

Podcast: [What If World](#)

Episode: 182: A Ballerino Halloweeno (Guild & Goblins #4)

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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.

Zizi:                     Greetings, Adventurers, and welcome back to Guilds & Goblins, the  
game where your questions and ideas—

Zach:                    And our die rolls!

Zizi:                    --inspire off the cuff stories. I'm Zizi, your guildmaster, and we're gonna  
finish out a two part adventure today. Teammates, can you introduce  
yourselves?

Scully:                 I'm Scully, and I play Scullen Bones... or do I?

Lola Rabbit:           I'm Lola Rabbit. I play Lowlandra, I nature mage and werebunny.

Zach:                   And I'm Zach, or Zachimedes the goblin eggchanter.

Zizi:                    So last time, you were looking for the old master goblin tinker and you  
found an old song written down.

Scully:                 Oh, but when I read that song, I got hypnotized and started wandering  
into the mist.

Zizi:                    You met some ballerinas and dinosaurs who were accusing each other of  
kidnapping their leaders.

Zach:                   Yeah, and then Scullen walked off again!

Scully:                 Yeah, and there were weird cat noises happening, I guess.

Lola Rabbit:           So me and Zachimedes bounced off after Scullen and left Bridget the  
Bread Giant to look after the dinosaurs and ballet dancers.

JF Kat:                 That's a good recap. Now I've got a meow-out for Lindsay Keane, age  
five, from Fort Collins, Colorado.

Fred:                   Oh, and I would like to say a woof woof to Jack Gordon, who's seven,  
from Dorset and has been listening for a very long time.

Whendiana: Whendiana here to shout out Emma. She'll be seven next month, and happy early birthday to you.

Fred: Whendy, I wasn't done. I still had a shout out for Ozzie. Yeah, Ozzie likes football. And then finally, there's Elijah Eppy, age five, who loves his dog named Thunder.

Zizi: Well, thanks, Whendy, and Fred, and JF Kat, for those shout outs. Now let's get back to our adventure.

[Rising harp scale.]

Scullen, I was hoping you could help me play one of these dinosaurs or ballet dancers.

Scully: Oh yeah yeah yeah, because Scullen's hypnotized and lost in the mist. Woووو.

Zach: Why are you so happy?

Scully: Because now I get to play two characters.

Zizi: Well, not exactly at the same time, or anything.

Scully: Suddenly, Marty, the Ankylosaurus barges out of the mist and says, "Where is my friend, Scullen Bones? Why aren't we all trying to find him right now?"

Lowlandra: I am trying to find him, Marvin.

Martin: It's Martin.

Lowlandra: I don't know, I just met you.

Martin: No, we're old friends.

Lowlandra: What?

Martin: We've known each other for years.

Lowlandra: Okay, yeah, I just forgot. Let's go find Scullen. Okay, pull it together guys.

Martin: Can I roll to sniff out my best friend, Scullen?

Lowlandra: Oh, I thought I was your best friend.

Zizi: Yes, roll a die.

Scully: It's a seven.

Lowlandra: Hey, you know what? Two noses are better than one. I'm gonna help my friend Marty sniff out his friend Scullen.

Zachimedes: Oh yeah, and I'll hold out my glow in the dark eggs so we can see Scullen's tracks.

Zizi: Okay, Scullen. I'm gonna let you roll two 20 sided dice and take the better one.

Scully: Oooh. I rolled two threes.

D20 1: I'm sorry, mate. Me and the other die bumped heads and—

D20 2: My head really hurts.

Zizi: Despite all your best efforts and sniffs, you can't find Scullen. All you find is a wet patch of dirt.

Scully: Poor Scullen's lost forever. I'll just have to be this invincible dinosaur, now.

Zizi: Just then, you all feel something on your feet.

Zachimedes: I knew I should have bought boots!

Zizi: And it feels like you're sliding through the ground as if it were cold, muddy, quicksand.

Zachimedes: I know what to do. You gotta lean back and displace your weight all across the surface, and then just slowly wiggle your arms and kind of float swim your way out of there.

Zizi: Well, that would be good advice for normal quicksand. This is actually mud writhing with worms!

All Players: EW.

Zizi: And as you're getting dragged under the mud, your egg lights up, showing that these worms have cat ears.

Zachimedes: What?

Lowlandra: Hold on a second.

Zizi: And then you splash through the mud into a cavern underneath, where you hear distant music playing.

Zachimedes: I'm gonna have my glow egg in one hand and an egg-tangle egg in the other.

Lowlandra: I'm gonna dig a handful of this mud full of worms.

Martin: I'm gonna take my giant club tail and my super hard shell armor with spikes on it.

Zachimedes: Show off.

Zizi: I'm assuming you head towards the music.

Martin: Well, I'll go first so I can use my shell like a shield if there's danger.

Zizi: The tunnel's a bit of a squeeze for an ankylosaurus but I'll say you're muddy enough to squish your way through and it gets wider as it goes along. And the music gets louder. And then you see it—Scullen Bones is standing on a stage, playing his own rib cage like a xylophone. And a strange giant worm is wrapped around a microphone stand, humming softly along with the Duchess of Dance, who twirls around the stage. There's a goblin tinkerer, old and bent, as she plays the theremin. And of course, Pops Dino on violin, with his little T-Rex arms.

Martin: What is going on here?

Witch: Do you like my band?

Zizi: Said the witch into the microphone. Pops Dino plucked away at the violin strings and the master tinker continued to play her theremin with a glazed look in her eyes.

Zachimedes: I don't know what you've done to our friends but let them go, this instant.

Witch: I didn't do anything to them. Their own sadness made them hear my song. A goblin sad for the fate of her town, a skeleton sad for their poor dice rolls. A duchess and dinosaur sad that their people can't get along. They heard my purring wereworm song and couldn't help but come along. Now you have all been dragged here, too. Come join my lonely band. We can be alone together forever.

Zachimedes: Look, witchy witchy worm worm.

Witch: That is my name, thank you for guessing.

Zachimedes: We all enjoy alone time every now and then.

Martin: But that doesn't mean we want our brains controlled.

Zizi: Too late, everybody. Roll strive to resist the sound of the music.

Zach: I get no bonus. Ooh, it's a nine.

Lola: I got a 17.

Scully: That's a nat 20!

Zizi: Okay, what do you want to do?

Scully: Marty the Ankylosaurus pretends like he's under the spell and starts beating his club tail rhythmically.

Zach: Um, since I failed my save, Zachimedes is going to take his two eggs and start shaking them like maracas.

Zizi: Hey, way to make the best of a low roll. I'll award you one heart for that.

Zach: What's a heart?

Zizi: I guess you'll have to learn next game.

Zach: Oh.

Lola Rabbit: Now Lowlandra doesn't know what to do so she's just gonna start hopping and dancing around.

Witch: Yes, live in the misery for all time.

Scully: Okay, Marty's going to jostle Scullen really hard with his armor shell.

Zizi: Okay, I'll give Scullen another save.

Scully: Come on... dice. Ooh! Ah! Another natural 20!

Zizi: That's unbelievable! That's like a 1 in 400 chance.

Scully: I know, I know, I know, it's so cool!

Zizi: Scullen snaps out of it.

Scullen Bones: Yeah! Whoa... where was I just now?

Martin: You were being brainwashed, but I saved you.

Zizi: Says Marty.

Scully: Hey, well, I lost control of Marty?

Zizi: One character at a time.

Scully: Oh, fine. Scullen starts clapping. He wants to make a happier song to snap everyone out of this funk.

Lola Rabbit: Lowlandra holds out a fist full of were worms and has them caterwaul along.

Zizi: Zach, give me another save, and I'll let you roll with advantage.

Zach: Okay. Oh, and one was a four. Good thing the other one was a 20.

Witch: No! Stop playing fun music.

Lowlandra: We let our sad feelings out and now we're ready to feel happy again!

Witch: Noooo! You'll feel sad enough when I squeeze you all into worm food!

[Record scratch]

Zizi: Witchy Witchy Worm Worm lunges at you.

Witch: Yaaaaooooow.

Zach: Can I drop my egg-tangle egg as soon as she gets to me?

Zizi: You might get tangled up, too.

Zach: That's okay.

Zizi: Well, roll wonder.

Zach: 13?

Zizi: You and Witchy Worm Worm are wrapped up by rubbery egg whites that keep curling around you and pulling you down, but it does interrupt her attack.

Lola Rabbit: Ooh, ooh ooh! Lowlandra wants to summon a skunk and see if she can stink all these old-timers out of their stupor.

Zizi: Okay, roll wonder. See if you're lucky enough for a skunk to be nearby.

Lola Rabbit: Eh, that's a three.

Zizi: All you find is a really tiny stink bug.

Lola Rabbit: Well, I ask them to go get their friends.

Zizi: Okay, they zip off.

Scully: Scullen's gonna form his body into a bone bridge so only Zachimedes can climb out of the egg.

Zizi: Give me a roll.

Scully: A two.

Zizi: Remember, Scullen. You don't need to be mad about low rolls. It's just part of the story.

Scully: Oh, okay. My skeleton bridge falls apart and now I'm just a bunch of bones sticking out of scrambled eggs.

Zizi: All right, Witchy tries to break free next round. Ooh, but she rolls a four. She's still stuck fast. Lowlandra, now a whole horde of stink bugs come to you.

Lowlandra: I point to the worm and say, go get her!

Zizi: Roll strive, with advantage for sticking with your moves.

Lola Rabbit: Fifteen plus two, that's a seventeen!

Witchy: Ooh, such stinkiness.

Zizi: The worm plops down to escape the horrible smell, and it's so strong that the old goblin tinker, and the Duchess of Dance, and Pops Dino, all break free of their hypnosis, too.

Pops Dino: Whoa, now, what am I doing here?

Zizi: Says Pops.

Goblin Tinker: What an unusual egtangle spell you have used... where am I?

Zizi: Asks the goblin tinker.

Duchess Dance: Pops Dino, if you and I are here...

Zizi: Says the Duchess of Dance.

Pops Dino: ...then our people are probably fighting again, oh no!

Zizi: And they rush out of the tunnel.

Scullen Bones: Well, can't we just take one minute to enjoy a victory?

Witchy: Yes, come feel sad and stinky with me and all of these stink bugs.

Scullen Bones: Maybe next time.

Witchy: Oh, really?

Zachimedes: But only if you agree not to hypnotize people anymore.

Witchy: Hmm, wow, I'm gonna have to think about that.

Lowlandra: Come on guys, why are we always talking about things when other things are happening. Bridget's alone with all those ballet dancers and dinosaurs and they're probably eating each other! Let's go!

Zizi: You all get back to the mud sink hole, and Marty the Ankylosaurus sticks his tail up through it so you can all get back up to the surface. You see it's morning now.

Zachimedes: Oh, we must have all been under that spell for a minute.

Zizi: And the mist is cleared and a bunch of banquet tables are set up with red and white checkered tablecloths draped over them.

Lowlandra: Okay, where's the fight? Who's fighting? Stop fighting.

Zizi: But nobody is fighting. In fact, you see dinosaurs and ballet dancers sitting together at these tables.

Zachimedes: I thought you couldn't get along for the length of a song or something like that.

Q-Rex: Well now we're into the love and we're out of the woods because Bridget turned us all with her lovely baked goods.

Zizi: Says Q-Rex. And you see Bridget the Bread Giant passing out toast and bagels and even gluten free blueberry muffins.

Bridget: Did I do okay, Zachimedes.



Zizi: Asks Bridget.

Zachimedes: Okay? You were amazing! And my eggs are gonna make this breakfast even better.

Zizi: And you all set about having a delicious meal together. The end—

Scullen Bones: Wait, wait. We gotta ask the master tinker if she can fix the trumpet of travel.

Goblin Tinker: Well, I suppose I could fix it, but first, you're going to need to fetch me a few things.

Zachimedes: Oh...

Scullen Bones: I knew it was gonna be a fetch quest.

Goblin Tinker: It's not about the fetch quest, it's about the fetch journey.

Zachimedes: I mean, journey and quest are pretty synonymous.

Zizi: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Nice game, everyone. Okay, James S. and Dia, I hope you enjoyed your story. Ooh, and James S. wrote a write-in question.

Zach: It says, "What if worms had cat ears and transformed into cats when they came above ground?"

Scully: Oh, that was all the cat noises.

Zizi: Yeah, you would have seen more cats if you would have rolled a little better.

D20: Hey, don't blame me.

Zizi: I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, our co-creator.

Lola Rabbit: Craig Martinson for our theme song.

Zach: And all you kids at home who know it's okay to take time and space when you're sad.

D20: And when you're ready, you can try goofing off a little bit. It might be just the thing you need.

Zizi:                    Until the next adventure, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]

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