Podcast: What If World

Episode: 109: What if the fur force got a plane and started having fun and crash landed in a worm hole and went to the future? (Fur Force Part 1)

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[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 going to start with a write-in question. Julia from Oakland, California wrote her question as a review, a very nice one. I won't read the whole thing, but Julia likes books, dogs, and all things fluffy. And her question is: What if phones came alive and tried to teleport all other technology to What Is World and it ripped a hole in the

space-time continuum. Plus, a talking book named Paige.

She also says, thank you, Mr. Eric, your podcast rocks with ten

exclamation points.

Thank you very much, Julia. And I like how you gave me a little creative license with the world "tried" so just because these phones try their scheme, it doesn't mean it'll work. Hmm.

Well, we have a second question from a boy named Luke. He's a patron who has written me a nice note just about every week in addition to maybe six or so questions. But this one ties in with Julia's really well. Luke is eight years old and his question is what if the Fur Force got a plane and started having fun and crash-landed in a wormhole and went to the future? Okay, so I'm not sure how they tie in yet, but I feel like they're gonna.

Robot Llama: [Singing all his lines] I can always tie them in with a song!

Mr. Eric: Hi, Robot Llama.

Robot Llama: Hello Eric.

Mr. Eric: Most folks call me Mr. Eric.

Robot Llama: Robot Llama is giving a shout out to Megan.

Mr. Eric: Yep, thank you.

Robot Llama: Nenenenennnn OH MEGAAAN.

Mr. Eric: Thank you, Robot Llama, and thank you, Megan, very much.

We also have a shout out to Blythe. She's eight years old and she likes

unicorns and her stuffy named Lola. Thank you, Blythe.

Robot Llama: Blythe and Meguuueeen! Saxophone solo! [Scats]

Mr. Eric: Thank you, Robot Llama.

And finally we have a shout out for Alec. He's five years old and already a

big fan of the show. Thank you, Alec, Blythe, and Megan.

Let's find what if phones came alive and tried to teleport all other technology to What Is World and it ripped a hole in the space-time continuum? Plus a talking book named Paige! And what if the Fur Force got a plane and started having fun and crash landed in a wormhole and

went to the future. Oy.

Robot Llama: Just let me know if you need some help telling this story today.

Mr. Eric: I don't need. I definitely don't need help. Thank you, but no. I'm gonna be

just fine.

Robot Llama: I'll stick around just in case you some help telling the-

Mr. Eric: I'm going to work on finding Robot Llama's off-switch, so you just go and

enjoy the story.

Robot Llama: Oh wowoooo storyyyy.

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Jojo Fluffy Kat and the rest of the Fur Force were bored.

JF Kitty: There's seriously no emergencies this week?

Howdy Pooch: Nope, nothing on the Emerg-o-meter.

Mr. Eric: Said Howdy Pooch, a fluffy golden retriever dressed as a cowboy.

Patty Pan: We could send the Incatible Hulk out. He always causes some kind of

disaster.

Mr. Eric: Suggested Patty Pan, unhelpfully. She was a flying green schnauzer and

she didn't like having another green member of the Fur Force, even if the

Incatible Hulk was a different shade of green.

Incatible Hulk: Cat nap.

Mr. Eric: Said the massive cat, dozing off again, on this lazy day.

Howdy Pooch: Yep. our extended cat and dog Fur Forces working together are fixing so

many problems that there's not one for us to fix today.

JF Kitty: Aw, very well. Patty Pan, you are a master of distraction? Can you find

something fun for us to do?

Patty Pan: I'm on it! Zip!

JF Kitty: You don't have to make a zipping sound, we can see you fly out.

Patty Pan: Sometimes it's fun to soundtrack myself. Zip!

JF Kitty: Let me try. Streeeeetch.... You're right, that's a lot of fun.

Patty Pan: Zip-back!

Howdy Pooch: Wow, that was quick. What do you got for us to play with?

Patty Pan: It's a special device from What Is World.

JF Kitty: What is it?

Patty Pan: They call it a smart phone.

Howdy Pooch: What's it do?

Patty Pan: Oh, it's magical, I think. When you touch it, it casts a sort of spell and

gives you a zombie look on your face.

JF Kitty: So far I'm not sold.

Howdy Pooch: Well, let me see. Ooh, it lit up when my nose touched it. I'm bored of this

thing.

Patty Pan: Huh? No, everyone loves them.

JF Kitty: It's okay, Patty Pan. I appreciate the effort.

Incatible Hulk: How did cat get phone from What Is World? That inter-dimensional

paradox.

JF Kitty: You raise a surprisingly valid point.

Incatible Hulk: Cat is astro-quantum physicist. I also rocket ship.

Patty Pan: Oh, wow! You're a rocket ship? That's amazing.

JF Kitty: Oh, I forgot. We embedded the technology to turn cats into rocket ships.

Howdy Pooch: That was back in episode 37.

JF Kitty: How dare you try to neatly organize my life into episodes.

Paige: But you are just part of the story. We all are.

Patty Pan: What was that?

Howdy Pooch: Must have been this there smart phone.

Incatible Hulk: Cat scratch.

Paige: You don't need to scratch me, I'm just a book named Paige.

Mr. Eric: The Fur Force had been lying around the rec room of their headquarters

and hadn't noticed the unopened book on the coffee table.

JF Kitty: Oh, how rude of me! I forgot to knock you off of the table.

Paige: Oh, that's okay. You really don't need to.

JF Kitty: Thwap.

Paige: Oh, I'm open now. You can read. Reading is always something fun to do.

JF Kitty: So we can either play with a smart phone, read a book, or fly around

inside an Incatible Hulk rocket ship.

Howdy Pooch: Oh, that all sounds fun to me.

Mr. Eric: But Patty Pan had already closed the book and picked up the smart

phone to toss it out the window.

Stephanie: OW!

Patty Pan: Oh, sorry, Stephanie Jobs!

Stephanie: That's okay, I'm just wandering around looking for an inspirational idea

for my next job, anyway.

Patty Pan: I can't help you there, Stephanie Jobs! Sorry for hitting you with that

smart phone, technology heretofore unknown to What If World.

Stephanie: Oh, it's okay.

Mr. Eric: And Stephanie Jobs, rubbing at her head, bent over to pick up the smart

phone.

JF Kitty: Mr. Eric, why are you narrating about this random character? We want to

fly around in a space ship.

Incatible Hulk: Cat rocket ship.

Howdy Pooch: Could you transform already?

Paige: Would you mind bringing me along? I've never seen outer space.

JF Kitty: All right. Patty Pan, grab the boring book.

Paige: My name is Paige.

JF Kitty: We've got no time to remind people of names of new characters like

Paige and Stephanie Jobs.

Incatible Hulk: Cat ships!

Patty Pan: Ooh, did you say cat chips? Wait, no. I'm not supposed to bite cats

anymore. I'm a good dog.

Mr. Eric: And the Incatible Hulk turned into a giant green rocket ship. Patty Pan,

JF Kat, and Howdy Pooch climbed inside.

Incatible Hulk: Meownt down. Treat, toucan, one, direct reflection in mirror. Blast-on!

Howdy Pooch: Don't you mean blast-off?

Incatible Hulk: No, if I turn off, we no go to space.

Mr. Eric: The rocket ship cat flew all around space, zipping past stars and around

comets, passing over planets and surfing along solar waves.

JF Kitty: Guhhh, I don't have a single hairball left in me.

Patty Pan: I forgot you're not all used to flying.

Paige: If you read a book about flying, you can experience all the wonder

without the airsickness.

Howdy Pooch: Or, spacesickness, ugh.

Incatible Hulk: At least you no have to endure cold vacuum of space.

Mr. Eric: Echoed the Incatible Hulk from all around them.

Patty Pan: Oh, guit your bellyaching. I already endured flying into a wormhole twice

today.

Incatible Hulk: Oh yeah?

Patty Pan: Yeah!

Incatible Hulk: I can fly wormhole, too.

Patty Pan: I'd like to see you try.

Howdy Pooch: Oh, I'd just like to see us go home.

JF Kitty: And meow.

Patty Pan: Oh, but wormholes are so much fun. It's like being on a roller coaster

moving in every direction at once faster than the speed of light.

JF Kitty: Somemeow that doesn't sound very fun.

Incatible Hulk: Sorry, Jojo. Can't let dog show me up.

Mr. Eric: And the Incatible Hulk veered toward a nearby wormhole.

Howdy Pooch: Is that how you got to What Is World earlier?

Patty Pan: Yeah, well, it wasn't the same wormhole. This could send us to a different

dimension, or the past, or the future, or smoosh us into a singularity!

[Record scratch.]

JF Kitty: Meow shouldn't we talk thi—

Mr. Eric: They passed through the wormhole and in the blink of an eye, or maybe

the span of an eternity they were back hovering over What If World. Only

now, there were hundreds of satellites orbiting the planet, too.

Incatible Hulk: Ooh, cat nap.

Mr. Eric: And the Incatible Hulk, weary from traveling through this wormhole,

started crashing toward the surface of the planet.

Paige: If you were just reading a book right now, you wouldn't be in mortal

danger.

JF Kitty: I will bookmark that advice for later.

Patty Pan: Oh, I can fly us all out, but Incatible Hulk would still crash.

Mr. Eric: The engines had failed and they were spinning out of control.

Howdy Pooch: Oooh wooowooowoo...

JF Kitty: Ow wowowow...

Paige: Books don't experience vertigo.

JF Kitty: We've just got to wake him up somehow!

Howdy Pooch: Oh, I know. Blast on!

Incatible Hulk: Blast on? Oh whoa whoa!

Mr. Eric: The cat rocket ship woke up with a start, its engines sputtering on and...

[crashing noises] it leveled them out just enough so they only crashed a

little.

JF Kitty: He said just... a little... [Crashing noises continue]

Patty Pan: Okay, I think we're done cra–[more crashing noises].

Incatible Hulk: Oh, good thing safety features standard, ooh.

Mr. Eric: They were teetering on the edge of a cliff. Paige the book had slid off the

coffee table and was resting in the corner of the ship.

Paige: I'm just going to open in my cover in the other direction.

Mr. Eric: And as her cover cracked open, the ship started righting itself like a

seesaw!

JF Kitty: Whoever said books were useless.

Paige: Well, no one said it but you have implied it.

Howdy Pooch: Hey, look! There are people outside. Hey people, come on, give us a

hand!

Mr. Eric: But all these people were just standing around the crashed ship, holding

up what appeared to be smart phones [shutter clicks]. And were they?

Oh no.

Incatible Hulk: They take picture instead of help.

Patty Pan: Oh, those ones who are turned around, they're taking selfies with our

crashed ship in the background.

JF Kitty: Is that what those smart phones are for?

Mr. Eric: JF Kat slowly crept to the other side of the ship to keep it from teetering

off the edge.

Howdy Pooch: Hey, can't you just turn back into a normal cat?

Incatible Hulk: If you all want get smoosh in me.

JF Kitty: I don't want to get smoosh in him!

Paige: I'd just as soon avoid it, too, if you don't mind.

Mr. Eric: And carefully they all crept out of the rocket ship cat. All the other

humans had wandered back down the hill, but one man and one woman

remained.

Incatible Hulk: Okay, now when last of you jump out, I have to immediately change back

to-

JF Kitty: Meow, what were you saying? The last one to leap out of the rocket ship.

Incatible Hulk: Uh-oh.

Mr. Eric: [Crashing noises] When the rocketship cat teetered back off the cliff.

Incatible Hulk: I all right, ugh.

Mr. Eric: The man and the woman pulled out their phones again and followed.

Howdy Pooch: Oh, hang on! You're about to walk off the cliff.

Man: Huh?

Woman: What?

Both: Whoa!

Mr. Eric: Howdy Pooch grabbed one of them and JF Kat and Patty Pan teamed up

to save the other.

JF Kitty: What's going on here? First you don't help a person in need, then you

nearly walk off a cliff!

Man: Uhm mum... selfie... mum.

Woman: Sweet smash [mumbles].

Patty Pan: Well, she's playing a thing called sweet smash, and he's looking up

directions telling him how to walk... oh gosh, they're telling him to go

over the edge again.

Man: Take a right at the edge of the cliff, okay... whoaaaa!

JF Kitty: My goodness, these smart phones seem to have made everyone... I don't

want to say it because it's rude.

Howdy Pooch: About as smart as a sack of potatoes?

Woman: Oh that reminds me, I gotta order sack of potatoes...

Mr. Eric: The end?

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: All right Julia and Luke, I hope you enjoyed the first half of your story.

Sounds like we'll find out a little more next week.

I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, the reason this show exists, Craig Martinson for our theme song, my nephew Teddy and my cousin Adella

for being What If World's two very first fans.

And all you kids and grown ups at home who put down your smart phones every now and then and turn off your TVs and enjoy the world

around you.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]