

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 134: What if Fred got a disease that made anyone he touched travel back in time?](#)

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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 I am very, very happy to be joined by a special guest from a podcast called *Timestorm* and her name is Leilany Figueroa.

Leilany: Hello! Hi!

Mr. Eric: Hey, I'm so happy to have you here.

Leilany: I'm so happy to be here.

Mr. Eric: Leilany, we're gonna ask you lots of questions about *Timestorm* after the show but can you at least tell me what you do on the show, what your job is?

Leilany: Sure! So I play Alexo, one of two twins, and Alexo's a very logical girl. She likes reason, she likes reality. She doesn't like being part of a fantasy world or believing in other things so it's really cool playing her as she encounters so many different things that challenge her beliefs, it's really cool.

Mr. Eric: Oh, that's awesome, and I think having that logic against all of our really, sometimes illogical *What If World* characters is gonna be really lovely today.

Leilany: It's going to be great.

Mr. Eric: We're gonna start off with our first question from a boy named Alpie, and he's all the way from Galway, Ireland. And Alpie asks, what if Fred

the zombie dog got a disease that made anybody he touched travel back in time.

Oh man! I love that question! And we're gonna add on a question from a patron named Dane.

Dane: Hi, I'm Dane and I'm nine years old and I like magic and what if Fred the dog was missing and Alabaster Zero had to find him. Bye! Thank you!

Mr. Eric: Oh, cool! I'm glad we'll have Fred and Alabaster in this story. Leilany, are you ready to go? You think we've got this down?

Leilany: I'm so ready to go. I think this is gonna be so much fun.

Mr. Eric: All right! So let's find out what if Fred the Dog went missing and Alabaster Zero had to find him, and what if Fred the Zombie Dog got a disease that made anybody he touched travel back in time?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: It was a warm, bright, exciting kind of day because Leilany Figueroa was going to learn about being a detective. Or at least, she would whenever Alabaster Zero showed up.

Alabaster Zero: Sorry! Sorry, I'm late FaireElise. Wow! Fair Elise, you got really tall today.

Leilany: Oh, no no no. I'm Leilany. I'm your new gumshoe!

Alabaster Zero: My new gumshoe?

Leilany: Yes!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, man, that's great because my old shoe was so covered in gum I just had to throw it away.

Oh, no! You mean you're here to train to be a detective.

Leilany: Exactly!

Alabaster Zero: Oh! You know, in What If World, we only have like two detectives and then we've got a couple of dogs and a cat who sleeps 19 hours a day and they're responsible for all of the law enforcement, so I'm really, really happy we have you.

Leilany: Awesome! I'm happy, too!

[Phone rings]

Alabaster Zero: Oh, wow! Leilany, we've got our first mystery.

Leilany: No way!

Hello?

Fred the Dog: Hello, is this Fair Elise?

Leilany: Uh, no, this is Leilany, but I'm happy to help, too.

Fred the Dog: Well, it's Fred the President. I'm a zombie dog. I don't know if you know me. I talk like this because my tongue's too long for my mouth, and uh...

Leilany: Oh, I definitely know you.

Fred the Dog: Well, I'm sorry to call. I know that you detectives have lots of detecting to do, but I'm not feeling so good today.

Leilany: Oh, no! Okay, um. Alabaster, looks like we have to go help Fred.

Alabaster Zero: [Gasps] Oh my goodness, we've got a president to save. Hang on!

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster Zero ran out the door.

Leilany: Whoa.

Mr. Eric: He pulled up in a big clunker of an ambulance.

Alabaster Zero: Leilany! Jump in the Alabambulance! We've got a president to safe.

Leilany: Coming!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, by the way, do you know zombie dog CPR by any chance?

Leilany: Well, um... not really, but I think I could learn.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, good good good, because I'm a grown up and I really don't feel like learning anything, so.... here's this big huge zombie dog manual.

Leilany: Whoa. Um, hoo.

Alabaster Zero: So you can just study that while I figure out how to drive this Alabambulance.

Leilany: Okay.

Alabaster Zero: I took too much time naming it.

Mr. Eric: And slowly, sputteringly, they drove to the What House.

[Time skip noise.]

Alabaster Zero: Leilany, we're finally here and it's been a couple of hours because I'm really bad at driving so I need you to rush in right away while I try to park this thing.

Leilany: Got it, Alabaster!

Mr. Eric: And she rushed into the mud-brick What House to see Fred the Zombie Dog or maybe-zombie dog, we're not really sure whether he's a zombie or not these days, but for today, he's a zombie dog. And he seemed to be feeling really ill.

Fred the Dog: Oh, no, oh, my tummy. [Chewing]

Leilany: Oh, Fred! Oh!

Fred the Dog: Yeah?

Leilany: Fred, um, what is that?

Fred the Dog: This? Oh, this is nothing.

Mr. Eric: And Fred tried to hide something that he seemed to be chewing on.

Leilany: Huh. Let me see that.

Fred the Dog: No! Don't worry! It's just a... oh, oh...

Leilany: Fred, what is it?

Fred the Dog: If you must know, it's a stick. But it's not just any stick, it used to be Air Force When, but then I imagined it into a stick and then I dropped in the trash can. In the bathroom.

Leilany: Oh my goodness, Fred—

Fred the Dog: In a gas station.

Leilany: Ooh, boy.

Fred the Dog: At the bottom of a slimy lake. I sorry.

Leilany: Oh, my goodness. Fred!

Fred the Dog: Oh, well, you probably don't want to touch it. Maybe you put some gloves on or something.

Leilany: All right, here we go. Okay. From page seven of the zombie dog manual, you just have to grab it on the edge.

Fred the Dog: That's how you get a stick away from a zombie dog. Very clever, Leilany. You're a good detective, I just know it.

Leilany: Thank you.

Fred the Dog: I'm starting to feel a little bit better already.

Leilany: Oh, that's great!

Mr. Eric: Just then, Alabaster Zero rushed in.

Alabaster Zero: Leilany, I totally gave up on parking the Alabambulance, I abandoned it in a ditch. But don't worry, I'm here now, to save the day.

Leilany: Oh, that's great! Look at this! I was able to pry the stick away from Fred.

Alabaster Zero: [Gasp] That stick! That's Air Force When!

Leilany: Oh, whoops!

Alabaster Zero: And there seems to be a crack in the hull! Or the stick, that is.

Leilany: Okay, okay. I'll put it down. I'll put it down.

Mr. Eric: But as Leilany went to drop the stuck, Fred the Dog, who was feeling so much better suddenly wrapped up she and Alabaster in a great big tongue hug.

Fred the Dog: Oh, thank you guys! I'm feeling so much better.

Mr. Eric: And as soon as his slimy tongue touched Alabaster and Leilany.

Alabaster Zero: Oh oh, please, no, Fred, I don't--

Leilany: Ew, ew.

Mr. Eric: Suddenly, they weren't in the What House anymore. They weren't anywhere they recognized anymore.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, no. Leilany! Fred the Dog went missing.

Leilany: Whoa, this place is so cool... but Alabaster, it's okay. I think it's us that have gone missing.

Alabaster Zero: What? Who's the detective here, and who's the gumshoe-in-training? I'm pretty sure I know a missing President when I don't see one.

Leilany: All right.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, I know! Give me that stick. I'll try to find Fred using the stick because he loves slimy sticks. Okay. Oh, guh, it's so gross.

Leilany: Ew.

Alabaster Zero: Here, Freddy Freddy. Here, Freddy... Freddy? I can't find him!

[Thudding noises.]

Mr. Eric: Stomping off in the distance was a giant T-Rex!

Alabaster Zero: Leilany, it's a T-Rex!

Leilany: Holy—!

Alabaster Zero: That must be Q-Rex! Because I don't really know any other T-Rexes.

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster Zero went over to talk to the strange dinosaur.

Alabaster Zero: Hey, Q-Rex, where's Fred the Dog.

T-Rex: I don't know you. I'm not Q-Rex.

Alabaster Zero: I know, Q-Rex. We haven't had many stories together, but why not just be friends?

T-Rex: I'm not Q-Rex! [CHOMP!]

Alabaster Zero: [Echoing from inside the T-Rex] Leilany, I'm beginning to suspect that this isn't Q-Rex.

Leilany: Oh, boy. Okay, hold on, Alabaster.

Mr. Eric: And grabbing his ankles... Leilany managed to pull Alabaster out of the T-Rex's mouth.

Leilany: Listen, we've got to figure out where we are and how to get back.

Alabaster Zero: You're right. But, Leilany, I'm having to learn all kinds of new things, today.

Leilany: Wait, Alabaster. I think we're back in time.

Alabaster Zero: [Gasps]

Leilany: I mean, there's a dinosaur in front of us.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, yeah. And that would explain why there's so many more trees.

Leilany: Yeah, probably.

Alabaster Zero: Well, if you're the expert in time travel, then you've got to figure this out by yourself. I'm just gonna go take a rest over here.

[Record scratch.]

Leilany: Oh, boy.

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster went over to rest by a giant plant. A giant, colorful plant, which seemed to have a mouth.

Plant: Well, hello there!

Alabaster Zero: Whoa! You're a talking venus fly trap!

Plant: Well, sure I am! Did you expect anything else?

Alabaster Zero: Oh, hi, talking prehistoric venus fly trap. My name's Alabaster Zero. I was wondering, have you seen a dog that may or may not be a zombie?

Plant: I may have.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, good thing.

Plant: But if I recall, he might have climbed into my mouth for safety. Maybe you should check.

Alabaster Zero: You are such a savior, thank you so much. I'll climb right in there. Just open wide, please.

Plant: Sure thing!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, wow, you have really big teeth. I'm glad that he's in here safely away from these super-sharp teeth. Oh, wow, it's really dark in here.

Hey, Leilany? Leilany? I think I'm being eaten again.

Leilany: Alabaster, no! All right, how do I pry this open. Hey, Venus Fly Trap?

Plant: Yes.

Leilany: If you let Alabaster go, I can shower you in compliments.

Plant: Oh, well, it's been a while since I've had a shower of compliments. All right. Alabaster, get out my mouth!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, thank you so much. You're so wonderful, and your teeth are so sharp, and you're such a big, beautiful plant.

Leilany: And you have the most beautiful accent and the tallest plant in the jungle, you're just amazing.

Alabaster Zero: And your slime is very acidic and really good at burning my leather jacket.

Leilany: Yeah, what he said.

Mr. Eric: And Alabaster and Leilany quickly moved away from the venus fly trap.

Alabaster Zero: That didn't work, but, oh, you know what I just realized? The stick! The Air Force When, it's a time machine, so if we just... oh no, where is it?

Leilany: Oh, no!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, I put it right in my belt. Oh, one of those two creatures must have eaten it.

Leilany: Oh, boy.

Alabaster Zero: Would you rather get it out of the T-Rex's mouth or the venus fly trap's mouth? Because I kinda liked the venus fly trap. She's kinda nice.

Leilany: I kinda like the venus fly trap, too. She's cool.

Alabaster Zero: Okay, well, I call dibs on the venus fly trap. I'm gonna go ask her about the stick.

Leilany: Okay!

Alabaster Zero: Good luck with that massive apex predator, okay?

Leilany: Um, all right.

Mr. Eric: So Leilany went back to find the giant T-Rex who was busy scratching its back against a tree.

T-Rex: [Contented dino noises.]

Leilany: Excuse me, Mr. T-Rex, sir?

T-Rex: What is it?

Leilany: Well, my friend, Alabaster, might have lost a-a magical stick. But before you freak out, we need it.

T-Rex: That kind of falls into the finders-keepers rules of dinosaurs. I found it, I ate it, I keep it.

Leilany: No, no. This is important, listen. We were gonna save our friend because he was chewing on that stick and it happens to be a time machine, and we need it to get back to our current time.

T-Rex: Hmm... well, maybe.

Mr. Eric: And T-Rex took its little T-Rex arm and reached up towards its big T-Rex mouth, and started using that stick as a toothpick.

T-Rex: Then again, maybe not. Heh heh heh heh. I think I'm gonna hold onto this stick, it's a really great toothpick.

Leilany: I mean, you could... but a really sick dog was chewing on it when we found it, and you know...

T-Rex: Oh...

Leilany: It might not be the cleanest thing.

Mr. Eric: And the T-Rex took out the stick and noticed the slime and the dirt and the unspeakable grossness and...

T-Rex: BLECH.

Mr. Eric: The T-Rex yacked up the stick as well as half his lunch!

T-Rex: Take it, take it! Oh, I wish you'd told me sooner.

Leilany: Thank you!

Mr. Eric: And with her gloves still on, Leilany picked up the stick.

Leilany: Oof.

Mr. Eric: Meanwhile, Alabaster Zero wasn't having much better luck.

Alabaster Zero: Leilany. Leilany! I've been eaten again.

Leilany: Alabaster! Third time's the charm, I guess.

Mr. Eric: And lickety-split, she pulled Alabaster out of that venus fly trap's mouth.

Alabaster Zero: Leilany! You've got the stick back!

Leilany: I did! It was a little bit of a journey but I made sure to get it back.

Alabaster Zero: Oh wow. Okay, so now I just have to imagine that it's something that I can drive back to the present.

Oh, not the Alabambulance again! Leilany, you don't happen to know how to drive, do you?

Leilany: Actually... I do!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, perfect! Okay! Hop in the driver's seat, I'll study the zombie dog manual for a change and we'll just trade jobs.

Leilany: That's perfect!

Mr. Eric: And they hopped in that big alabambulance time machine. Leilany worked a few levers, pressed a few knobs, turned a few wheels...

Alabaster Zero: This alabambulance is more confusing than a normal car, it's not just me, right?

Leilany: Yeah, no, it is. Just slightly, just a little.

Mr. Eric: And... they were back at the What House.

Fred the Dog: Oh my goodness, you two are back! Oh, it's too bad I'm still feeling so sick... [gnawing]

Leilany: Fred...? What are you hiding?

Fred the Dog: Oh, nothing.

Alabaster Zero: Fred, come on.

Fred the Dog: I don't know what it is, it's just... it's like this fossil suddenly appeared in the middle of the What House when you two traveled back in time. It's not my fault that it's delicious.

Mr. Eric: And upon taking a closer look at the pile of fossilized something, Leilany realized...

Leilany: It's the T-Rex yack! EW!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, Fred, what is wrong with you?

Fred the Dog: There's nothing that any self-respecting zombie dog wouldn't enjoy.

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Leilany, we did it!

Leilany: We did it!

Mr. Eric: And we only had one puking animal in the story. I think that's probably a better ratio than normal for *What If World*.

Leilany: I think so, I think that's ten times better.

Mr. Eric: Leilany, thank you so much. You've already told us a lot about your character, now is there anyone there today who might be able to tell us a little bit more about *Timestorm* the show?

Leilany: Yes, of course. I can introduce to you the series creator and she can give you a couple of ideas and what the show's all about.

Mr. Eric: Oh! Thank you so much. And Leilany, you honestly make a great detective. Much better than Alabaster Zero.

Leilany: Thank you, thank you, I try.

Mr. Eric: Ladies and gentlemen, kids and people of all kinds, I'd like to introduce the creator of *Timestorm*, Dania Ramos.

Dania: Hello Eric, how are you?

Mr. Eric: I'm great, it's great to have you here. Leilany did such an awesome job.

Dania: So much fun.

Mr. Eric: Folks at home want to learn about what this young woman acts on, the story that she helps tell.

Dania: Yes, so *Timestorm* is a science fiction series, it's an audio drama, and it is for ages 8-12 years old and it is about the Ventura twins. They are from Newark, New Jersey, and they travel back in time to preserve Puerto Rico's lost history and Leilany plays Alexa Ventura, which is one of the pair of twins, and the other twin is Benny and that is played by Claudio Benancio and they are just an amazing, talented duo, and I'm so happy that Leilany got a chance to tell another story here on your show.

Mr. Eric: Oh, me, too, me too. And I agree, the two of them make a great duo. I love that the story itself, of *Timestorm*, which is still unfolding, I'm still listening, episode to episode, and it talks about America. It talks about our past and our present and I've learned things about Puerto Rico just from listening to it. I love the story itself and what you're doing with it.

Dania: Oh, thank you so much. Yeah, that means a lot because I think that's definitely what we want to do. A lot of the story deals with the past of Puerto Rico, but there's also some stuff that's happened that takes place in the recent past dealing with Hurricane Maria.

Mr. Eric: Yeah.

Dania: And so that's a very important storyline that happens and the Ventura family is really dealing with the consequences. They have family that's living on the island so this is impacting them in a very real way. It was important for us to portray what the family is dealing with and the community in a very honest way. So hopefully we're doing that.

Mr. Eric: I think that's gonna be a lot of fun for folks at home and again, thank you Dania Ramos, thank you Leilany Figueroa, and thank you everyone for listening.

Dania: Thanks, Eric! We love your show. Thanks so much.

Mr. Eric: Likewise, bye.

Dania: Bye.

[What If World theme plays.]