

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 153: What if clocks were bananas and monkeys ate time?](#)

File Length: 00:14:29

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: I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, Dr. Lee, who put my hand back together all those years ago, and all you kids at home who know our past is part of who we are, good, bad, and weird. So go ahead—

Whendiana Joan: Stop, Mr. Eric.

[Record scratch.]

You're doing it all backwards.

Mr. Eric: What are you talking about, Whendiana? This is how I always end the show.

Whendiana Joan: But you're at the beginning of the show.

Mr. Eric: No, I just told the whole story.

Whendiana Joan: Then what was the story about?

Mr. Eric: Um... a monkey, maybe? Or like a banana, I think.

Whendiana Joan: No... a banana, you say?

Mr. Eric: What's going on, Whendiana?

Whendiana Joan: I'm here from the future which is your past and I think someone let out the time monkey.

Mr. Eric: What?

Monkey: Ooh ooh ooh aah aah aah!

Whendiana Joan: Don't let it eat that last piece of banana!

Mr. Eric: Why not, Whendiana? It's just one little bite of banana...
[echoes] one little bite of banana...

Monkey: [Monkey noises]

Whendiana Joan: Uh-oh.

Mr. Eric: Oh, Whendiana? I feel funny.

Whendiana Joan: Listen, Mr. Eric. Time's gonna start playing tricks on you, okay? Just remember us. Remember What If World.

Mr. Eric: I'd never forget you When...do who?

Whendiana Joan: And whatever happens, don't let the monkey unfinish the banana in the past.

Mr. Eric: And until we meet again...

Whendiana Joan: Remember, Mr. Eric!

Mr. Eric: Keep...
[Weird time noise]
[Falling harp scale.]
[Click]
Wow. We did it. We started a podcast! Ooh! I should take it down. It's not ready.

Fred the Dog: It's gonna be okay, Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: How can you say that, Fred? What if I'm not good enough. What if no one likes it.

Fred the Dog: I don't know, Mr. Eric, but you worked really hard on it and you should be proud even if nobody ever listens.

Mr. Eric: Well, thank you, Fred.

Alabaster Zero: Mr. Eric had a funny feeling all of a sudden. He looked around to see he was in his old apartment, a place he hadn't lived in many years.

Mr. Eric: Uh, Fred... why is Alabaster Zero narrating the story? And where's Karen? And Callum?

Fred the Dog: Oh, don't you remember? The time monkey is eating up the reality banana as space and time slowly collapse upon themselves.

Mr. Eric: What about time?

Alabaster Zero: Mr. Eric looked up at the clock that used to hang in their kitchen, only it wasn't a clock now. It was a banana. And all but two bites of banana [echoes] two bites of banana... were missing.

Mr. Eric: What'd you say about time, Fred?

Fred the Dog: I didn't say anything, Mr. Eric. Dogs cannot talk in What Is World.

Monkey: [Monkey noises!]

Alabaster Zero: A little purple-furred monkey was climbing up their wall toward the reality banana.

Mr. Eric: Oh, Fred! Wait, we've got to stop that monkey.

Alabaster Zero: But all Fred could do was bark as, with a delighted squeal, the time monkey took a bite out of the banana.

[Time noises]

Mr. Eric was in a white room sitting across a spotless glass table from Mizz Bizz, who was slowly sliding a check towards him.

Bizz: Of course, this amount barely covers the six months of physical and occupational therapy, never mind the missed work and the fact that you can never teach karate and gymnastics again.

Mr. Eric: I know, Mizz Bizz. Have you seen a monkey?

Bizz: The only monkey I see here, is you, Mr. Eric. You have suffered. We could go after these people for their house, their bank account, their everything.

Mr. Eric: Mizz Bizz, I just... I want to put this behind me, okay. Or in front of me. I'm not sure which way time is moving right now.

Monkey: [Echoing monkey noises]

Alabaster Zero: And Mizz Bizz checked her watch except it wasn't exactly a watch. Can you guess what it was.

Mizz Bizz: It's exactly three bites of banana.

Monkey: [Excited monkey noises]

Alabaster Zero: The purple time monkey was suddenly three, sliding across the slick glass table and snatching the banana wristwatch right off of Mizz Bizz.

Bizz: What a rude time monkey.

Mr. Eric: Time monkey, I don't know what you want, but just talk to me, okay?

Monkey: It's not what I want. It's what you want.

Mr. Eric: Uh, what do you mean?

Monkey: Don't you miss gymnastics, karate, being in the classroom.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, of course I do, but wait—

Alabaster Zero: And the time monkey took another bite of banana.

[Time noises]

Mr. Eric: Well, Teddy, how'd you like your story.

Alabaster Zero: Mr. Eric was back in his old apartment again, talking to his nephew Teddy on a computer screen. Only, he didn't look like Teddy at all.

JF Kitty: I think it was a wonderful story. Maybe you should make a podcast purr something.

Mr. Eric: Oh, Teddy, I wouldn't know the first thing about doing something like that. It's too big and scary and I'm just too old to learn a whole new skillset.

JF Kitty: Meow, well I think about half of your stories are about trying big challenges even if they're scary.

Mr. Eric: I know, Teddy. Wait, you're not Teddy. You're Jojo Fluffy Kat. Oh, no, I'm in the past... reality banana!

JF Kitty: Oh, Mr. Eric. You're talking crazy. It's the year four bites of banana [echoing] four bites of banana...

Monkey: [Monkey noises]

Alabaster Zero: And through the screen behind J.F. Kat, Mr. Eric saw the time monkey knocking a banana with four bites left of it off the wall.

Mr. Eric: Teddy! Jojo! Whoever you are, go get that monkey.

JF Kitty: I don't know... it's nice to be young again.

Mr. Eric: I know, Jojo, but is it worth it?

Monkey: Let's find out! [Eating noises]

[Time noises]

Alabaster Zero: Mr. Eric found himself in a doctor's office with flickering mood lighting and tense, jazzy music playing in the background. He'd just gotten his cast taken off of his right hand and wrist and he was trying to squeeze his hand into a fist.

Abacus: Oh, I do say I've done a marvelous job putting your hand back together.

[Record scratch.]

Alabaster Zero: Said his doctor, Abacus Lee Grumbler.

Mr. Eric: Thank you, Dr. Lee.

Alabaster Zero: Said Mr. Eric, already on the look out for the time monkey.

Abacus: Now, you may experience some stiffness and discomfort... forever.

Mr. Eric: Oh.

Abacus: And you can't do anything high impact like, uh... gymnastics or karate, as two completely random examples.

Mr. Eric: But I teach gymnastics and karate.

Abacus: Ah ah ah! You taught them. Past tense, my boy. But on the bright side, you get to try something entirely new and frightening, now.

Mr. Eric: Dr. Lee... Abacus...

Abacus: I prefer Professor Doctor Abacus Lee Grumbler Extraordinaire.

Mr. Eric: Abacus, you're gonna see a monkey, soon, and when you do, I want you to take out your wand and freeze it.

Abacus: But, Mr. Eric, wouldn't you like to feel normal again? No more discomfort? No more limitations?

Monkey: [Laughing monkey noises.]

Alabaster Zero: The purple time monkey popped up from under Abacus's wizard hat and held out a banana with exactly five bites left.

Mr. Eric: Abacus, we all have limitations and I'm a lot luckier than most so please just help me catch that monkey.

Abacus: Oh, very well. Come here, monkey.

Alabaster Zero: And Abacus reached up with one hand while pulling his wand out with the other and—[Alabaster mimics magic noises.] Magic sounds.

Abacus: All right, I've managed to make the monkey and banana enormous. [Clears throat.] But at least in the past I still have magic and I'm not a frog! Ooh-hoo-hoo-hoo, lovely.

Mr. Eric: Oh, here we go again.

Monkey: [Gigantic monkey laugh noises, and then eating.]

Alabaster Zero: And the monkey bit the banana.
[Time noises]

Mr. Eric didn't remember much. A giant banana peel had appeared in the street in front of him. A big car swerved out of its lane into his, and then there he was by the side of the road, a young woman stood behind him.

Zizi: Hi, what's your name?

Mr. Eric: Oh, I'm Eric.

Zizi: Hi, Mr. Eric. We already called an ambulance and I've got everyone to give you some space and I put a blanket over your shoulders.

Mr. Eric: Um, thank you.

Zizi: Hi, I'm Zizi. I just started nursing school and would it be okay if I put my hand on your back?

Mr. Eric: Yeah... that'd be really nice. Listen, this is gonna sound crazy but have you seen a monkey?

Zizi: That doesn't sound crazy at all but maybe you should just have a sip of water.

Alabaster Zero: And the young nurse-in-training handed Mr. Eric a water bottle and unscrewed the cap for him.

Mr. Eric: You know, whenever I come back to this moment, this is always my favorite part.

Zizi: Okay, Eric. Can you take some deep breaths with me? [Breathing]

Mr. Eric: You only just started school and you're already being the person you're meant to be. You were so brave and I wish I remembered your name.

Zizi: I already told you, my name is Zizi. My brother's name is Zack. I'm from What... If...

Alabaster Zero: And Zizi pulled out her phone to check the time.

Zizi: Where is that ambulance? We've been waiting one whole banana peel [echoes] one whole banana peel...

Monkey: [Monkey noises.]

Zizi: Do not let that monkey near my patient.

Mr. Eric: Wait, Zizi, I'm okay, just don't let the monkey get the banana peel.

Monkey: [Monkey noises]
[Time noises]

Alabaster Zero: We see Mr. Eric dressed in sporty pants and a bright t-shirt, a class full of preschoolers helps him fold up a big mat and then they all sit in a circle.

Mr. Eric: My goodness, what an amazing job you kids did on your hand stands today. Did anyone here find them a little scary.

Alabaster Zero: A boy raised his hand.

Zack: Yeah. I like story day better.

Mr. Eric: I love story day, too, and I'm so impressed with you for trying something new and for being honest about your feelings.

Alabaster Zero: Then a girl added.

Girl: I was scared, too, but then I wasn't.

Mr. Eric: Wow! You just taught us something huge. See, when you face a big, new challenge, it gets more fun and less scary the more you work at it. I hope you all remember that when you try something new, like tying your shoes or juggling a bunch of angry cats.

Zack: Nooo!

Girl: Don't do that!

Boy: You can't juggle cats!

Mr. Eric: Ooh, okay, you got me, class.

Alabaster Zero: Mr. Eric checked his watch and saw it was very nearly one whole banana. A tiny monkey was pushing a peel back onto the banana but Mr. Eric couldn't remember why it was important. He was just having too much fun.

Mr. Eric: Okay, class. It is nearly one banana, so I'm off for now. What do we say?

Children: Until we meet again—

Mr. Eric: Keep wondering.

[Rising harp scale.]

Alabaster Zero: Uh, hey there, folks and welcome back to What If World, the show where your questions and ideas just inspired an off-the-cuff story. [Clears throat.] So I'm not sure where Mr. Eric is, but I'm Alabaster Zeribbit and I'm on the case. So let's see if our first what if question offers us any clues. It's from a listener named Winnie. Or should I say, a young saboteur named Winnie?

Winnie: Hi! My name is Winnie and my what if question is what if Mr. Eric told a what if world story backwards? Bye!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, a backwards story. Okay, okay. Um. Maybe our patron Liv will help us make sense of all of this.

Liv: Hello, my name is Liv and I like Fred the Dog, my family, and playing the piano. And my what if question is what if clocks were bananas and monkeys ate time? Bye, I love your show!

Alabaster Zero: Oh, the time monkey. Now I remember! I found out Fred was stuck in the future so I let loose the time monkey hoping to bring him back to the past, which is our present... and...

Fred the Dog: Yeah, well, it worked. Nice job.

Alabaster Zero: Yes! I did it!

Fred the Dog: No, listen, I'm not here for you. I'm here to give a shout out to Amora, she's nine years old, from Austin, Texas, and she loves reading and her 13 year old dog, Wonder.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, I love the name Wonder. Mr. Eric would, too, if he were here.

Dracomax: Mr. Eric is now stuck in the past teaching gymnastics and karate again. So it is left to me, Dracomax, to give a shout out to Gabe. He is eight years old, from Birmingham, England, and he loves Super Mario and Pokemon.

Alabaster Zero: Well thank you Amora and Gabe.

Fred the Dog: Oh, wait. I got one more shout out for a pair of siblings, Emily who's nine years old and Lily who is seven years old from Santa Barbara, California.

Alabaster Zero: Well, thank you, Lily, Emily, Gabe, and Amora. And I'll also thank myself for getting Fred back from the future.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, but turning time inside and making Mr. Eric disappear!

Dracomax: Dracomax strongly believes that Mr. Eric is somewhere... or maybe not.

Fred the Dog: Well, wherever he is or isn't, he'll have to sit tight there until next week.

Alabaster Zero: Now, let's find out what if clocks were bananas and monkeys ate time? And what if Mr. Eric told a What If World story backwards?

Fred the Dog: Wait, didn't we just find that out?

Alabaster Zero: Oh, I guess we did.

Dracomax: So, does that mean this is the end of the episode?

[What If World theme plays.]

