

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 108: What if an evil wizard turned all the cats into dragons but Fred the Dog saved the day?](#)

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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're starting with a question from Kara.

Kara: My name is Kara. I am eight and I like dragons. What if an evil wizard turned all the cats into dragons but Fred the Dog saved the days because it turned out that the evil wizard was misunderstood. The wizard's name is Pawly P. Rancey. People thinks she is [inaudible]. Thank you very much, bye!

Mr. Eric: Oh my goodness, that is a quite a bit of question. Now, I asked a few of my family members an we settled on Pawly P. Rancey as the name you said and I apologize, Kara, if we got it wrong. Now we've got to add on a patron question from Ayla.

Ayla: Hi, my name's Ayla. I like cats and *Wild Kratts* and my what if question—I'm five. And my what if question is, what if the [inaudible].

Ayla's Parent: What if sifaka lemurs were sushi chefs? And she said she likes cats and the PBS show *Wild Kratts*.

Ayla: It's about animals!

Mr. Eric: Ooh, what if sifaka lemurs were sushi chefs? And while we can't have the *Wild Kratts* show help us out with this episode, What If World does have its DiscoverWhy channel and your question reminds me of their latest documentary. This documentary was shot on an island deep in the Specific Ocean.

Hungry Bungry: Was it my trash island?

Mr. Eric: No, it was not your trash island.

Hungry Bungry: Oh, that's okay because I just really wanted to say a big thank you to William, our newest patron.

Mr. Eric: Oh, thanks, Hungry. And thank you, William. I also wanted to thank Jayna and Baron. They're siblings who just joined us on Patreon before the new year.

Fred the Dog: Oh no, you got more shout outs than me this week.

Mr. Eric: It's okay, Fred. It's not a competition.

Fred the Dog: Well, I'm gonna give a best shout out to Emily. She's seven years old and she likes me, Fred the Dog.

Zizi: And I've got a big shout-out for her big sister, Rosie.

Hungry Bungry: Wow. Jaina and Baron, William, Emily, and Rosie.

Mr. Eric: I know, right! I'm so lucky to have you as listeners and patrons. Thanks! Now let's tune into What If World's DiscoverWhy channel. Hopefully their documentary answers Ayla and Kara's question.

Dr. Mentory: The wild Mr. Eric puts down the microphone and picks up a remote to change stations rapidly.

Mr. Eric: Dr. Mentory? Wow, what an honor to meet you.

Dr. Mentory: The honor is all yours, yes. I'll be hosting this particular episode. We shot this...

Mr. Eric: Oh, no no. Okay, great, no don't spoil any surprises. Let's just get straight to the story.

Dr. Mentory: Documentary...

Mr. Eric: Uh, Doc' stormentory.

Dr. Mentory: Fine.

Mr. Eric: What if an evil wizard turned all the cats into dragons but Fred the Dog saved the day because it turns out that the evil wizard was misunderstood. The wizard's name is Pawly P. Rancey. People thinkc he's a girl, and what if sifaka lemurs were shushi chefs.

Were sushi sefs.

Were sushi chefs! That's a tough one

[Rising harp scale.]

[Gentle instrumental music plays.]

Dr. Mentory: Welcome to Unspecific Island where a crisis has befallen all of nature. The cats have turned into dragons. [Dragon roars.] Even while taking naps. Their loud purrs rumble the island itself and their snorts set fire to its trees. But how did this all happen? Dr. Mentory has got the full scoop.

Cat Dragon: Grreow, can you scoop my dragon litter?

Dr. Mentory: Absolutely not.

It all started a few minutes ago when the evil wizard Pawly P. Rancey doggy-paddled her way to shore.

[Time skip noise.]

Pawly P. Rancey: Oh, that was tiring swim, oh and kitty wizards hate water even more than normal cats.

Dr. Mentory: The evil wizard seemed to be talking to no one in particular.

Pawly P. Rancey: You know, I'm feeling quite hungry. I think I'm gonna go get me one of them sushis from the famous lemur sushi chefs.

Dr. Mentory: Somehow, this cat was able to produce sushi chef better than Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: Hey, it's a hard phrase.

Dr. Mentory: And so she went to find the famous lemurs, known across the Specific Ocean as the greatest of sushi chefs.

Lemur Chef: Welcome to Safaka Sushi, where all your fish-specific dreams come true.

Pawly P. Rancey: The only specific dream I have is to get an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Lemur Chef: I am sorry, our all-you-can-eat sushi buffet is for boy cats, only.

Dr. Mentory: The lemur quickly fixed her up a big beautiful flower with one tiny piece of sushi right in the middle.

Lemur Chef: Female cats get the beautiful sushi flower, instead.

Pawly P. Rancey: First off, I am a boy cat. And secondly even if I were a girl cat, I wouldn't want a little piece of sushi! I just swam halfway across the Specific Ocean!

Dr. Mentory: And so the male sushi chef lemur did the only thing he could think of. He brought out a girl cat to talk to her.

Cleocatra: Hello, I am Cleocatra.

Pawly P. Rancey: I know who you are. You're some sort of famous cat empress or somesuch, but why isn't the lemur talking to me?

Cleocatra: I'm sorry, but you are a female cat. These lemurs think that we females must watch what we eat.

Pawly P. Rancey: That's ridiculous. My name is Pawly P. Rancey.

Cleocatra: It does sort of sound like a girl's name.

Pawly P. Rancey: Pawly. P-A-W-L-Y. Paws, get it? Clearly a boy's name.

Lemur Chef: Oh, we are so sorry. It is difficult for us to tell with cats whether they are boys or girls. As soon as you change out of those pink wizard robes into a more masculine color, we will give you the all-you-can-eat buffet.

Dr. Mentory: The evil wizard's pink robes glowed bright. She was clearly getting upset.

Pawly P. Rancey: I'm not going to change me robes. Pink is a perfectly acceptable color for a girl cat or a boy cat!

Dr. Mentory: The evil lady wizard conjured a Ladies Home Journal article from June of 1918. The fancier-looking girl cat known as Cleocatra leaned over to read the library article.

Cleocatra: It says the generally accepted rule is pink for the boys and blue for the girls. The reason is that pink, being a more decided and stronger color, is more suitable for the boy while blue, which is more delicate and dainty, is prettier for the girl.

Pawly P. Rancey: Don't you see? It's just a matter of perspective whether it's a boy color or a girl color. I happen to like pink because it's bright. It makes me feel happy.

Lemur Chef: I can see that you are very upset by this, Mrs. Rancey. I can offer you two flower petal sushi specials for the price of one.

Pawly P. Rancey: Oh, what'll make this sushi chef lemur listen to me?

Dr. Mentory: The Cleocatra cat had a sly and scheming look about her.

Cleocatra: Perhaps if we were dragons it would not matter if we were girls or boys.

Pawly P. Rancey: Dragons, you say?

Dr. Mentory: The evil sorceress cat pulled out her wand and with an arcane incantation... lightning struck the island in a dozen places at once. And wherever it struck, a cat turned into a dragon.

Pawly P. Rancey: Now I'm big and you're little. Get that sushi in my belly!

Lemur Chef: Wow, I have never seen a big, beautiful pink dragon before. I will find the most beautiful flower petal to put your tiny piece of sushi upon.

Cleocatra: I am afraid we are going to have to take all of your sushi, little chef.

Dr. Mentory: Several hours of chaos ensued. Lemurs running from cat dragons. Cat dragons eating sushi and any fish with common sense swam as far from the island as possible.

Pawly P. Rancey: It's tough being a dragon. I'm so hungry. I already ate all of the sushi.

Cleocatra: Then we must fly to the mainland and take all of their food as well. And perhaps rule over them as king and queen.

Dr. Mentory: The two lady-cat dragons talked at length. It will remain one of the great mysteries of nature what they talked about because boys can't really understand girls.

Pawly P. Rancey: Of course you can understand me! You're just choosing not to.

[Record scratch.]

Dr. Mentory: Shh. I'm in the sights of the big, evil wizard dragon. She seems upset with me for some unknown reason.

Pawly P. Rancey: Unknown reason? They don't like your attitude about women one bit.

Dr. Mentory: Fortunately, the sushi chef lemurs came to my aid, slinging small stones at the dragons with large seaweed wraps.

Lemur Chef: We cannot let these dragons hurt a fellow dude. Lemurs, attack to the last man. Cheer lemurs, tell us we're doing a good job.

Cheer Lemurs: Gooooo sushi chef lemurs!

Cleocatra: [Growls]

Dr. Mentory: Cleocatra breathed a stinky, salt-water breath over all the lemurs, making their seaweed slings too soggy to use.

Cleocatra: You do not have to cheer the male lemurs. There are countless better things you can do with your time.

Cheer Lemurs: Wow, that makes a lot of sense. Yeah, let's cheer for Cleocatra! Go Cleocatra!

Cleocatra: Ugh. It's a start.

Dr. Mentory: But what the lady dragons didn't realize is that I'd called in a favor from the president of What If World. He should be space and time traveling here by Air Force When any several minutes ago.

Fred the Dog: Oh, hey Dr. Mentory. I got here as fast as I could several minutes ago. Then I chewed on a stick for a while. Then I saw all these dragons flying around, and I went, oh, that's probably why I'm here.

Dr. Mentory: Seeing the majestic Fred approach, I remembered that I wasn't supposed to get involved in the documentary at all. So I decided to hide in a bush.

Fred the Dog: Oh, hey, Dr. Mentory, where'd you go. I heard you say something about a bush and now I can't see anything except a bush. Oh well! Let me go talk to these big angry dragons. Hi, big angry dragons! Why you so angry?

Pawly P. Rancey: At first, everyone thinks I'm a girl.

Fred the Dog: But, no way. I can smell your bum from here. You're definitely boy dragon.

Pawly P. Rancey: That's what I've been trying to tell—you can smell my bum from there?

Fred the Dog: Oh, it's kind of my specialty. Well, that and eating sticks and being president. But also I think you need a bath. You've been eating too much sushi lately.

Cleocatra: Fred, that's very gross.

Fred the Dog: Oh, hi Cleocatra. I didn't realize you dragon now.

Dr. Mentory: The lemurs cautiously approached this new creature.

Lemur Chef: Are you a girl dog or a boy dog?

Fred the Dog: I don't see why that's relevant, but you can sniff my bum if you need to.

Lemur Chef: You are wearing a purple collar. Kind of a girly color.

Fred the Dog: I like purple, what's the matter with you?

Lemur Chef: Ah! But here on this island, girls do girl things and boys do boy things and these girls dragons are conquering us like boys. Which would be okay if they were boys, but they're girls.

Fred the Dog: Oh, you lemurs so backwards.

Lemur Chef: No, we don't sew at all, except for the cheer lemurs. They sew for us when they are not cheering.

Cheer Lemurs: Not anymore! I'm going to be a doctor! Actually I like sewing so I'm going to keep doing it but not because you told me to!

Fred the Dog: Oh, good for you, Cheer Lemurs!

Cleocatra: Very well. Cheer Lemurs, climb on my wings and we will conquer the world together.

Cheer Lemurs: Okay! Whatever you say! I feel like we're repeating a pattern!

Dr. Mentory: And so the three lady lemurs climbed on top of Cleocatra's wings. I wasn't scared or anything but I stayed in the bushes anyway.

Fred the Dog: Cleocatra, I'm president and I'm going to ask you nicely, please don't take over the world.

Cleocatra: Pawly Prancey, will you help me?

Pawly P. Rancey: It's not Pawly Prancey, it's Pawly P. Rancey. I'm a boy cat dragon who likes the color pink and I learned another thing today.

Dr. Mentory: And the pink lady dragon took off after Cleocatra.

Pawly P. Rancey: I think you're bad, Cleocatra.

Cleocatra: How could I possibly be a bad guy when I am a girl.

Pawly P. Rancey: I didn't say bad guy, I just said bad. You're telling those lemurs what to do and you're using the powers I gave you to get your way. Put the lemurs down.

Fred the Dog: I think things are getting a little out of paw right now.

Cleocatra: I will let them down but only long enough to take you down, too.

Dr. Mentory: Cleocatra let the three lemurs down into a nearby tree and then took off into the sky to face the evil pink cat dragon wizard lady, Pawly Prancey.

Pawly P. Rancey: It... you got so much of that wrong!

Dr. Mentory: It was an epic struggle for survival or at least it would have been if they were boy dragons rather than girl dragons.

Cheer Lemurs: You're doing a bad job! You're an unreliable narrator! We'll show you how tough girls can be!

Dr. Mentory: No, wait.

Cheer Lemurs: [Screeching]

Dr. Mentory: Please no. I'm so scared. [Hissing static]

We're back. These scratches on my face are from this new bush. It's a very scratchy bush.

Lemur Chef: No, they are from the lady lemurs. They have been chasing and scratching you for five minutes. Also us.

Dr. Mentory: That's not possible. I never get involved in a documentary.

Lemur Chef: You are talking to a sushi chef lemur right now.

Dr. Mentory: Okay, just please don't tell them where I am.

Cheer Lemurs: Where are you, Dr. Mentory? We're gonna find you! You owe us an apology!

Fred the Dog: Hey, Dr. Mentory, where'd you go? These lemurs really want to talk to you for some reason, so I'm gonna sniff around til I find you.

Dr. Mentory: I bravely stood out of the bush. [Huffing and puffing] And ran... in the... other direction. The dragon battle raged overhead.

Cheer Lemurs: Where are you going? We just want you to apologize. And admit that girls are great!



Fred the Dog: Wait a second, is that what this is all about? Hey, dragons! You two stop fighting up there. Don't make me grab you out of sky with my tongue! You'll have very slimy dragon paws if I do.

Cleocatra: That sounds disgusting.

Pawly P. Rancey: Maybe we should stop fighting a moment.

Dr. Mentory: The two dragons stopped fighting and landed by Fred the Dog.

Pawly P. Rancey: These lemurs wouldn't let me get the all-you-can-eat sushi buffet.

Cleocatra: Apparently, it's just for boys.

Fred the Dog: Lemur sushi chefs! Is that the truth?

Lemur Chef: Don't worry. We now believe that you are a boy dog so you can have as much sushi as you want.

Fred the Dog: Oh, so I'm not supposed to care just because it don't affect me personally?

Dr. Mentory: Fred the Dog was stating the obvious. In nature, creatures don't often help other creatures unless they have something to gain.

Fred the Dog: That's creatures, not people. When you got good enough brains to talk then you got good enough brain to help other people and treat them like equals.

Lemur Chef: Wow, no one has ever come to this Specific Island and given us such wisdom.

Cleocatra: And even a girl dragon can be powerful or weak. I can like bright colors or dark. I can be good or bad.

Pawly P. Rancey: Aye, that's what I'm trying to say!

Dr. Mentory: The two dragons talked for a while and I listened. Some of the boy lemurs became cheer lemurs. Some of the girl lemurs became sushi chefs, and a few of them even joined me, Dr. Mentory, to discover new uncharted parts of What If World.

Fred the Dog: And Fred ate some sushi, in case there's some stick brains in there, just in case.

Cheer Lemurs: The majestic Fred at roll after roll of sushi. You'd think a tongue that long would make him good at eating. But he made a horrible mess of everything instead.

Fred the Dog: It's a good sushi even if there not a stick in there.

Pawly P. Rancey: I suppose everyone needs to go back to normal. Let me just... oh yes, that Cleocatra dragon.

Dr. Mentory: And while Pawly P. Rancey was able to turn himself back to normal, Cleocatra flew off in her new dragon form.

Cleocatra: [Cackles]

Dr. Mentory: I'm going to need that microphone back, Cleocatra.

Cleocatra: [Cackles] Oh, yes. How do I get this off of me?

Dr. Mentory: You just... there's a...

Cleocatra: So I bite it?

Dr. Mentory: Clip on the side.

Cleocatra: I'm just going to bite it. [CRUNCH] [Static]

Dr. Mentory: End of documentary.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: All right Ayla and Kara, I hope you enjoyed your story. I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator. Craig Martinson for our theme song, my Dad, Ron, for being a dreamer and a doer. And all you kids at home for accepting people as they are, and that includes yourself.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]