

Podcast: [What If World](#)

Episode: 090 What if swim class was in the trees and princesses rescued knights?

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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. I'm Mr. Eric, your host, and today we'll start with a question from Liliana.

Liliana: My name is Liliana.

Liliana's Parent: How old are you?

Liliana: I'm five and a half and I like Korra. Korra's this avatar that I really like and my question is what if swimming class was in the trees?

Liliana's Parent: What if like a swimming pool was in the trees, too? Or just the class?

Liliana: Just the class.

Liliana's Parent: Not the pool? Where's the pool?

Liliana: The pool is deep in the ground.

Liliana's Parent: Oh, the class is up in the tree, okay. Great.

Liliana: Bye.

Mr. Eric: Thank you very much, Lily. I really like the idea of swim class in the trees when the water's deep below the earth. That sounds like trouble. And of course I know who Korra is from *Avatar: The Legend of Korra*. When Ms. Karen and I first met, she used to call me Avatar Boy because she and I both liked that show.

Okay, we've got one more question from Clara.

Clara: Hi, my name is Clara and—

Clara's Parent: What do you like?

Clara: I like princesses and my question is what if princesses rescued knights. Thank you.

Mr. Eric: Excellent question, Clara. I've never understood why princesses needed rescuing all the time, anyway.

Now, before we get started, I have a quick shout out to give to Simon. He's our newest patron, and what a nice kid. He said he'd be happy no matter which person from What If World said thank you.

Petey the Pirate: Yeah, thank you, Simon.

Fair Elise: Thank you, Simon.

Abacus: Thank you, my dear boy, thank you.

Dragonmax: Thank you, dragon. I mean, Simon.

Mamma Jamma: Oh, thank you, Simon. I'm gonna give your cheek a pinch.

Mr. Eric: Okay, okay, everybody. I think Simon's had enough thank yous. And I'm sorry if you're listening to this podcast and you feel your cheek get pinched, that's just Mamma Jamma.

Mamma Jamma: Imaginary fingers are just the best for pinching.

Mr. Eric: Ow! You can say that again.

Mamma Jamma: Why would I say it again? Once was plenty.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, I guess you're right. Now let's find out what if swimming class was in the trees and what if princesses rescued knights.

[Rising harp scale.]

What If World's heat wave still hadn't broken and if you heard last week's story, you know that nobody even made it to the beach. Good think this week, Pixicato, Lola Rabbit, and Zizi had signed up for swim class.

Mamma Jamma: Okay, girls, we're here!

Mr. Eric: Said Mamma Jamma, bringing her station wagon to a stop in the middle of the forest.

Pixicato: Um, where is here?

Mr. Eric: Asked Pixicato.

Zizi: It looks like the middle of nowhere.

Mr. Eric: Said Zizi.

Lola Rabbit: Oh boy oh boy oh boy oh boy oh boy oh boy oh boy, the forest! I love the forest almost as much as the hills which I love almost as much as the nice little hole that I get to dig my way into—

Mamma Jamma: Lola, Lola, okay. Listen, girls. I'm not the swim instructor, okay? This is just where I was told to bring ya. Oh, there she is now! Lara Legend.

Mr. Eric: And so Lara Legend appeared in a swirl of mist. She was broad-shouldered and muscly with thick black hair to her shoulders and dark brown skin like all the people of What If World south pole.

Lara Legend: I am Lara Legend, here to teach you the secrets of swimming.

Zizi: Oh, she's really intense.

Pixicato: I'm not sure how I feel about this anymore.

Lola Rabbit: She seems tough. I like tough teachers, and tough elephants and tough dragons. But not as much as a good tough carrot.

Mamma Jamma: Okay, girls. You're gonna have to get out of the car sooner or later, please. Thank you, okay, bye.

Pixicato: Um, she drove off really fast.

Zizi: Yep, did any of you know how long this class is supposed to be?

Lola Rabbit: I hope it goes on forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever—

Lara Legend: Silence. Your first lesson in swimming class is climbing.

Zizi: Oh, like a warmup. I get it.

Mr. Eric: Zizi was by far the tallest of the three girls and she had an easy time climbing.

Pixicato: May I just fly to the top of the tree?

Mr. Eric: Asked Pixicato.

Lara Legend: I don't know. Is this flying class?

Pixicato: No, but it's not climbing class, either.

Lara Legend: Oh, good point. Yes. Go ahead and fly.

Mr. Eric: And Pixicato zipped up the tree, Lola Rabbit keeping up with her by bouncing from branch to branch to branch to branch. Once they were at the top of this rather tall tree, Lara Legend appeared on a branch aside them in another puff of mist.

Lara Legend: When you swim, it is important to respect the water. It can lift you up, or it can drag you down. Now it is time to swim.

Mr. Eric: And Lara Legend gestured to a dry lake bed just ahead.

Zizi: Um, Ms. Legend, I think the lake has dried up in the heat wave.

Lara Legend: It has not dried up. It has been used up by wasteful people who did not respect the water.

Pixicato: Well, that's a lovely lesson, but how are we supposed to swim?

Lara Legend: That is a riddle you three must solve for yours—

Lola Rabbit: Lolaronimooooo!

[Record scratch.]

Mr. Eric: Cried Lola, bouncing out of the tall tree toward the empty lake bed.

Pixicato: Lola!

Zizi: Lola!

Lara Legend: Lola!

Mr. Eric: Zizi yanked off Pixicato's fairy dust pouch and threw it at the falling rabbit like a fastball just as Pixicato flattened her wings and dove after her friend in a flash in the same moment that Lara Legend called up a jet of water from a nearby geyser. And as they all moved to save their friend, Sir Squiggles suddenly burst into the clearing riding atop his cylindrical steed, Loggy.

Sir Squiggle: Never fear, Sir Squiggle is here!

Mr. Eric: Said the knight, trying to charge toward the falling bunny. But before Sir Squiggle could even finish talking the fairy powder pouch hit the little bunny and she started floating erratically. Then Pixicato was right beside Lola to steady her floating friend. And finally, that stream of warm geyser water formed a gentle pool in the air, just in time for Lola's toes to dip right in.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, it's warm but not too warm.

Lara Legend: Yes. I was going to reveal the water as part of the lesson. I didn't expect any of you to jump right out of the tree.

Zizi: Oh, well, I guess you've never met Lola.

Pixicato: Lola, you've got to be more careful.

Lola Rabbit: What, are you kidding? I trust Lara Legend. By the way, who is that scribbly guy?

Sir Squiggle: It's a squiggle guy not a scribble guy.

Mr. Eric: Said the knight. He was one long squiggly line that curled in and out of a set of silver armor.

Sir Squiggle: Hi-ho, Loggy! Let's go save the princess.

Zizi: She's not a princess.

Mr. Eric: Called Zizi from up in the tree.

Lola Rabbit: And I got saved pretty well without you.

Sir Squiggle: But I sense a princess, and maybe two.

Lara Legend: Fine, yes. Technically I was Princess of the Penguins in the south pole.

Lola Rabbit: That's awesome!

Lara Legend: They taught me water weaving, which is what I will use to help you learn to swim today.

Pixicato: Well, technically I'm also Princess of Pixies.

Lola Rabbit: No way!

Zizi: You're a princess?

Pixicato: Everyone in fairyland is prince or princess of something, it's hard to keep track of.

Sir Squiggle: Then I will stay until you need to be saved.

Loggy: [Neighs]

Mr. Eric: And Loggy reared up on its hind circle, then launched itself into the lake basin. But the steep, dusty sides of the dried up old lake just gave way before the cylindrical steed.

Loggy: [Scared neighing]

Mr. Eric: Loggy neighed nervously as she slid deeper into the lake bed.

Sir Squiggle: Slow down!

Mr. Eric: Said Sir Squiggles, extending one arm around Loggy to use as reins.

Lola Rabbit: Haha, silly knight.

Mr. Eric: Said Lola Rabbit, splashing around in her warm pool of water.

Lara Legend: Oh, boys.

Mr. Eric: Said Lara Legend, pulling up one last string of water from the spent geyser to try to slow down the falling knight and Pixicato bravely flew towards Sir Squiggles, even though she was far too small to hold him in his heavy metal armor.

Sir Squiggle: Don't worry, Loggy is the finest steed on zero legs.

Mr. Eric: And just like that, Loggy buried her circle head into the sand all the way up to her silvery mane in order to slow her descent. Unfortunately, Sir Squiggles had slid near the back of old Loggy, so when Loggy's head went down, Loggy's rear up, launching Sir Squiggles as if he'd been sitting at the end of the world's most unsafe see-saw!

Sir Squiggle: I'm starting to think I could use some saving!

Mr. Eric: But before he could finish, he'd fallen into the hole where the geyser water had come up from!

Loggy: [Sad neighing.]

Mr. Eric: Cried Loggy, sadly, burying her head so deep in the sand that she just looked like a tall stump.

Now Lara Legend and Pixicato had been fast but neither one of them could catch an armored knight launched like a cannon ball.

Lola Rabbit: Oh no oh no oh no, we've got to save him!

Mr. Eric: Said Lola Rabbit, bunnypadding to the edge of her floating pool.

Lola Rabbit: I'll just fly down there and—

Pixicato: No, you can't. The water's washed away your fairy dust and that was all I brought.

Mr. Eric: Zizi looked down from her tall tree into the empty geyser below her.

Zizi: If I dive down there, there's probably water at the bottom...

Lara Legend: I'm afraid I took all the water out, said Lara Legend, water weaving her two pools together to form a long winding river in the sky.

Lola Rabbit: But I heard you were a water weaver and a fire fender and a rock roller and an air archer!

Lara Legend: That's true. But I was a water weaver first, and if you're going down that far, it's the only element I trust.

Zizi: If you're a rock roller, just open up the geyser and go down there.

Lara Legend: It's a very old geyser. If I disturb its rock walls, it could crumble upon him or you. I'm sorry. You kids are going to have to save Sir Squiggles yourself.

Zizi: Best. Swim. Lesson. Ever.

Mr. Eric: Said Zizi, diving towards that floating river of water.

Pixicato: Actually, we haven't been taught the first thing about swimming, yet.

Mr. Eric: But the flying river scooped up Pixicato too and turned into a narrow jet of water, half as wide as the broad shouldered Lara and the three children rode the raging river as it squeezed through the gap in the geyser. Suddenly it was dark and the river spread out a little wider as the three kids fell through the empty tunnel. They had to keep swimming to keep from falling out of the whirling water.

Zizi: Lola, Pixi, you okay?

Mr. Eric: Asked Zizi. And suddenly the pixie lit up with her own sparkling inner light.

Pixicato: I can't say I enjoy falling endlessly while swimming for dear life.

Lola Rabbit: I can say that, I can say that, I can say that—

Zizi: Okay, we're all here. Just keep swimming. We have to reach the bottom before long.

Mr. Eric: But before long came and went and the kids were getting tired. When they finally feared they couldn't swim another foot, they heard. [Thump]

Sir Squiggle: Whoa! Owee! Oooee! Arollee polly!

Zizi: Oh no, he's bouncing off the sides of the tunnel!

Lola Rabbit: Oh, don't worry. He's two dimensional. Ever notice how hard it is to hurt a cartoon character?

Pixicato: I don't think that's what she's worried about.

Mr. Eric: Said Pixicato. The light shining off of her tiny pixie form finally illuminated Sir Squiggle who clunked and clattered, at last, to the bottom of this deep, dark cavern.

Sir Squiggle: Saved by a princess! I will never live this down.

Pixicato: Well, wouldn't you rather live?

Sir Squiggle: But the shame of a girl helping a boy.

Echoing Voice: Oh no, he didn't.

Mr. Eric: A voice echoed through the deep dark cavern just as they heard [crunching noises] a crumbling sound from above them.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, what's that? Who's there?

Mr. Eric: Asked Lola Rabbit.

Pixicato: There's no time! I think the geyser's starting to collapse.

Mr. Eric: Said Pixicato.

Zizi: Sir Squiggles, you're going to have to lose that armor if you want to float in this water.

Mr. Eric: Said Zizi.

Sir Squiggle: A knight without armor?

Mr. Eric: Cried Sir Squiggles just as a giant pair of red pincers clamped down on his silver armor, cutting into it like a tin can!

Cindy Crawdad: I'm princess of all things with pincers but I don't need a tiara!

Mr. Eric: It was Cindy Crawdad, What If World's giant lobster Princess of Pincers!

Sir Squiggle: Please don't eat me!

Cindy Crawdad: Why does everyone always think I'm going to eat them?

Mr. Eric: Cried Cindy, her pincer clamping down further.

Lola Rabbit: Cool! Can I jump on you?

Cindy Crawdad: What?

Zizi: I'm sorry Pincercess, Princess, but if we don't leave right now, we could get crushed by falling rocks.

Cindy Crawdad: Falling rocks? I ain't 'fraid of no rocks.

Mr. Eric: Said Cindy Crawdad and she curled up her armored tail to cover the three girls and the squiggly knight just as an avalanche of rocks and boulders started to rain down into the cavern. [Thudding noises.]
Fortunately, Cindy Crawdad was one powerful princess.

Sir Squiggle: Saved by princesses twice!

Mr. Eric: Sir Squiggles started to complain but one of Cindy Crawdad's eyestalks bent to give him a glare.

Sir Squiggle: So nice! Is what I was going to say.

Mr. Eric: When the rockalanche finally stopped, the girls suddenly realized their river of water wasn't holding them up anymore. They were just wading in a pool at the bottom of this cavern.

Cindy Crawdad: Oh, it's going to take a long while to dig out of this.

Mr. Eric: Said Cindy. But then they heard [Whooshing and crunching noises.]

Lola Rabbit: Another rockalanche! This is too much excitement, even for me!

Mr. Eric: And Lola Rabbit huddled against the giant lobster monster. But suddenly, there was a clearing in the rocks.

Zizi: Lara Legend!

Pixicato: Lara Legend!

Lola Rabbit: Lara Legend! Took you long enough!

Lara Legend: Hello Cindy, I see they brought your water back.

Cindy Crawdad: Yeah, I wasn't expecting to see this knight, though.

Lara Legend: Well, we had to improvise a little bit today, didn't we?

Girls: Huh? What?

Cindy Crawdad: She and I have been teaching together a while, now.

Lara Legend: Giving the water back to the creatures who need it is supposed to be the final part of the lesson.

Sir Squiggle: I will need a long shower to wash off this lobster smell.

Pixicato: You should take a short shower to save water.

Zizi: And you shouldn't insult people who just saved your life.

Lola Rabbit: Can I bounce on his helmet? Oh, can I, can I, can I, can I, can I?

Sir Squiggle: I have been rude. I deserve it.

Lola Rabbit: Boing boing boing boing. I need a nap! [Snoring].

Lara Legend: I was going to ask if you had one more swim in you, but I guess I have my answer.

Mr. Eric: And Lara Legend started lifting them up the half collapsed tunnel on a big rolling rock.

Pixicato: Bye, Princess of Pincers!

Cindy Crawdad: Bye, Princess of Pixies!

Lola Rabbit: How do you know each other? Is there some kind of princess convention?

Pixicato: Yes, of course.

Sir Squiggle: There's a rabbit sleeping in my head.

Girls: [Giggle].

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: All right Liliana and Clara. I hope you enjoyed your story. I'd like to thank Karen Marshall O'Keeffe, my co creator, Jason O'Keeffe for our artwork, Craig Martinson for our theme song, and all you kids at home who know that what you do and how you treat others is more important than any title, princess, knight, or otherwise. You might assume someone you meet is going to be shy or awkward. Give them a chance. Treat them like they're just as good and smart and kind as you. Most of the time, I bet it'll pay off.

And until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]