

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 139: What if cats lived in outer space and space dogs chased space cats?](#)

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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. Today, I'm super psyched to be joined by an actor, improviser, voice actor, audio book narrator, and father to super-fan Parson! His name is Mike Rylander!
- Mike: Duh-duhduh-daaaah!
- Mr. Eric: Hey, Mike. So happy to have to you here.
- Mike: Hey, Eric. I'm so happy to be here. You know, I have to say, yes, my daughter is a super fan of the show.
- Mr. Eric: That's awesome.
- Mike: And me being here just scored me so many cool dad points that the total number of cool dad points I have in her eyes now is the infinity symbol.
- Mr. Eric: Whoa. That's... that is so many cool dad points!
- Mike: So many cool dad points. Cool spelled K-E-W-L.
- Mr. Eric: Do you have this in writing so that later on in her life, you can say, hey. Infinity cool dad points. So I can pull my pants up as high as I want.
- Mike: And I can wear black socks with sandals and khaki shorts and I'll still be cool.

Mr. Eric: I'm so psyched to have Mike on this show and physically in my studio. We're gonna improvise a story, and I mean, really improvise it. We don't know what's going to come out of our mouths today.

Mike: We are jumping into the abyss of the unknown and we're going to say, "Yes, and!" To everything that comes in our path. Well, if we're doing it correctly.

Mr. Eric: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. So the only thing we have to go on is our two questions. And the first is from A pair of listeners named Ely and Dacy.

Dacy: Hi, my name is Dacy and I'm seven years old and I like cats.

Ely: Hi, my name is Ely, I'm eight years old. I like dogs.

Both: We're cousins!

Dacy: My question is what if cats lived in outer space?

Ely: My question is what if space dogs chased space cats.

Both: Bye!

Mr. Eric: Wow.

Mike: That is a deep, deep question.

Mr. Eric: Mm-hmm. This might have to go into What If World's future, perhaps. But we want to get one more question from a patron named Mina.

Mina: My name is Mina and I like cats and I'm six years old. My what if question is what if cats could fly?

Mike: I feel like this is an origin story for how it rains cats and dogs.

Mr. Eric: I hadn't even thought... I love that! We have a lot to go on. I think we should just jump straight into it, huh?

Mike: I think we should, yeah.

Mr. Eric: Okay, so we're gonna find out what if cats live in outer space and space dogs chase space cats, and also what if cats could fly?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: JF Kat was walking down the hall of a giant spacecraft and at the helm of this space ship was a captain, and a dog, at that!

Captain Bark: With perfectly coiffed hair, hello. I am Captain James T. Bark.

JF Kitty: Hi, I'm not-Captain J.F. Kat, oh, former president. Is that impressive?

Captain Bark: Yes. That is very impressive. I have met world leaders from all over the universe in our nine-life mission, we are setting out to explore strange new worlds, seek out new forms of dogs and cats, and boldly go where no dog has gone before.

JF Kitty: Or cat!

Captain Bark: Sure, whatever.

Mr. Eric: So, J.F. Kat and James T. Bark started to take off in their space rocket ship, but...

JF Kitty: Why is, hang on, why is this space ship purring? Is this my brother? Are you driving around in my brother the cat rocketship?

Bobby Kittendy: Hello, it is me, Bobby Kittendy.

Mr. Eric: If you didn't know, cats can turn into rocketships, and Bobby Kittendy was one such cat.

Bobby Kittendy: Not only am I brothers to J.F. Kat, I can also turn into a rocketship.

JF Kitty: I'm just 100% sure that everyone's really excited to finally hear both of us at the same time.

Bobby Kittendy: I missed you yesterday at tennis class. I do not enjoy playing tennis without you, you know.

JF Kitty: I don't enjoy playing tennis at all, I just chase around the balls.

Bobby Kittendy: You are very good at chasing the balls!

Mr. Eric: Just then, James T. Bark cleared his throat.

Captain Bark: Listen to me, you weird cats. It is time to engage! That's it. That was the end of the sentence.

JF Kitty: Okay, great. I don't really know much about space ships, but it says that I'm the pilot, so I'm just gonna push a bunch of your buttons here, Bobby. Sorry, about this.

Bobby Kittendy: That tickles me. [Button booping noises.] You just tickled—oh, there we go! And we're off. And we're off. Is it just me, J.F. Kat, or is it weird that

you are flying inside me and that I am simultaneously your brother cat and also a space ship.

JF Kitty: It's not weird, it's just you.

Captain Bark: You guys are strange.

Mr. Eric: And before they knew it, J.F. Kat, James T. Bark, and Bobby Kittendy were deep, deep into outer space, boldly going where they'd never been before.

Captain Bark: Captain's Dog, bark-date 94.32.

JF Kitty: Oh, it's actually Tuesday.

Captain Bark: Bark-date Tuesday. Thanks, J.F. Kat.

JF Kitty: You're welcome.

Captain Bark: We were aboard the Bobby Kittendy which was a cat politician brother turned into a space ship—

[Explosion]

[Record scratch.]

[Blaring meow-alarm.]

Captain Bark: Quick! Everyone! Grab your positions! We seem to be engaging an enemy vessel.

JF Kitty: Oh, my first space battle and I haven't even learned how to function the space cannons.

Bobby Kittendy: Stay calm, J.F. Kat, just grab your space rockets. They're right in front of you.

JF Kitty: All right, all right.

Bobby Kittendy: Oh, that tickles!

JF Kitty: Okay, sorry, sorry, whoops.

Mr. Eric: J.F. Kat and Bobby Kittendy were blasting wildly into outer space as far off creatures seemed to be floating back and forth in front of the space ship, blasting it with lasers!

Fred the Dog: Take that you bad spaceship! I am Fredzorb the Destroyer, master of a thousand dog worlds and you are in enemy territory.

Captain Bark: Wow! Wow! I am scared. Scared. Excuse me, J.F. Kat, you need to take over. I am going to the bathroom to cry.

JF Kitty: Oh, okay... James, oh, all right.

Captain Bark: Good-bye!

JF Kitty: Well, he's... okay. Listen, I've dealt with Fred the Dogs before.

Fred the Dog: No, I'm Fredzorb the Destroyer! It's totally different thing.

Bobby Kittendy: Yes, totally different. Hello there, giant dog creature or person. It is me, Bobby Kittendy, space ship a.k.a. cat, a.k.a space ship.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, see, I'm a glowing orb space ship, a.k.a. dog.

Bobby Kittendy: This all makes perfect sense to me that a dog would also be a space ship orb and a cat would also be a spaceship.

JF Kitty: Of course this is all totally normal, I don't know why we're rehashing it right now, we're in the middle of a space battle.

Captain Bark: I'm back from the bathroom and have pulled myself together. How's the battle going?

JF Kitty: It's really not... we've just been talking about the battle this whole time.

Fred the Dog: Yes, you've been talking while I've been blasting out your engines, mwa hahaha! Evil laugh.

Captain Bark: Oh, no! Look at that! We have just taken a direct hit.

JF Kitty: Oh, man, that's a lot worse than an indirect hit!

Bobby Kittendy: Ouch. Ow, that really hurts me.

JF Kitty: Oh, my poor brother! We're about to crash!

Bobby Kittendy: Hold on, brother.

JF Kitty: No, you hold me on, brother!

Bobby Kittendy: No, brother! You hold me, brother!

JF Kitty: Okay, let's hold each other!

Captain Bark: This is weird.

[CRASH!]

Bobby Kittendy: Ouch.

JF Kitty: Ouch as well.

Captain Bark: Okay, I think we should explore this strange dog orb planet we have crasehd into.

Mr. Eric: And James T. Bark and J.F. Kat saw floating overhead, dog space ships, that seemed to be searching for them.

Bobby Kittendy: What about me? Can I turn into a regular cat once you get outside me.

JF Kitty: Normally you could, but you're too severely damaged and we've heard too much of this particular accent for one story.

Bobby Kittendy: Ouch.

Captain Bark: Fine then. We shall go. It will be me, J.F. Kat, and you, guy in red shirt.

Red Shirt: Me?

JF Kitty: Yeah. Just come along. We really need your help.

Red Shirt: Okay! Nothing bad ever happens to unnamed characters in red shirts.

Mr. Eric: J.F. Kat, James T. Bark, and the unnamed character in the red shirt, went exploring across the planet until they came across a great dog mountain.

Dog Mountain: Oh, ho ho ho! I'm a dog and also a mountain. It's normal on this planet.

Captain Bark: Why is everything two things at the same time.

Dog Mountain: It's just how it is in outer space. You're a dog, so you're okay, but cats are not allowed on this planet. I must chase you.

Captain Bark: I'd say run, but he is not moving.

Dog Mountain: Okay, but, if I could move, I would chase you because kitties are all bad and doggies are all good. That's how it works.

Captain Bark: But are we not all the same whether your fur is curly and you bark or your fur is straight and you purr. Do we not all have feelings?

Dog Mountain: No. Cats are bad.

Red Shirt: Oh, wow! Look at this! It's a giant pore shooting out lava! I'm gonna inspect it.

JF Kitty: Hey, unnamed character in the red shirt! You really shouldn't put your face that close to the lava, it's dangerous.

Red Shirt: Hey, nothing bad ever happens to people in red shirts without na-[Screams]

JF Kitty: Oh man, your face got badly steamed, but you're okay.

Red Shirt: Yeah, it hurt a little bit, but I'm still good.

Captain Bark: Guys. Don't you realize we are encountering a mountain dog who has ill feelings towards felines? Let's focus.

Dog Mountain: Yes. Fredzorb the Destroyer, I have found the enemy!

Fred the Dog: What? Oh, wait! Let me fly over there, hang on. Oh, there's a stick over here, I'm just gonna take this with me.

Mr. Eric: And Fredzorb the Destroyer, dragging a giant tree alongside its ship, started flying towards them rapidly.

Tree: Hey! Fred the Dog! I was sleeping, you know!

Fred the Dog: I didn't realize you were a dog tree. I shoulda checked.

Tree: It's okay. How are you doing? I haven't seen you since, what? Last Tuesday when you came over for that game of canasta, that was fun.

Fred the Dog: Okay, you know, I'm actually in the process of chasing some bad kitties—

Tree: Oh.

Fred the Dog: That have invaded the planet, so, can we talk about canasta another time?

Tree: I suppose. I'm just gonna go back to sleep. You can drag me around, that's fine.

Fred the Dog: Oh, okay, great, because I'm gonna just chew on you a little bit.

Captain Bark: This is weird.

Red Shirt: My face hurts!

Fred the Dog: Oh no! This guy got a red face. Hang on. Guy with the red shirt and the red face, you're not a cat, are you?

Red Shirt: No, I'm a human.

Fred the Dog: Oh, well, I don't know about humans so I'll just lick your face real quick.

Red Shirt: [Giggles]

Fred the Dog: That's pretty good, actually.

Red Shirt: That tickles!

Fred the Dog: Oh, you know, I'm just gonna take one more GNARMGN!

Red Shirt: AAAAH!

[Record scratch.]

JF Kitty: What's going on, here! I thought you weren't mad at a human!

Fred the Dog: Oh, no, I'm not mad at him, it's just he was yummy so I ate him. He's not a dog so I can treat him however I please.

Tree: Sorry, I was sleeping again. Um, Whoa.

Fred the Dog: Hey, talking tree dog.

Tree: Did you just eat someone, Fred?

Fred the Dog: Oh yeah, but don't worry, it wasn't a dog, so... or a dog tree or a dog mountain or a dog space ship, so I could just eat it.

Tree: Well, I suppose that makes— no wait! That doesn't make sense. That makes zero sense.

Fred the Dog: Huh, what?

Tree: Look, how do you define who's edible and not?

Fred the Dog: Oh, well, if you dog or dog thing, I don't eat you, and otherwise I can eat you if I feel like it.

Tree: Okay, well, I guess... I guess... [snores]



JF Kitty: You guess that's... okay. I really thought he was going to make an appropriate point.

Captain Bark: Apparently he was very tired. So this planet, we've learned, is full of people who don't like other people based on what they look like. That is sad. That is very sad.

Tree: But you're a dog, so you feel the same way, right?

Captain Bark: No. As you can see, J.F. Kat and I are friends.

All Dog-Things: [Gasp]

Red Shirt: [From inside Fred] Yeah, they're friends!

Fred the Dog: So you're friends with a cat?

Captain Bark: Yes, I have traveled all over the universe and I have realized that in life there are two paths. Hate or love. And I choose love.

Fred the Dog: Wow. I always thought it was hate, love or sticks and I chose sticks of course.

Tree: What? Did someone just say...?

Fred the Dog: Quiet, you! [Chews]

Tree: Okay, oh... [snores]

Fred the Dog: But maybe I shouldn't just eat sticks and dislike all the people that I meet automatically.

Captain Bark: There is an old saying from planet Earth of the 20th century. Do not judge a book by its cover for life is like a box of chocolates.

Fred the Dog: Oooh...

Captain Bark: Two roads diverged in the wood—

Fred the Dog: I heard that, yeah.

Captain Bark: And taking the other path—

Fred the Dog: Uh-huh...

Captain Bark: Led him to the dark side.

JF Kitty: What is he talking about?

Captain Bark: You never know what you're going to get—

JF Kitty: You already did that one, I think.

Captain Bark: Fear not what fear is.

Fred the Dog: Uh, okay...

Captain Bark: The wind will not serve, take to the oars.

Tree: Is he still going?

Captain Bark: How many roads must a man walk down before he—

Fred the Dog: Listen, I get it! I'll spit up your friend in the red shirt. [Blegh]

Red Shirt: Hey! Lookit! I'm completely safe. Everything works out for unnamed characters in red shirts on evil alien planets. Aaaaah!

Tree: What? I can enjoy canasta and eating humans, too.

Fred the Dog: That's what I just learned, tree dog person. We can't just eat people because the roads diverged in the yellow wood or something.

Captain Bark: If you dream it, you can achieve it.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, exactly. That's why.

Captain Bark: The only way to do great work is to love what you do.

JF Kitty: No, it's just because it's wrong!

Captain Bark: Never have so many been saved by so few, or something. The end. That's the quote. That's the quote.

Fred the Dog: Wow. I feel so much wiser and more confused.

Red Shirt: WHAA! Wow, I can't believe I got eaten twice today and spit up both times completely unharmed.

JF Kitty: Now we're all friends, okay? So can you just help us fix my brother, Bobby Kittendy?

Tree: I actually, along with canasta, am quite good at fixing cat space ships.

Fred the Dog: That's true. He's a tree dog person engineer. And he doesn't mind being chewed.

Tree: Uh, kinda tickles. Kinda tickles.

Captain Bark: This is weird.

Mr. Eric: Mike! We did it!

Mike: I think so.

Mr. Eric: I know, I know. It was a weird one, but that's what you get when you're just completely flying off the handle, there.

Mike: Completely flying off the handle. And you know what? I think we learned a good lesson today.

Mr. Eric: Which is?

Mike: Which is that all people are the same and that improvised stories about dogs and cats that are also spaceships get a little weird.

Mr. Eric: Yeah. Yeah. So, Mike, you've done narration for Epic Originals, The Creature Campers series and the Z Team books, those are kids' books, right? West 44 publishes?

Mike: Yeah, the Z Team books are awesome. You can get them as regular books that are printed and that you read and I narrate the audio books. They're a lot of fun. It's a town and it's a group of kids and all this crazy paranormal stuff always happens in this town. So one book is about zombies, one's about ghosts, one's about vampires. There's one about werewolves, it's really fun.

And then, yeah, with Epic Originals, I narrate a series called Creature Campers. This one's really fun. It's a summer camp for kids that are also monsters. So the lead character's a Frankenstein, and there's a little zombie rabbit, and it's really fun. Apparently I have a thing for doing—

Mr. Eric: You have a thing.

Mike: —Kids focused paranormal content.

Mr. Eric: Well, I think that's why we get along, because I grew loving monsters and I always love to have a crazy fun monster on the show.

Mike: And obviously the most important credential I have is being a dad to a wonderful six year old girl. Her name is Parson Daisy, and she is a *What If World* super fan.

Mr. Eric: Oh, she is, indeed.

Mike: Super fan.

Mr. Eric: That's how we became friends. She asked dozens of questions.

Mike: Yeah, you know, in my career I've done some cool stuff. I was on an episode of *Parks and Rec*, and shot a scene with Paul Rudd, but in her eyes, being with Mr. Eric at the *What If World* podcast headquarters is pretty much as good as it gets.

Mr. Eric: Well, thank you again for making the drive up to the valley today, and—

Bobby Kittendy: I would just like to say good-bye to you, brother.

JF Kitty: Oh, it's been very nice having you here today and also riding around in you in outer space.

Bobby Kittendy: Are you going to the family reunion in the Catskills later on this year?

JF Kitty: There are a lot of deer there, so the answer is yes, I love chasing deer.

Bobby Kittendy: I will see you there.

Mr. Eric: Bye, Bobby Kittendy! Bye, J.F. Kat!

Bobby Kittendy: Good bye, Mr. Eric. Good bye, J.F. Kat, brother, friend, president, cat.

JF Kitty: This is weird.

Captain Bark: This is super weird.

[What If World theme plays.]