

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 136: What if there was an Escape Room in What If World?](#)

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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. Today we're starting off with a shout out to Nora. She wanted to hear from me, Mr. Eric. And one of her favorite things is kitties. I've had four great kitties throughout my life, so I'm right there with you.

Cthunkle: And I would like to thank Jillian.

Mr. Eric: Hey, Cthunkle.

Cthunkle: Jillian loves writing and illustrating books.

Mr. Eric: Good for you, Jillian, keep it up.

Fred the Dog: Oh, and I'm here to shout out to August. He loves me, Fred the Dog, and he also likes piano.

JF Kitty: And our final shout out is to Abby who loves Pokemon and giraffes. Well, Abby, if you shrunk down a giraffe to fit inside a pokeball, it would make me a lot more comfortable.

Mr. Eric: Well, thanks, JF Kat. And thank you Abby, August, Jillian, and Nora.

Today, we are joined by the creator of an awesome podcast called *The Dastardly Deeds of Professor Nasty*. And his name is Karl Harpur!

Karl: Hello everyone!

Mr. Eric: Hey Karl! So glad to have you on the show, thanks for making the trip. He is actually in my studio. This is like the first time I've had a guest in my studio other than my wife, so it's really fun for me.

Karl: I live literally 30 minutes away from your house, Eric, which is... what a coincidence.

Mr. Eric: Oh, good! Well, that way, we can do this again.

Karl: Yeah, for sure.

Mr. Eric: But before we talk about *The Dastardly Deeds of Professor Nasty* we are gonna hear a question from a listener named Lila.

Lila: My name's Lila and I like [unclear].

Lila's Parent: My name's Lila. I am three and a half and I like unicorns. And what's your what if question?

Lila: [Unclear]

Lila's Parent: What if bones could talk from people. You want to say thank you, we love What If World?

Lila: Thank you, What If World.

Lila's Parent: Bye-bye!

Mr. Eric: Oh, great question, Lila!

Karl: What a question, Lila.

Mr. Eric: I've really never thought of my own bones talking.

Karl: I don't know what mine would say if they could talk.

Mr. Eric: Well, we'll find out. So that was from a patron named Lila, and we have one more question from a listener named James.

James: It's James. I'm five and I like Super Mario and my what if question is what if there was an escape room in What If World? Bye.

Mr. Eric: Ooh, an escape room.

Karl: I love escape rooms, and I love Super Mario. Mario Kart is one of my favorite games of all time.

Mr. Eric: So good. And we're gonna find out what if bones could talk from people and what if there was an escape room in What If World.

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: If you've ever met Professor Nasty, you'd know that he's even better at escaping than he is at getting caught. And he's really good at getting caught.

Professor Nasty: Right, here I am in What If World and what annoys me most about What If World is that it's full of magic. So what am I going to do? I'm going to shoot from my magical cannon a bomb that will take the magic out of What If World.

Yes, I am well aware of the irony of shooting a magic cannon to get rid of magic.

Mr. Eric: Professor Nasty was about to light his cannon when out of the cannon tube popped Pipey-O!

Pipey-O : Oh, hey, Professor Nasty. I was just coming, I think maybe an eight year old should not be playing with cannons, you think?

Professor Nasty: Well, first let me correct you, Pipey-O. I'm eight and three quarters.

Pipey-O : Oh, so sorry.

Professor Nasty: That's fine, just don't do it again. Well, let me tell you a little story about science, Mr. Pipey-O Hoolihan. It isn't all observation. Sometimes you have to take a chance and blow something up.

Pipey-O : Well, you're wearing that lab coat and you've got the glasses on, but I can't let you take magic out of What If World! What am I talking about?

Mr. Eric: And just as Professor Nasty was about to light that cannon, Pipey-O Hoolihan stuck his magic wrench into the cannon.

Pipey-O : Haha!

Professor Nasty: Well, that's just great, Pipey-O. You've ruined my magic cannon and now my arm is broken. Aaah! My arm is broken!

Arm Bone: I'm just a little broken.

Professor Nasty: I'm sorry, did you say something, Pipey-O?

Pipey-O : Me? I heard something. But it wasn't me saying nothing.

Professor Nasty: Well, if it wasn't you talking, and it wasn't me talking...

Arm Bone: It was me, just open your eyes. Look down here, hello!

Professor Nasty: Oh, it's fine, Pipey-O. It's just... it's just my arm. My broken arm is talking to me.

[Record scratch.]

Aaah! My arm is talking to me!

Ulna: Yeah, my name's Ulna, so nice to meet you. I've been trying to get your attention for years but now I can finally talk.

Professor Nasty: Well, it's lovely to meet you, Ulna.

Pipey-O : Hey, okay, this is very nice moment. You got a broken arm. Let me fix it.

Mr. Eric: And Pipey-O used his magic wrench to cover Professor Nasty's arm with a cast.

Professor Nasty: Goodness gracious me. I look insanely cool with my cast on my arm. Hey, do you want to sign it?

Ulna: I'll sign it! Well, I'm signing it from the inside.

Professor Nasty: Aargh!

Ulna: Oh, sorry, that probably hurts.

Pipey-O : Okay, yeah, I gotta sign your cast. And then I gotta send you to some place you'll never escape again.

Mr. Eric: And after signing Professor Nasty's cast, Pipey-O Hoolihan took him through the cannon and they appeared inside a dark room.

Professor Nasty: You may lock me up, but you'll never stop me, Pipey-O. You'll never stop me! Muahahaha!

Pipey-O : Oh, that's a very good evil laugh.

Professor Nasty: Thank you, I've been working on it for quite a while.

Pipey-O : This is my heroic giggle. It goes hahaha ha hee hee hooohoo.

Professor Nasty: I think you're going have to work on that one, Pipey-O.

Pipey-O : Oh, okay, okay.

Professor Nasty: No, no no, don't get too disheartened, you know. Just practice makes perfect. I've been at this for eight and three quarter years. It's fine.

Mr. Eric: And Pipey-O jumped back through a tiny little pipe hole in the ceiling.

Professor Nasty: Um, excuse me, Pipey-O, where are you going?

Pipey-O : I'm disappearing with my magic powers! You're gonna have to escape the old fashioned way.

Professor Nasty: Well, it's not the first time I've been incarcerated. Probably won't be the last. Hmm, how am I going to get out of this one.

Jimmy U: There's only one way outta this escape room.

Professor Nasty: Aah! Who's that?

Jimmy U: It's me.

Mr. Eric: Said a big unicorn, clip-clopping out of the dark corner. He had one long horn that seemed to be broken halfway up.

Professor Nasty: Well, I've seen it all, now. A unicorn with a broken horn.

Jimmy U: Yeah, I got a broken horn. The name's Jimmy U as in Jimmy Unicorn. Nice to meet you.

Professor Nasty: Well, it's a pleasure to meet you, too, Jimmy U, I'm Professor Nasty. Look at us, all locked up, broken horn, broken arm. We're just like that TV show, *Two Broke Girls*, except you're a unicorn and I'm a little boy so it's not really like it at all.

Jimmy U: Nah, I totally get you, it's just like that. Well, we only got one way out of here and that way is escaping. Because it's an escape room, so you've got to solve puzzles and stuff. The problem is I used to love puzzles until I broke my horn.

Jimmy's Horn: Here's the thing, Jimmy. You can't solve anything because you've got a bang on your noggin and you can't remember anything.

[Record scratch.]

Jimmy's Horn: Oh, sorry, I better introduce myself. I'm Jimmy's horn!

Mr. Eric: It was Jimmy's broken horn. It seemed the broken bit at the top was crunching together to form a mouth.

Jimmy U: My horn reminds me how now I'm broken I can't do the things I used to do.

Professor Nasty: Oh, don't worry about it, Jimmy. My ulna talks to me and well, I'm pretty sure she thinks I can't do anything because it's broken.

Ulna: You can do some things, you just have to be very, very safe and you probably shouldn't do most things.

Professor Nasty: Can I just say something? We've been essentially put into jail. Into a room called an escape room. I mean what do they expect is going to happen?

Jimmy U: I think we're probably meant to escape before long, otherwise what story is there gonna be?

Professor Nasty: Well, this is true, and to be honest, Jimmy, I've been in my fair share of scrapes like this, so if you just stick with me, I'm sure we'll be able to escape together.

Jimmy U: Well, the first puzzle that I never been able to figure out, I been looking at it for ages, it's this crossword puzzle on the ground.

Professor Nasty: Oh, please. Crosswords, I mean, give me something that I can't do.

Mr. Eric: Professor Nasty looked down to see a space for four letters, but the first letter was already filled in with an L.

Professor Nasty: Well, that's rather convenient.

Mr. Eric: And it had a clue written next to it. The clue read, "You do this in order to see."

Professor Nasty: Hmm... You do this in order to see and it begins with L and has four letters.

Jimmy U: I don't know, it's...

Professor Nasty: Ooh! I think I got it. LICK.

Jimmy U: Um, I mean, there's probably some animal in nature that sees with its tongue, but-

Professor Nasty: A snake.

Jimmy U: Okay, okay, good point, good point.

Professor Nasty: A ferret.

Jimmy U: Oh, yeah, you know, ferrets probably get a good sense of taste-

Professor Nasty: A Malaysian baboon.

Jimmy U: Well, now that's a fact. That's a doggone fact. But being that neither one of us are Malaysian baboons, shouldn't we maybe look? Maybe that's the clue?

Professor Nasty: Look?

Jimmy U: I don't know, I don't know, I got a broken head.

Professor Nasty: Oh, look! Yes! Well, of course it's look, I mean, that's essentially what I said. I said look, but I think in fairness, Jimmy, I think it's a language barrier. You're from New What City and I'm from Kid City, so, you know.

Jimmy U: Good thing I got you here because I would have never figured that out.

Professor Nasty: Yeah, well, probably not, but here we are. Right.

Mr. Eric: Below the first clue was another two letters and the clue was this, "The opposite of down."

Professor Nasty: Hmm... the opposite of down.

Jimmy U: It's a tough one, I know.

Professor Nasty: I've got it! Upside down!

Jimmy U: That's kind of a lot of letters, don't you think?

Professor Nasty: I just have to lick the floor so you're going to have to turn me upside down. Right. Turn me on my head, James.

Ulna: Oh, you shouldn't get turned upside with your broken arm, that's too dangerous.

Jimmy U: Maybe instead of licking upside down, it means, look...

Professor Nasty: Look, yes. Look.

Jimmy U: Up. A two letter word.

Professor Nasty: Look up?

Jimmy U: Look up.

Professor Nasty: Up.

Jimmy U: You know!

Professor Nasty: Oh, look up! Right, yes, yes, yes, well evidently, that's what it means.

Jimmy U: Oh, you figured it out, I don't know how I would have done this without you.

Professor Nasty: James, James, James. You've so much to learn.

Mr. Eric: And so, the two villains looked up to see a pictogram on top. Two pictures, one of a simple red octagon, sort of like a sign of some kind.

Professor Nasty: Hmm, red octagon.

Jimmy U: Can you think of a sign with eight sides that's usually red? I don't know, I don't know.

Professor Nasty: Oh, I know. A yield sign.

Mr. Eric: And next to the yield sign was a picture of a person who seemed to be sinking in quick sand.

Professor Nasty: Why would anyone want to sing while in quick sand.

Jimmy U: I think they're supposed to be sinking in quick sand. Sometimes the narrator is just....

Professor Nasty: Where did you get that chap from? This narrator? I'm having the same problem over at my show with my narrator. Goodness gracious.

Jimmy U: Yeah, I mean, they're a dime a dozen these days.

Mr. Eric: Well, the two villains hadn't yet figured out the pictogram of what was clearly a stop sign and someone sinking.

Professor Nasty: You think you're so clever, don't you? Sitting there in front of your microphone. Go on, don't let me stop you. Or yield you!

Mr. Eric: And at that very moment, the sink in their cell unstopped and started spurting out water everywhere!

Professor Nasty: Aaaah!

Jimmy U: Oh, this room is filling up really fast.

Professor Nasty: What are we going to do?



Jimmy U: Uh, well we gotta... the pictogram is the clue. Okay, red octagon...

Professor Nasty: Figure it out, Jimmy!

Jimmy U: Singing, singing in the sand.

Professor Nasty: I can't swim!

Jimmy U: No, I don't... you can't figure this out! You had said something like stop and sink, maybe?

Professor Nasty: Uh, yes, stop the quick sand.

Jimmy U: No, maybe stop the thing that's flooding us? Oh, we're already up to our necks!

Professor Nasty: Oh! [Screams] Stop!

Together: The sink?

Mr. Eric: And Professor Nasty dove below the waves, grabbing the sink's stopper, sticking it back in there as fast as he could, and when he did—

Professor Nasty: [Gasping]

Mr. Eric: The sink opened, like a secret wall, pouring all of the water down a long, winding tunnel.

Professor Nasty: Well who'da thought it? I can swim.

Ulna: Oh, no, you shouldn't be swimming. Oh, you got your cast all wet. Oh, what a mess. You gotta just sit here and let it dry out, okay. No more of this nonsense, this is dangerous.

Professor Nasty: Ulna, you're beginning to sound like my mother.

Ulna: Your mother sounds like a very smart lady.

Jimmy U: She actually kinda sounds like all the mother characters in this place? I don't really know... but there's no time to dwell on that. We need to sneak through this tunnel to finish our escape.

Professor Nasty: Actually, James. I'm not sure I can crawl. Let me ask Ulna.

Ulna: Oh, no, no. Definitely not crawling, oh!

Professor Nasty: There's a surprise.

Ulna: I mean, look at you, you poor thing! You can't do anything.

Jimmy U: All right, well, I'm just gonna have to go and try to figure things out myself without a horn to help me think.

Professor Nasty: I've got an idea! Snails don't need arms, why should I?

Jimmy U: Hey, that is a good idea.

Professor Nasty: Thank you very much.

Mr. Eric: And so, much like the wily snail, Professor Nasty started crawling through the tunnel, despite Ulna's objections.

Ulna: Oh, oh it's dirty. Oh, look at, I think that's a spider.

Professor Nasty: Oh, what's that floating in the—oh, I don't believe it!

Jimmy U: Hey, a unicorn's gotta do what a unicorn's gotta do.

Professor Nasty: You're disgusting.

Mr. Eric: They emerged on the other side of the tunnel, which turned out to be the other side of the cannon, huh.

Jimmy U: That's convenient.

Professor Nasty: Excellent work, Jimmy.

Jimmy U: Well, back when I knew a lot about magic, before my horn broke, I would have been able to tell you that this is a magic cannon, and I think we gotta fix it or somethin'.

Professor Nasty: Right, I've had enough of this What If World, what if I escaped? See what I did there?

[Crickets]

Professor Nasty: Oh, come on! I mean, it was better than that. Fine.

Jimmy U: I don't know how to figure out these magic equations anymore, I can't focus.

Unicorn Horn: Yeah, Jimmy can't do it, because you know, at the end of the day he can't focus because his horn is broke.

Jimmy U: You're right, unicorn horn. There's no way I'm gonna be able to do this.

Professor Nasty: Hey, hey, hey, hey! We don't let any of that negative speak come in on our territory, Jimmy! What you need to do is focus on one little task and then complete that. And I've got your back, buddy.

Jimmy U: Ah!

Professor Nasty: And you tell me what you know, and I'll tell you what I know and then we'll be able to fix the cannon, boom!

Jimmy U: Boom! Hey, I got that one! That was good!

Professor Nasty: I didn't even mean that.

Ulna: You two do your science, just be careful.

Mr. Eric: And Jimmy U helped lift the things that Professor Nasty couldn't, and Professor Nasty helped finish the magical equations when Jimmy U lost focus for a second. And as they were getting close to fixing the cannon...

Pipey-O : Hey! These villains escape from the escape room!

Mr. Eric: They heard a distant voice calling through the cannon.

Professor Nasty: Who'd have thunk it, Pipey? You put us in an escape room. What are we going to do? Stay there?

Pipey-O : I don't know, I couldn't have ever figured it out. I always had to cheat with magic.

Mr. Eric: Pipey-O popped out of the cannon and tried to grab Professor Nasty.

Pipey-O : I'm gonna get him now!

Mr. Eric: But the young eight year old climbed into the cannon.

Professor Nasty: Eight and three-quarters, actually. Don't let me say this again.

Mr. Eric: The young eight and three-quarter year old climbed into the cannon and—

Professor Nasty: We're out of here, Pipey! Because when you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything. You know who said that? Doc Brown, *Back to the Future*, lovely man. Right, Ulna, let's get out of here and get you fixed! So long, suckers! Mic drop!

[Boom!]

Mr. Eric: And off he shot into the stratosphere and beyond, all the way out of What If World.

Jimmy U: I guess I'm just going back to jail, then, Professor!

Professor Nasty: Sorry, Jimmy. There was only room for one! Maybe I'll come back some time. Or maybe I won't, because I'm Professor Nasty! [Evil laugh]

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Oh man.

Karl: That was a lot of fun. I mean... thanks to the guys that sent those questions in because that was hilarious.

Mr. Eric: Well, thank you Lila and James for those phenomenal questions and I want to find out a little bit more about Karl Harpur and about *The Dastardly Deeds of Professor Nasty*.

Karl: Yeah, well, *The Dastardly Deeds of Professor Nasty* is about an eight and three-quarter year old self-proclaimed evil genius who wants to take over the world. He concocts this milkshake called the Menace Milkshake that, when consumed, turns good kids bad and he wants to turn all the good kids of Kid City bad so that he can then spread his nastiness around the world and rule the world forever and ever.

Mr. Eric: I am so happy to have had you Karl.

Karl: Thanks man, yeah. Real honor.

Mr. Eric: And let's do this again, soon.

Karl: Yeah, absolutely. I'd love to come back.

Mr. Eric: Okay, take care!

I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, Karl Harpur and Professor Nasty for their help today, and all you kids at home who don't let that fearful little voice in your head keep you from doing the things you love. Unless, of course, that thing is playing with antique cannons. You probably shouldn't do that.

Until we meet again, keep wondering!

[What If World theme plays.]

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