

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 123: What if eagles wear glasses and eaten too much meat?](#)

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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—

Fred the Dog: And today I got a big shout out for a girl named Echo.

Mr. Eric: Okay, Fred. Let's get the shout outs right at the top. Thank you, Echo.

Fred the Dog: Oh, and also, for brothers Cooper and Tristan, and their cats Midnight and Alex.

Mr. Eric: Oh, thank you Cooper, Tristan and your kitty cats.

JF Kitty: And finally, I've got a shout out to give to Evelyn.

Mr. Eric: Oh, hi, JF Kat.

JF Kitty: She likes how I tried to help the world and that I'm different from the other characters.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that's a very sweet thing to say.

Mr. Eric: I agree, Fred. Evelyn, Tristan, Cooper, and Echo, thanks for listening, and now it's time for us to meet our guest and his name is...

Mick Sullivan: Mick Sullivan.

Mr. Eric: I love making people introduce themselves, they always—

Mick Sullivan: Hello. I'm Mick Sullivan.

Mr. Eric: Mick Sullivan is the host of *The Past and the Curious*. I really love his show. He's gonna talk about his show later and also a book?

Mick Sullivan: A book. A book.m

Mr. Eric: Oh man, I'm very excited. I'm very excited to hear about the book. And we actually, I think we should get right into the questions first, though.

Mick Sullivan: Okay, let's do it.

Mr. Eric: All right, our first question today is from a young lady named Ayla.

Ayla: My name is Ayla and I'm seven years old and I like animals. And my what if question is what if trains were made out of ice cream in the summer.

Mr. Eric: All right, thank you, Ayla. And also thank you to your sibling Dane who has submitted many great questions as well. So that was, what if trains were made out of ice cream in the summer?

Mick Sullivan: Ice cream trains! Yes.

Mr. Eric: Yes. Yes indeed, that sounds delicious.

Mick Sullivan: Sign me up.

Mr. Eric: And now, Mick's book is called, *The Meat Shower* and so I really wanted to try and find a question that incorporated meat. So let's hear from William.

William: Well, my name is William and my favorite things are trains and my what if question is what if eagles wear glasses and eagles eated too much meat and soon they eated too much meat and soon there was not enough meat where they could eat?

Mr. Eric: Oh, William, that was a really cool question.

Mick Sullivan: I've often wondered that, myself, Mr. Eric.

Mick Sullivan: What if eagles ate all the meat?

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, and then there was not enough for them to eat. I can't wait to get to the bottom of this.

Mr. Eric: I know and all sorts of other animals need meat, too. All the carnivores. So we're gonna find out what if eagles wear glasses and eat too much meat and soon there was not enough meat they could eat? And what if trains were made out of ice cream in the summer?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: All aboard the ice cream train! Yes, indeed! What If World's first incredible transpolar train is set to leave the station. But not without its conductor, a man by the name of Weagle. And of course that's short for... what?

Weagle: William Eagle.

Mr. Eric: Oh, William Eagle.

Weagle: You see, I like to take words and put them together. It's called a portmanteau, but if I was going to make it out of my name it would be a portmanteagle, okay.

Mr. Eric: Well, Weagle, the portmanteagle, is a rare bespectacled eagle.

Weagle: Uh, bespecteagle, please.

Mr. Eric: Oh, excuse me. Weagle the Bespecteagle—

Weagle: Thank you.

Mr. Eric: Was telling his friend, Allama O'News a little bit about his ice cream train.

Weagle: Now, you see, this train is made entirely out of ice cream.

Allama O'News: Ah.

Weagle: Stem to stern, top to bottom, and all of my engineers, those are, I guess you'd call them engineers, but they're my engineers.

Allama O'News: Hmm.

Weagle: We have made this train to take cold meat to all of the starving carnivores across What If World.

Allama O'News: Wow.

Weagle: Polar bears to the south, polar penguins, all of them will have delicious meat delivered right to their doorsteps, even in the hot summer months.

Allama O'News: Really, I'm very excited to be joining you on the maiden voyage of the ice cream train.

Weagle: I'm glad you're here.

Allama O'News: Although, is it called ice cream train or is it–

Weagle: Ice Creagle Treagle.

Allama O'News: I've just got a few questions for the the What If Weport. Yes, that it is Weport with a W, Fred the Dog came up with the name.

Weagle: That's like a portmanteagle.

Allama O'News: A little, sure. First and foremost, I think the most important question on everyone's mind: can we lick your train?

Weagle: I know it's tempting. I know it's ice cream. It's ice cream!

Allama O'News: And I'm a llama.

Weagle: Oh yeah, you guys, you just lick all the time, don't you.

Allama O'News: That's what I do, yes.

Weagle: A whole flock of ll–ooh. I'm glad there's just one of you. Besides if you were an eagle like me, you would think that ice cream was disgusting to eat. But, here's the thing, it's that ice creamy goodness that makes the train glide on the track. It's friction-free ice cream and I can't have you licking it. We won't get the meat where it needs to go.

Allama O'News: I fully understand and I will do my very best to not lick this absolutely delicious looking train. Um, okay–

Weagle: Did you notice that the front is chocolate and then the middle car is–

Allama O'News: Strawberry–

Weagle: Strawberry. What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Allama O'News: Well, I kind of... I know it's boring, but I kind of like the vanilla at the end.

Weagle: That's the caboose, yeah. That's the caboose.

Allama O'News: The vanilla caboose–

Weagle: It's vanilla.

Allama O'News: Is really tempting, I must say. Oh boy. Um. Okay, we can't lick the train. But let's just find out: why the summer time? You know, it seems like a weird time for the maiden voyage of an ice cream train.

Weagle: Hunger does not go on vacation.

Allama O'News: Oh. I see.

Weagle: Also, we've been running behind schedule, we're actually a few months behind so we just, we don't have any choice, really. We have animals to feed.

Allama O'News: Then I suppose there's really only one more question, um.

Weagle: No. No, listen, we are running late. Maybe we can talk about it while we're moving, but we have to get going.

Allama O'News: Okay, okay, let's go.

Mr. Eric: And... [train noises] the ice cream train or Ice Creagle Treagle—

ICT: ICE CREEAAAM!

Mr. Eric: Took off down the tracks, and yes, indeed, just as Weagle had said, those ice cream wheels had it gliding gently and quickly all the way down toward the extra cold south pole to feed the south pole penguins!

Weagle: Haha, you see? Smooth as silk, what a ride? What a ride, huh? What do you think about that?

Allama O'News: Wow, I am very impressed. I did not think that your engineers? Engineers?

Weagle: Engineers.

Allama O'News: Could possibly make a train this fast. We're already in the south pole.

Weagle: I have hired the greatest engineers in all of the land. And yes, you're right, over there. There's a whole flock of penguins.

Penguins: Wan wah wah [disgruntled and hungry penguin noises]

Weagle: They do look hungry, don't they?

Allama O'News: Oh, they look very hungry, let's get them some frozen meat.

Mr. Eric: And so the engineers, Weagle, and even Allama O'News helped unload lots of frozen fish for all the penguins to eat.

Penguins: [Penguin noises.]

Weagle: Fish for you, and fish for you... this one might taste like strawberry ice cream, I don't know. Ooh, who wants chocolate fish?

Mr. Eric: And just as all the penguins were finished stuffing themselves entirely full of fish right up to the craw, a crack sounded over the radio.

Weagle: It's the raideagle.

Mr. Eric: A crack sounded over the raideagle.

Engineer: Hello, conductor? Where's the conductor?

Weagle: Here I am. Here I am. Just feeding penguins fish.

Engineer: We've got terrible news. The polar bears in the north pole are extremely hungry and you're several months behind schedule.

Weagle: Crikey! I guess we need to get going! Pack up the train!

Mr. Eric: And all the engineers packed it up as fast as they could, and [train noises].

ICT: ICE CREA AAAAM!

Mr. Eric: The ice cream train shot up north as fast as it could possibly move, but... it wasn't moving fast enough.

Weagle: Uh, this is very peculiar. My creagle wheagles, the creamy wheels that are friction-free—

Allama O'News: Yes, creagle wheagles, yes, understood.

Weagle: Yes, creagle wheagles, patent pending, they are not doing their job. What... I don't know. We better get out and take a closer look.

Allama O'News: Okay.

Weagle: I know you're a reporter, but we're stuck down here in the south pole. It's all hands on deck.

Allama O'News: I've got a very long neck. I think I can crane over and maybe get a good—oh no! It's too cold in the south pole! I guess the south pole must be colder than the north pole, so the ice cream wheels have locked up.

Weagle: They've frozen?

Allama O'News: They've frozen solid.

Weagle: Oh no. Oh, hey. You. You're a llama.

Allama O'News: Yes.

Weagle: You have a pretty amazing tongue, don't you.

Allama O'News: I do, I do, but I can't lick this train. It's too important.

Weagle: Look. We've given away some of the meat, right?

Allama O'News: Yes.

Weagle: The penguins have eaten some of the fish.

Allama O'News: Yes.

Weagle: Let's take the rest, pile it into one car, so we'll leave the vanilla car here.

Allama O'News: Okay.

Weagle: But you've got to get it undone. You've got to uncouple the vanilla car. Can you get that out?

Allama O'News: Oooh, with pleasure. I mean, yes. Yes. I will solemnly do my [excited ice cream licking] Ooh ho ho. My duty!

Weagle: Don't give yourself a stomach ache.

Allama O'News: All right, all right, I'll just eat the rail coupling. That should be enough so that I don't get a tummy ache.

Weagle: Hopefully that will be enough.

Mr. Eric: And as soon as she'd eaten that railway coupling off and the vanilla train had separated from the pack—

Weagle: I'll miss you, vanilla train caaaaar!

Caboose: See ya, Weagle! We like it in the south pole anyway. We like it down here.

Weagle: Maybe the penguins will eat you!

Mr. Eric: And the Ice Creagle Weagle shot off, finally starting to move.

Allama O'News: I don't know, it feels like we're still not going very fast, Weagle?

Weagle: We have a long way to go. The south pole and the north pole are really far apart.

Allama O'News: Yeah, they're like, as far apart as possible.

Weagle: Uh, yeah, and we can't go through the earth, this is not a submarine, this is a train. So I guess we have to shed more weight. We can't stoke the fires because, you know, ice cream train.

Allama O'News: Well, can your engineers, can they help?

Engineers: Make the train lighter? Yeah! Yeah, we can! Yeah, of course!

Weagle: Engineers, it is now your duty. We have polar bears to feed!

Mr. Eric: And a convocation of eagles flew off of the front train and went to work. But Weagle and Allama weren't watching too closely, they were just focused on getting the train moving as fast as they could forward. They weren't looking backward to where those busy eagles were making the train lighter by...

Engineers: [Eating noises] Ooh yeah.

Weagle: Eagles! You're not supposed to eat the food! That's for the polar bears!

[Record scratch.]

Engineers: But we're making it lighter, that's what you said. Lighter train. It's so much lighter now.

Mr. Eric: And indeed, the train was picking up faster and faster and faster and the back train was completely empty of meat now.

Allama O'News: I might as well just go ahead and lick off this railroad coupling, don't you think, Weagle?

Weagle: I don't see what harm it could do at this point, but... goodbye strawberry train. I'll miss you.

Strawberry Train: It's so sunny in this field! Ah.

Weagle: All of my meat for the polar bears! What will I do?

Mr. Eric: And so they pulled into the north pole right on schedule. Well, a few months behind.

Weagle: Well, looks like we've made it, but I don't know what to do about the food. These polar bears are going to be disappointed.



Allama O'News: I also notice that it's kind of a bunch of ice floes out here. Even if we had meat, there's no way a train could swim, right? Look at those polar bears, they're so far away on cracked up ice.

Weagle: I see what you mean. The train tracks don't go there. Well, they see us. Can't turn around now. Hi, polar bears. Quick, we better think of something very fast.

Polar Bear: Hey!

Weagle: Oh.

Polar Bear: Hey, I thought you was bringing the meat, what gives!

Weagle: Oh, hey! Hey polar bear. We'll be with you in a moment. Just, uh, hold...

Polar Bear: It doesn't look like you got a single scrap of meat over there.

Weagle: What are we gonna do? What are we gonna do?

Polar Bear: What, do you got a brain the size of an eagle's? Hoooo!

Weagle: I have this chocolate train car and I have a... oh boy. Don't worry, Allama, I'm not going to feed you to the polar bears...

Allama O'News: What? What? What? What? Was that even on the table? Hang on! I know I'm meat, but...

Weagle: Everything's an option right now. Um. All right, I got it. I got it. Go with me on this.

Allama O'News: I'm all ears. Well, I'm mostly neck. But there's.

Weagle: Mostly neck. And some tongue. Some tongue, too. Uh, how many eagles do we have here? Let's count them. One, two, three, four, five, six... roughly a dozen eagles, right?

Engineer: Yeah, yeah.

Weagle: Yeah, okay. You guys still have full bellies of all that... that meat?

Engineer: Oh, it's so full. These bellies are really full of meat. Oh, too much.

Weagle: I'm glad you enjoyed that, but it was not yours to eat. So here's what we're gonna do. You ever see a baby eagle get fed? Surely when your mom, think back, when your mom fed you as a baby?

Engineer: Uh...

Weagle: What did she do?

Engineer: Oh, yeah, yeah. Oh, wait a second, you mean how she would chew up the meat and then, ooh.

Weagle: Yeah, she spit it out, right?

Allama O'News: Oh, I don't think I can listen to the rest of this conversation.

Engineer: But if we get near those polar bears, aren't they going to eat us engineers?

Weagle: You seem to forget that you have the gift of flight. So here's what we're gonna do. Okay? This is gross.

Mr. Eric: And as Weagle explained his plan, Allama O'News's face got greener and greener.

Allama O'News: Oh, oh!

Weagle: I know it's gross, but it's the only way. Look, we're feeding the polar bears! It's just what they wanted.

Mr. Eric: And the eagles flew up into the clouds, high above where any polar bear could reach and started [hork].

Engineers: [Vomiting noises.]

Mr. Eric: Coughing up their breakfast, lunch, and dinner! Meat was showering over all of the polar bears in the entire north pole.

Weagle: If it makes you guys feel any better we still have this chocolate train you can eat when you're done.

Polar Bear: Yeah, yeah, we might need that for desert.

Polar Bear: Oh, there's so much meat falling from the sky! It's a meatricle!

Weagle: I think you mean a mireagle.

Mr. Eric: The end.

Mick Sullivan: All right.

Mr. Eric: Oh, man. We did it. We did it.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: And Mick, thank you. It's always so fast and easy to tell a story with a friend and we get so many laughs.

Mick Sullivan: It's a blast. I love it. Thank you for having me back. Thank you all for listening, hope you didn't get grossed out.

Mr. Eric: [Laughs]

Mick Sullivan: My book does have a two page spread of a whole bunch of birds barfing, okay. So you're gonna see that. It's a cartoon drawing.

Mr. Eric: That's one of the theories, so that's why we used it for our What If story.

Mick Sullivan: Exactly.

Mr. Eric: Mick, I'll let you get back to your new baby and your boy.

Mick Sullivan: Thank you.

Mr. Eric: I hope you have a great day and thanks for coming on my show.

Mick Sullivan: Thanks, Eric! You, too!

Mr. Eric: All right, bye.

Mick Sullivan: Bye bye!

Mr. Eric: All right Ayla and William, I hope you enjoyed your story. I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, Don Diego and Emily Burl, the kind of friends that become family, and all you kids at home who know that a healthy habit requires moderation. Meaning... please don't eat the whole ice cream train.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]