

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 162: What if Fred the Dog bought the What-If-Mobile?](#)

File Length: 00:20:00

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.]

Fred the Dog: Well, this is weird... Mr. Eric is normally here by now. It's time to record the episode. I'll go look for him.

[In the distance] Mr. Eric? Mr. Eric! Oh, Miss Karen! Have you seen Mr. Eric?

Miss Karen: I haven't. Isn't he supposed to be recording, now?

Fred the Dog: He is and it's so late in the week if he doesn't get to record today there won't be an episode on Monday, and then basically the show's over forever, I think.

Miss Karen: Oh, that's really bad news. We can't have the show be over.

Fred the Dog: Well, it wouldn't be over, it would just be like a rerun, but even so! I know! Why don't you do the episode, Miss Karen.

Miss Karen: Oh, I'm not a storyteller. I don't think that would be a good idea.

Fred the Dog: Uh, you know, everybody is secretly a storyteller. All they have to do is reach down and then be really good at telling stories. So just do that.

Miss Karen: Oh, well, Fred, that's very inspiring, but I'm not sure if it matches the reality of my situation.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, well, the reality of the situation is there's not gonna be a story on Monday, so... [extends word until Miss Karen breaks]

Miss Karen: Oh, okay... I guess I can do it for the kids.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that's such a good! I'm glad you finally are so brave.

Miss Karen: Okay, so, what do we do?

Fred the Dog: Well, first thing we gotta do is the shout outs. I'll get your ball rolling here because I've got so many shout outs it's like you could just go take a break, maybe. But don't go anywhere because then you might run.

Miss Karen: Okay.

Fred the Dog: Okay, first is Dara who's almost six and Robert who's eight. They listen to the shows every night at bedtime. And then we got one for Gabriel who newly discovered the show. Already a big fan. And also, for Beatrice, who's six years old and she loves to read and to draw.

Miss Karen: Reading and drawing sound like really great stay at home activities.

Dracomax: Indeed, they do. [Pause] You're not going to react. Mr. Eric usually reacts when I, Dracomax, enter the studio, because I'm a big dragon.

Miss Karen: You know, I like to roll with the punches.

Dracomax: Oh, uh, well, I am here to shout out Leially, who is four years old and loves to doodle and play soccer at school. Also her little brother Yakub is two and a half, loves to run and jump and play with his sister.

Miss Karen: Aw, that's amazing.

JF Kitty: Purr, I've got one last shout out for Max from Brooklyn. Mr. Eric and Miss Karen used to live in Brooklyn, if I'm not mistaken.

Miss Karen: We did.

Fred the Dog: Okay, so a big thank to Max, Yakub, Leially, Beatrice, Gabriel, and Dara.

Miss Karen: Okay. So, what's next.

Fred the Dog: Then we play the question, Miss Karen.

Miss Karen: Oh, I need that. I'm sorry. Okay. What question do we have today? Was there one lined up?

Fred the Dog: I don't know! I'm not the question dog! I'm Fred the Dog.

Miss Karen: Okay, um...

Fred the Dog: You've got to find a question or something. I don't know how Mr. Eric does it.

Miss Karen: Let me go to the computer. Let me see if there's anything here.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, make some clicking noises so people know what you're doing.

Miss Karen: [Computer error noises] Tap, tap tap.

Fred the Dog: That sounds like you're doing something bad.

Miss Karen: Oh no, wait, okay. There's something on the desktop. It says What If Question. Maybe I should play it?

Fred the Dog: Yeah, do it!

Dennis: My name is Dennis and I like your show and—

Dennis' Parent: Your what if question is...

Dennis: My what if question is what if Fred the Dog bought a vehicle called the What-If-Mobile and it shot what if questions? And also you never ever ever ever ever do my what if questions. Please do it!

Miss Karen: Oh, okay. That doesn't sound so bad. Well, Fred you're already here, so maybe you could help me out.

Fred the Dog: I'm on it, Miss Karen. So let's find out what if I bought a vehicle called the What-If-Mobile and it shot what if questions?

[Rising harp scale.]

Miss Karen: Once upon a time—

Fred the Dog: Ugh. Sorry, I didn't mean to groan so audibly, we just normally don't start the stories like that. That's like, season one stuff.

Miss Karen: Fred! That's super rude. I'm just trying my best.

Fred the Dog: Okay, sorry.

Miss Karen: Once upon a time in What If World, Fred was in the market for a car.

Fred the Dog: You know, [record scratch] You know, I need something to help me get the Fur Force around and you know, they've been riding on my tongue because it's really long, it's too long for my mouth. I know I say that every episode, it's just sort of like a thing. But they get really slimy so maybe just a vehicle... ooh, like a flying orb, or a big green crate with legs that walks like a spider.

Miss Karen: Maybe we could just keep it simple and have it be a car?

Fred the Dog: Okay... it's fine.

Miss Karen: All right. So, Fred was at the What If Car Shop.

Poppa Loo: Hey, there, Fred! Welcome to the What If Car Shop. I'm Poppa Loo, your What If Car Shop manager.

Fred the Dog: Didn't you... I thought you quit the job at the car shop and got a new job as, like, a reporter or something.

Poppa Loo: I don't... you know, I did. Listen, who knows what's doing what these days. It's a crazy economy out there. So [stammers] what kinda car can I put you in?

Fred the Dog: I was thinking, like, a big furry caterpillar that people could live inside and it's got an engine in its butt!

Miss Karen: Ooh, Fred. That doesn't sound very convenient for carrying the Fur Force around.

Fred the Dog: Okay... or just maybe like a regular car.

Poppa Loo: Well, I'll tell you what. I got a regular car for you and it doesn't shoot out anything crazy. It's just a really good deal for a car.

Miss Karen: What a weird caveat.

Poppa Loo: Yeah.

Fred the Dog: Okay, I'll take it. How much moneys?

Poppa Loo: Oh, transaction scenes. These are always fun. Uh, three. Three moneys.

Fred the Dog: Okay, here's four moneys.

Poppa Loo: And one money is your change.

Fred the Dog: Oh, good deal. That's a good deal on a car, everybody.

Miss Karen: Okay, okay. So we got the car. That's step one. What was the next part of the question. Do you remember?

Fred the Dog: You gotta narrate, Miss Karen. I can't help you.

Miss Karen: Okay, okay, I got it, I got it. Um. All right, so Fred drove off in his brand new car which he named—

Fred the Dog: The What-If-Mobile! That's what I'm gonna call you.

Miss Karen: The What-If-Mobile. He named it the What-If-Mobile.

[Car struggling to start]

Angenie Hello, my name is Angenie and my favorite thing is What If World and my question is what if a giant crab attacked What If World? Bye! I love your show!

Miss Karen: And suddenly a giant crab fell from the sky and he started shooting lasers out of his eyes!

Fred the Dog: Lasers, Miss Karen? Really?

Miss Karen: I mean, look, Fred. I don't know if you should be complaining. I think maybe what you should be doing is dodging those lasers.

Crab: Fee fi fo faser! I'm the crab that blasts a laser...s. I should have stopped that rhyme one letter sooner.

Fred the Dog: Hey, Mr. Crab! Can you stop shooting lasers at us?

Crab: It's actually Mrs. Crab, and no I can't because I don't have my unlasererer.

Fred the Dog: Don't you mean just your unlaserer?

Miss Karen: Fred, I just want to jump in and commend you for your diplomacy in this time. A lesser president might have tried to shoot back or maybe redirect the lasers, but you're taking this time to negotiate. It's really great.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that's really... yes. I, you know, that's what I try to do because when I try to lick people, they don't like it. So I decided I'm not gonna lick people anymore, I just talk to them. And then maybe lick them if they say it's okay, later.

Mrs. Crab: I actually don't want any licks at all. I just want my anti-lasererer.

Fred the Dog: Oh, you know, I feel like you could use this windshield as an anti-lasererer. You just stick it over your big crabby eyestalks. Okay, actually, I guess us need one, two... you need the back windshield, too, for your other eyestalk. Giant crabs are so giant.

Mrs. Crab: Sorry. Oh, wow, these work perfect. Now I'm not blasting lasers at anybody anymore. Thanks, Fred!

Fred the Dog: Yeah, no problem! I don't need windshields, I just get more bugs in my mouth as I drive. It's perfect.

Mrs. Crab: Okay! Bye, I'm gonna go not blast lasers! Heh heh!

Fred the Dog: Oh great! Miss Karen, we did it!

Miss Karen: Yeah, we did it, right? That's the end.

Fred the Dog: What is wrong... what's the matter with this car. It's like it's blasting out what if-

Kenna: Hi, my name's Kenna-

Fred the Dog: Okay, I probably shouldn't have named it the What-If-Mobile. That's on me. That's on me.

Kenna: I like donuts and my what if question is what if Fred the Dog and J.F. Kat went into outer space and got chased by sith turkeys? Thank you and good-bye.

Miss Karen: Did she say sith turkeys? Like in *Star Wars*?

Fred the Dog: I don't know. I think maybe she said space turkeys, or like sith space turkeys, most likely is what she said.

Miss Karen: But either way, you're getting chased by evil turkeys in space.

Fred the Dog: Oh yeah, actually, I am-

Miss Karen: All right. I can work with this.

[Space noise]

JF Kitty: Fred, purr, I was just making my dinner and went to go grab the mayonnaise and I was purr... in outer space!

Fred the Dog: Yes, it's a weird one, today. Sorry, Jojo.

JF Kitty: Hey, that's a nice car you're driving around. How does it handle in outer space.

Fred the Dog: It's pretty good. It just keeps kinda shooting out what if questions. That's a whole 'nother thing.

JF Kitty: Oh, okay. Well, it's kind of quiet up here. I sort of expected some narration at some point.

Miss Karen: Oh! I'm sorry. I forgot. You're right. Fred and J.F. Kat turned around and saw... Fred, what's the word for a bunch of turkeys?

Fred the Dog: A gobble of turkeys?

Miss Karen: And a gobble of turkeys just came barreling towards them in space!  
[Angry turkey noises.]  
Fred, do you speak turkey?

Fred the Dog: Oh, well... um, I think so. I mean, I never tried to speak turkey, but I like turkeys... they're big and they smell nice.

Miss Karen: Okay, so, I guess you could give it a shot talking to them. What's the worst that could happen?

Fred the Dog: Exactly... okay. A-gobble-de-gobble... gobble gobble gobble.

Turkeys: [Gobbling agitatedly.]

JF Kitty: Oh dear, I shouldn't have let Fred lead this particular diplomatic mission when I speak fluent turkey.

Miss Karen: I'm sorry, J.F. Kat for underestimating you.

JF Kitty: No, I just was feeling lazy and these are sith space turkeys after all, look at those talons.

Miss Karen: Yeah, they're pretty scary.

JF Kitty: Oh, boy, what a mess, what a mess.

Turkeys: [Angry gobbling and laser noises.]

Fred the Dog: Yeah, I don't think this is going well. Why is everything shooting lasers in this story?

JF Kitty: Fred, Fred, Fred! They need.. they need the bumpers of your car in order to put on their space ships so that they can bumper space ships with each other. Otherwise they'll invade the world and destroy humanity, yadda yadda yadda.

Fred the Dog: Oh, gee, oh, yeah, why didn't you say so? Go-gobbledede-gobble go.

Miss Karen: Fred, I think that's offensive.

JF Kitty: I mean, if Miss Karen's offended and she doesn't even speak turkey...

Fred the Dog: Okay, yeah, I'm just gonna give them my bumpers. There you go. Just go ahead, have them. Yeah...

Miss Karen: Hey, so, we did it.

Fred the Dog: Okay, yeah, let's just steer this car without windshields or bumpers back down to the earth.

Harley: Hi, my name is Harley and I like ice cream and my question is what if unicorns could turn into bears?

Fred the Dog: Ah, what could... I mean, unicorns and bears. That sounds cute and fluffy. Let's bring it on. Let's get to the forest.

Miss Karen: All right, so you're back on What If World and you're driving through a secluded road in a forest and suddenly you come upon a herd of unicorns.

Fred the Dog: Oh, they're so cute and fluffy and they got such well-groomed manes.

Miss Karen: And then suddenly they turn into bears!

[Neighing and roaring!]

Fred the Dog: Miss Karen, you know, normally there's like a point to these stories. It's not just like crazy unicorns and bears everywhere.

Miss Karen: I might be getting to it, Fred. You know, have a little patience.

JF Kitty: Okay, okay, I'll help this time. It's very obvious that these bears are trying to shed their winter coats. And it's... but they are too hot whether they are in shaggy unicorn or shaggy bear form.

Fred the Dog: Oh that's no problem. I got that. Just, I'll just give them my AC, and... oh, okay. I guess I have to give them all the fans and stuff inside the car, too.

Miss Karen: Fred, are you using your tongue to dismantle the car.

Fred the Dog: Oh, it just needs a little gas in order to operate the AC so I'll just... bleh. And don't lick gas, kids, at home, please.

JF Kitty: I guess that sorta qualifies as a lesson. Probably kids already know that one, though.



Miss Karen: That you can stay cool with air conditioning?

Fred the Dog: No, that you shouldn't lick gas!

Miss Karen: Oh, yeah. Definitely don't lick gas.

Charlotte: Hi, my name is Charlotte. What if Fred the Dog could do gymnastics?

Fred the Dog: Oh, I like the sound of that one.

Nolan: Hi, my name is Nolan and my what if question is what if rats could eat cats? Bye!

JF Kitty: Purr... can we skip this?  
[What if questions begin to overlap.]

WIQs: What if people eat bugs and bugs eat people?  
What if elephants played in bands?  
What if chalk drawings came to life?  
What if cartoons were real?  
What if bubble gum came alive?  
What if you could cook in the car?  
What if all the countries in the world weren't real?  
What if chimneys had water coming out the chimneys instead of smoke?  
Bye!

Miss Karen: Okay, I think I got it. Let me look at my notes. So there's something about rats eating cats and bugs eating people but people eating bugs, water is coming out of chimneys instead of smoke. Chalk drawings are coming to life. Cartoons are real. You can cook in the car. Bubble comes to life. Elephants play in bands. And did I miss anything?

Fred the Dog: The coolest one! Fred the Dog does gymnastics.

Miss Karen: All right, okay! Um, here goes.

Mr. Eric: Uh, what is going on? Karen?

Miss Karen: Oh, hey, Eric.

Mr. Eric: Uh... you're on my microphone.

Miss Karen: I mean, I was just trying to help out.

Fred the Dog: Mr. Eric! Where have you been? Miss Karen's doing your show and it's going terribly.

Miss Karen: Hey. He's right. It's not going super well. We've gotten into a little bit of a corner. I have maybe 30 what if questions to answer and I don't know how to handle it.

Mr. Eric: Oh, gosh, tell me about it. That's why I was taking a break and having a walk around the neighborhood. Kids have asked so many questions and I know that they want to get their questions answered so badly, and some of them have asked question after question after question. And I just didn't want to let them down so I just needed to take a quick break and... Fred, why is there half a car in the studio?

Fred the Dog: I don't know! It was like a full car before and then... and then a giant crab needed pieces and the turkeys needed this, and the bears needed that.

Mr. Eric: Oh, Fred. I hear you. But you can't help everyone. Not if it doesn't leave anything for you. See, now you got half a car and it doesn't even work. What if the Fur Force were called to action and then you can't help other people because you gave away half your car.

Miss Karen: Ooh. Mr. Eric, maybe that's the same thing that happened with the stories. You want to make sure you're helping all the kids and answering all their questions but then you didn't even answer one question. And you certainly can't answer all the questions at once, or else the story doesn't make sense.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, like how this one is a complete train wreck--

Miss Karen: Okay, Fred. I'm you know.

Fred the Dog: Car crash, or like...

Miss Karen: You can be a little nicer.

Fred the Dog: And you were like, oh, I'm sorry. It's more just like a messy baby.

Miss Karen: A messy baby? Okay. Well, it's my messy baby so I love it anyway.

Mr. Eric: Well, maybe this messy baby needs a nap, now.

JF Kitty: Oh, that just reminds me! I found a real great question here, let me play it.

[Recorded JFK] My name is J.F. Kat. And my what if is what if J.F. Kat napped through the whole story and everyone else went to sleep and took a nap, too? Bye, I love your show.

Miss Karen: Wow, that was very believable, Jojo.

Fred the Dog: Wow, Jojo! There's another Jojo Fluffy Kat out there?

Mr. Eric: Okay... Fred, I don't think... [yawning].

JF Kitty: Oh, Fred, oh, I... it was... the joke is that I... it was me... [sleeping and purring].

Miss Karen: Oh, I guess it's just me. Everyone else is snoring on the floor of the studio.

Fred the Dog: Not snore...

Miss Karen: [Unclear] breathing on the floor of the studio, so... I'll sign off. Uh. [Yawns]

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Karen, that was a great story!

Miss Karen: Oh, well, that's very generous, Eric, but I think that might be the last time I host the show.

Mr. Eric: Well, that was... I had a lot of fun for the 30 seconds that I was there, so I'm sure everything was just fine.

Miss Karen: Sure...

Mr. Eric: Oh, and I'd like to give a quick thank you to all of our question askers today in case you didn't get their names. They are Dennis, Antony, Hannah, Harley, Alfonso, Nora, Fletcher, Charlotte, Maddy, Tallulah, Sophie, Karen, and Nolan.

I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator and co-host of this episode—

Miss Karen: Sorry!

Mr. Eric: You say, "You're welcome," there.

Miss Karen: You're welcome!

Mr. Eric: As well as Craig Martinson for our theme song, and all you kids at home out there who know that being nice to others doesn't mean giving everything you've got to them. You've got to keep a little bit left over for yourself to be happy. And until we meet again—

Miss Karen: Keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]

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