.

Fred: We're talking dogs. Measure time in minutes and hours.

Abacus: [Out of breath] And I reckon we have no more than 12 minutes until the Oops Stone destroys What If World?

Ginger: And how many forevers are in a minute.

Fair Elise: Ginger, I need you to focus. Remember, we were looking for Hungry Bungry.

Mr. Eric: And without a word, that red spotted dog took off, again. Fair Elise flew to catch up and Fred started to run.

Fred: Abacus, why aren't you coming?

Abacus: I can't... without my magic. I just can't keep up.

Fred: I guess old dogs are tougher than old wizards.

Abacus: Just remember the Oops Stone could be twisting all of magic, so don't risk using it!

Mr. Eric: So Fred left the old wizard behind and caught up to Ginger and Fair Elise as they were sniffing the base of a mountain. But this wasn't any ordinary mountain! Ginger was sniffing all around the base, her tail straight up, and Fair Elise looked up.

Fair Elise: It's all trash.

Fred: Oh, you never smelled this before? This is Mt. Whateverest. It's pretty messy and whatever. But there's no forest, so Hungry Bungry likes to live here.

Fair Elise: How could I have never seen this mountain of garbage in the middle of What If World?

Mr. Eric: Ginger stopped rolling around in the trash for a minute and padded over to Fair Elise.

Ginger: I've noticed Mommy-Daddy are really bad at seeing trash, too. They leave all this delicious trash in a barrel and then they feed it to an evil monster every week.

Fred: Oh yeah, I know what that is. That's called a garbage truck evil monster.

Fair Elise: You're right. We just don't see where the trash goes, do we?

Fred: It's probably just the Oops Stone making you see new mistakes.

Fair Elise: Well, I can't use magic to get us to the top, so I guess we'll just have to go the hard way.

Ginger: This is a good long walk. I like not being on a leash.

Mr. Eric: And Ginger started wandering around the mountain.

Fred: Ginger, listen. You don't have a leash but you still have to stay with me. What If World can be a dangerous place.

Ginger: Okay, fine, but I'm going first because I'm bigger than you.

Fred: You're not that much bigger. You're just faster and stronger.

Mr. Eric: And Ginger took off up the mountain. Plastic straws and cotton swabs, rubber hoses and old batteries and dirty wrappers of every shape and size scattered in a cloud behind her.

Fair Elise: Is she always this impulsive.

Fred: I guess you never had a little sister, huh, Fair Elise.

Mr. Eric: And the two sped after Ginger, dodging trash as the lead dog kicked it up.

[Scene change sound.]

Meanwhile, Hungry Bungry sat at the top of Mt. Whateverest, still trying to choke down the Oops Stone.

Hungry Bungry: [Hacking.]

Mr. Eric: He sprayed a river of water trying to dislodge the stone, but it just squirted out around it and headed down the mountain.

Hungry Bungry: Oh, man! [Gulp.]

Mr. Eric: Fortunately, some of the water helped him finally swallow it. Another puff of purple and green, and there was Otis.

Hungry Bungry: Hi, who are you?

Otis: I'm Otis, the Aloofest.

Hungry Bungry: I like a loaf of bread.

Otis: No, aloof, as in I'm going to hide from you because you're big and I don't feel like talking to you.

Hungry Bungry: [Coughs.] Okay, I'll go to squirt water to soften up the trash and then go back to eating it.

Otis: You squirt water.

Hungry Bungry: [Loudly squirts water.]

Otis: Get me out of here!

Mr. Eric: And as the stream of water shot out of Hungry Bungry's mouth, Otis fled down the mountainside.

[Scene change sound.]

Ginger: Oh, look! A river. I love swimming.

Mr. Eric: A flood of water streamed down the side of Mt. Whateverest, rushing towards Ginger, Fred, and Fair Elise.

Fred: No, Ginger, please don't go swimming.

Ginger: Oh, you sound just like Mommy-Daddy. They never let me swim.

Mr. Eric: And Ginger dove into the approaching water and started to get swept away.

Fred: Oh, Ginger! Why don't you listen to me! Fair Elise, use your magic to—

Fair Elise: I can't use my magic, Fred.

Fred: Oh, geez. [Hrrnnggg]

Mr. Eric: And Fred stretched out his tongue as far as it would go.

Fred: Glab onto my tongue Ginger.

Ginger: Oh, no thank you.

Mr. Eric: But Fred caught her by the tip of her tail and started pulling her back in.

Fred: This is so uncomfortable!

Fair Elise: Hurry, Fred, there's more water coming!

Mr. Eric: Another stream of water started rushing towards them, and running just ahead of it, a little gray and white blur!

Fred: Otis?

Otis: Mroooow!

Mr. Eric: No matter where Otis zigged or zagged, the stream seemed to move in his direction. Fair Elise flew toward Otis to try to catch him just as Otis leapt, crashing into the fairy.

Fair Elise: Oh, dear.

Mr. Eric: They plummeted like a furry, winged rocket, right towards the river, landing right on top of Ginger in a splash of water and garbage.

Otis: Raaaooo oo oo oo!

Mr. Eric: Otis scrambled away from the water as fast as he could, but the only thing to hold onto was Fred's tongue!

Fred: Aaah! Oh! Ah Ow! OW!

Mr. Eric: And Fred's tongue curled up in sudden pain, wrapping up Ginger an Fair Elise and Otis, and tumbling them just out of reach of that river of trash.

Otis: I meant to do that.

Mr. Eric: Said Otis, somehow already back on his feet without seeming to have a drop of water on him.

Fair Elise: How did he do that?

Mr. Eric: Asked Fair Elise.

Fred: I guess you've never had a cat before, either.

Ginger: Fred, you saved me even though I didn't listen to you.

Fred: Of course I did, Ginger. I'm your big brother.

Otis: [Coughs]

Mr. Eric: Coughed Otis.

Fred: Oh no, my little brother's getting sick.

Otis: Nonsense, I'm as strong as ever [Coughs].

Fair Elise: Here, let me fly you the rest of the way.

Otis: Never! My pride will not suffer it. Oh, you smell nice. Well, just this once, but never again.

Fair Elise: Okay, brave kitten.

Mr. Eric: Finally, they reached the summit of Mt. Whateverest and saw Hungry Bungry chowing down on some trash.

Fred: Hungry Bungry, you've got to stop eating trash for a minute and cough up the Oops Stone.

Hungry Bungry: I can't cough it up. My job is to get rid of What If World's trash.

Mr. Eric: Just then, a black hole seemed to open above the peak of the mountain and even though they were high above the clouds, it started to rain trash.

Ginger: Oh, there's so many new smells. Now, these people know what to do with their trash.

Mr. Eric: And Ginger started sniffing around.

Fair Elise: Hungry, one person can't take care of all of us.

Fred: But you can help us fix another mistake by coughing up the Oops Stone.

Hungry Bungry: Mistake? What do you mean? Every day I eat one pile of trash, and every day, ten thousand piles get rained on top of Mt. Whateverest, thus fixing What If World's trash problem.

Fair Elise: Hungry Bungry, I want you to understand this but I need you to trust us.

Fred: You've got to spit out that stone.

Mr. Eric: The steady rain of trash continued as Ginger piped in.

Ginger: He's usually right about this stuff, even though I don't listen to him.

Otis: And he was right that I shouldn't spend too much time here.

Mr. Eric: Hungry Bungry looked up and an old bag of rotted lettuce fell on his face!

Hungry Bungry: [Coughs] Oh, what is the matter with me. I can't take care of all this by myself. [Coughs hard.]

Mr. Eric: And the Oops Stone popped right out of his mouth and started rolling down Mt. Whateverest. And as it did, Ginger and Otis started to ever so slowly fade away.

Otis: Lovely place. I'd like to visit again, maybe with some sort of magic immune boost.

Ginger: Will Mommy-Daddy be home when I get back?

Fred: I happen to know Daddy's home right now and he can't wait to see you.

Mr. Eric: And Fred's brother and sister were gone.

Hungry Bungry: Why didn't you fade away, Fred.

Fred: Because I think we got some work to do here, Hungry Bungry.

Mr. Eric: And Fair Elise looked down at the mountain of trash while still more rained above them. And as the three of them stood in silence wondering what in the If world they could do... the Oops Stone finally rolled to the bottom of the mountain where Abacus P. Grumbler picked it up.

Abacus: You think they learned anything this time, Oopsie? Oh! You're covered in trash slime. I should have put a glove on.

Mr. Eric: The end.

Abacus: I really hope you came out of Hungry Bungry's mouth...
[Falling harp scale]

Mr. Eric: Well, Liam and Porsche, I hope you liked your story. And Peck, I hope you liked your new character. He was just what I needed to tie everything together.

I'd like to thank Karen Marshall O'Keeffe, my co-editor and producer, Jason O'Keefe for our artwork, Craig Martinson for our theme song, and all you kids at home who know that good rules are made by people who understand our mistakes and just want to keep us from repeating them. Is there a rule you just don't quite understand? Talk to some grown ups about it. Talk to some other kids! Do some detective work and tell us what you find out.

And until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]

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