

Podcast: [What If World](#)

Episode: 98: What if unicorns lived in Halloween bushes?

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Transcription by Keffy

Mr. Eric: Okay, can you hear me all right?

Sloan: Yeah.

Mr. Eric: Can I get a fistbump through the camera.

Sloan: Pew!

[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 are joined by a very special guest. Can you tell our listeners your first name?

Sloan : Sloan.

Mr. Eric: Sloan! Sloan, I am so happy to meet you. I'm so happy to have you hear. Sloan where are you from again. I heard you were from Kansas City, but not the Kansas Kansas City, right?

Sloan : Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Eric: Ah, Kansas City, Missouri. very important distinction. I've almost made that mistake before. Sloan, have we talked about what the story's going to be yet, you and I? Have we figured out the beginning, middle, and end of this story?

Sloan : Nn-nn.

Mr. Eric: No, we haven't!

Sloan : No!

Mr. Eric: This is real. This is improv. So Sloan and I are looking at each other on Skype right now. We're both a little nervous. I'm a little nervous. Are you? Yeah. She's nodding a lot. Yeah. So it's going to be fun, it's going to be wacky and wild. So, what does What If World need to get started on—

Sloan : A What If question!

Mr. Eric: I can't get anything by you. Yes, yes indeed. Sloan, do you have a what if question for me today?

Sloan : What if unicorns lived in a Halloween bush?

Mr. Eric: What if unicorns lived in a Halloween bush. This so silly. I've never heard of a Halloween bush. Can you explain to me what a Halloween bush is? How you imagine it?

Sloan : It's a bush with things, like things Halloween on it. And then the only creature that lives in it is a unicorn. Because all the other creatures get scared away.

Mr. Eric: Only unicorns live in it because spooky stuff scares everything else away.

Sloan : Mm-hmm!

Mr. Eric: All right, all right, so maybe spooky stuff comes to visit, but it doesn't stay because it's just too spooky even for spooky stuff? I love that, that's lovely.

So, we're going to answer the question: What if unicorns lived in a Halloween bush?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Once upon a time, there was a unicorn named Sloan. Sloan had heard from other unicorns that unicorns were only supposed to live in Halloween bushes. Now, Sloan was still living in a regular bush. It was called Regular Town, and it was right next door to this Halloween bush.

What is a character from What If World that you might like to meet.

Sloan : JF Kat.

Mr. Eric: Sloan was kind of a small unicorn. You'd have to be to live inside a bush and she was nibbling away at some bush leaves.

Sloan : [Eating noises.]

Mr. Eric: And suddenly her friend JF Kat came up to visit.

JF Kitty: Sloan! What are doing? You're eating your own house.

Sloan : Uuum. Unicorns eat their house before they move!

JF Kitty: That makes a lot of sense. I used to live inside of a cardboard box and before I moved, I tried to eat that box. Folks at home, never eat a cardboard box. I learned the lesson for you.

Mr. Eric: So, Sloan the unicorn finished nibbling up her old home and she moved nextdoor.

JF Kitty: Listen, I'm taking a break from being president. Would you mind if I lived with you for a short while?

Sloan : No, I don't mind.

JF Kitty: Oh, very good.

Mr. Eric: And JF Kat moved in with them as well. Once they moved next door, they realized there was something fishy about this bush.

Bush: Uuuueaaaahhhh...

Mr. Eric: Said... the bush? Or maybe it was something inside the bush? Or right next to the bush? What was it? Sloan looked around. What did you see?

Sloan : A skeleton ghost.

Mr. Eric: Ah, a skeleton ghost.

Skeleton Ghost : Rrrreeeaaauuuuughgghh. I'm a skeleton ghooost! You're super scared right now. Spooky scary stuff, Halloweeeen. Did I scare you away from the bush?

Sloan : No.

JF Kitty: Oh, I'm really afraid. Sloan, what do I do? It's a skeleton ghost!

Sloan : Um, you should run if you're scared.

JF Kitty: Okay!

[Record scratch.]

Mr. Eric: And zip! JF Kat ran all the way out of the bush. He kept going and going and going until he was over the horizon. She couldn't see him anymore.

Skeleton Ghost : I scared away your kitty cat. What can I do to make up for it?

Sloan : Um, say I'm sorry, maybe.

Skeleton Ghost : I'm soooooorrrryyyy [coughs] I'm soooooo [coughs and hacks]

Mr. Eric: The skeleton ghost couldn't say it was sorry.

Skeleton Ghost : Maybe this is why I turned into a ghost. I never learned how to say I'm so so— [splutters]. But listen, if you and me work together, I bet we can find your missing caaaaaat.

Sloan : Maybe.

Mr. Eric: I might need your help. What do you think a good name for a skeleton ghost might be?

Sloan : Skeletony.

Mr. Eric: Skeletony, perfect. Thank you.

Skeletony : By the way, my name is Skeletony. They called me that when I was alive because I was skinny and paaaaaleeee. And also I talked like thiiiiis.

Mr. Eric: Now, Sloan didn't know where to start looking for JF Kat and I don't really know where kitty cats go when they're scared.

Skeletony : Sloan, where should we start looking?

Sloan : In regular bushes?

Skeletony : Ah, regular bushes.

Mr. Eric: And Skeletony ran over to the first bush he could find. It happened to be the bush right next door.

Skeletony : This bush doesn't have any leaves to hide in. It looks like someone ate it. They must have eaten it and eaten JF Kat.

Sloan : Um, no. I just ate my house before I moved.

Skeletony : Well, let me see. I see kitty prints running off into the distance.

Mr. Eric: And Skeletony took after, half floating, half running, all the way over a hill. And when he got to the other side of this hill, I wonder what he saw.

Sloan : A giant cat building.

Mr. Eric: Over this ridge, on the other side of the hill, they saw a giant cat house. House cat or cat house?

Sloan : House cat.

Mr. Eric: Okay, a giant house that was in the shape of a cat. Very good.

Skeletony : I don't know much, but if I were a cat, I might have gone there.

Sloan : Yeah, we should check in there if JF Kat's in there. He probably is because it's a building shaped like a cat.

Mr. Eric: Sloan walked up to the building and with her little unicorn horn gave it a knock.

[Door creaking]

The door opened.

Cackula : Who dares disturb Cackula? Ah ah ah. Are you here to hear my stand-up set.

Sloan : Um...

Cackula : It is out-standing. Ah ah ah ah.

Sloan : No... did a cat, did a black and white cat walk in here?

Cackula : Ah, I know this one. What did the black and white do when it crossed the road, right?

Sloan : It's not the joke. Did a cat walk in this building.

Skeletony : His name is JF Kat.

Cackula : I see. A little black and white cat. Hmm. You know, I did happen to see such a creature. He climbed in through the window of my cat house. I mean, my house cat. I mean, it's sort of in the shape of a cat but it is not actually a cat. Ah ah ah. [Crickets].

I'm getting off track. You have my permission to search all throughout my spooky, scary house. But I will tell you this. Unicorns only live in Halloween bushes, correct?

Sloan : Yes.

Cackula : Yes, well, vampires only live in house cats because they are somewhat scarier than Halloween bushes, so be prepared.

Sloan : Um, okaaaay. I'm just going to walk into this room over here and see if he's in here.

Mr. Eric: And so she did, looking from room to room, and you know, she wasn't really that impressed with the spookiness of this house. All these rooms were basically empty. There was just cat fur here and there and some carpets and a lot of scratching posts all around. Some empty bowls of cat food. But she hadn't seen a single cat.

[Meowing noise]

Skeletony : I heard a meow. I will find the cat now!

Mr. Eric: And the skeleton ghost ran towards the nearest wall, his ghost half went through the wall but the skeleton half banged against it and fell into a pile.

Skeletony : A little help, please.

Sloan : Okay! And she took him through the door.

Skeletony : Thank you.

Mr. Eric: On the other side of the door, they found his skeleton side and put it back together with his ghost side and they also saw a little sleepy kitty. What did Sloan do?

Sloan : Grabbed the cat and said, "WAKE UP!"

Mr. Eric: And this tabby cat did indeed wake up with a snarl and it started growing bigger and bigger!

Cat: GRREEERRRRRR!

Skeletony : It's a were-cat!

Mr. Eric: And then you hear from the next room.

Cackula : It's a cat-tastrophe, ah ah ah ah.

Mr. Eric: This giant cat started swinging its claws around wildly!

Cat: GRRROW REOW!

Mr. Eric: And Skeletony jumped in the way.

Skeletony : Don't worry! I'll protect you!

Sloan : And then Sloan used her powers to make the cat smaller again and go back to sleep.

Mr. Eric: Sloan used her unicorn powers to turn the little tabby cat from a were-cat to a normal cat.

Tabby: That's a relief. I hate being a were-cat. It happens every full moon day.

Sloan : Okaaay?

Tabby: Do you think you could get me out of here?

Sloan : Um, yeah, if you like to get on my back?

Tabby: That's really nice. I sure will.

Mr. Eric: And the cat clawed its way up to her back, but she's a horse so it didn't really hurt that much.

Tabby: You know, I saw one more cat recently. Were you looking for a black and white kitty?

Sloan : Yeah!

Tabby: Oh.

Mr. Eric: He started leading them from room to room. There were were-cats in some rooms, there were were-bats in other rooms. There were were-tigers and still, there was basically every kind of were-creature, even a were-spoon clattered after her.

Cackula, in the meantime, was gathering everyone together.

Cackula : Everyone, I'm doing a very good comedy show in the next room if you would all like to come, ah ah ah ah.

Mr. Eric: When he opened the door to the next room, it was like a stage. Like a big stage with a bunch of rows of seats and there was JF Kat, hiding underneath one of them.

JF Kitty: This is really scary! Why is there a were-everything?

Sloan : Well, Cackula did say it was scary.

JF Kitty: That's not the half of it! You see...

Mr. Eric: And then he started [Grreeeaarrgh] turning into...

Sloan : A were-cat...

Mr. Eric: With a unicorn horn! I guess he'd spent enough time around unicorns, some of the magic power had rubbed off on him.

JF Kitty: [Rearrggh meoow!]

Mr. Eric: And he started spraying magic all over the stage. Every time magic hit someone, they'd turn into a different kind of were creature. What are some things they might have turned into?

Sloan : A were unicorn.

Mr. Eric: More were-unicorns!

Sloan : And there were were-owls.

Mr. Eric: [Makes spooky owl hoots] flying around, knocking heads with each other. They could barely even see! And also it's really hard to teach yourself to fly. And suddenly, Skeletony stepped up.

Skeletony : Everyone just calm down.

Mr. Eric: And the owls started flying into him. And the were-cats started running around him. And JF Kat ran over.

JF Kitty: I can't control it! Someone please stop—

Mr. Eric: What did Sloan do?

Sloan : She used her magical powers on everybody and turned back to normal.

Mr. Eric: Oh, man, it's a really, really big risk to use that much magic, but Sloan was super brave. She shook her head left and right and horn lit up with every color in the rainbow. And if you could see more colors than the



ones we have, you'd see those, too! Swirling all over the stage, hitting every were creature, turning it back to normal owls and normal spoons and normal unicorns and normal cats. And even that were-vampire, believe me, I don't know what that is either, turned back into Cackula.

Cackula : Oh, that was close, ah ah ah. I don't know why I'm laughing, I'm terrified.

Mr. Eric: And as she turned, JF Kat with one last burst of magic back into a cute little kitty, can you make a cracking sound for me?

Sloan : [CRACKLE NOISE!]

Mr. Eric: A crack shone in her young unicorn horn.

Skeletony : This is all my fault! You lost your unicorn powers because of meeee.

Mr. Eric: And Skeletony was so sad. He walked over and put his hand on Sloan's haunches. What did Sloan say?

Sloan : It's okay, Skeletony.

Mr. Eric: And then JF Kat walked up to her.

JF Kitty: If I weren't such a scaredy-cat, your horn might be okay.

Sloan : It's okay, JF Kat. If you are a scaredy-cat, it's okay. It's okay to be scared.

JF Kitty: That's the nicest thing I think anyone's ever said to me. Sometimes I'm just afraid to be afraid even though I'm president.

Skeletony : Sometimes I'm afraid to say I'm s—[splutters]

Sloan : So—You're s—

Skeletony : I'm soo-rryyyy!

Mr. Eric: And as he was touching the unicorn's back, suddenly a little bit of his ghost half whisked right off, right into her unicorn horn.

Skeletony : Because I know I mess up, but if I say I'm s—s—soorrrry, then everyone will know I messed up.

Mr. Eric: And one of the bones of his skeleton bones flew off of him and right onto her unicorn horn. It started knitting back together. Did Sloan say anything else?

Sloan : She was way too amazed of what was happening.

Skeletony : I promise I'll try to be less scary. Not everyone likes to be scared.

Mr. Eric: Then one more bit of ghost power and one more bit of bone flew over to Sloan's unicorn horn and—it blasted with light again throughout the room. Everyone had to shield their eyes from this colorful rainbow. Whoa! It wasn't just her normal horn anymore, it was about half a foot longer and did it look different in any other way, Sloan?

Sloan : It was blue and green and orange.

Mr. Eric: Whoa! And she was the only unicorn in the history of unicorns to have a blue and green and orange horn. Sure, her horn wasn't all unicorn, but did that really matter?

Sloan : Nope!

Mr. Eric: She was so excited to show off her blue and green and orange unicorn horn that she galloped right out of that house.

Cackula : I thought you were going to listen to my jokes. Ah, forget it.

Mr. Eric: It was time for Sloan to get home. She sped away with Skeletony riding her and JF Kat as well. Was she a little bit bigger than before?

Sloan : She's a little bigger.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, it's like she'd grown up a little along the way. Fwoom! She got back to her Halloween bush and met her mom and dad.

Mom Unicorn: Wow! Look at that horn!

Dad Unicorn: Oh my God, I've never seen a horn like that in all my life. It's beautiful.

Mr. Eric: Is there anything that she wanted to do or play or—

Sloan : You guys are invited to an awesome Halloween dance party.

Skeletony : That sounds amazing. And just enough time to regrow these bones.

Mr. Eric: And so she started up her favorite music and JF Kat jumped in and Cackula ran over and all the were creatures and the not-were creatures and the unicorns and the not-unicorns got together for one giant dance party!

Sloan : The end!

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Sloan, we did it! We told a story together. Did you have fun!

Sloan : Uh-huh!

Mr. Eric: Oh man, you always had good ideas because you were just willing to say what was on your mind. Can I get a high five through the computer.

Sloan is there anyone out there in podcast world that you want to say anything to?

Sloan : Uh-huh! Hello JF Kat!

JF Kitty: Whoa, oh, hey, sorry, I was napping. That was an ordeal, that story. Thank you for helping save me from all that spooky stuff.

Sloan : You're welcome, JF Kat.

Mr. Eric: Sloan, I can't tell you how thankful I am to have had you today. This was a real blast.

I'd like to thank Sloan again for her help today, 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 have ever had to apologize for something you did wrong. There's no shame in making a mistake, but you gotta own up to it or else you'll probably keep making the same mistakes. I, for one, make mistakes every week recording this show. You've probably noticed.

But until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]