

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 196: What if the middle of the earth was cotton candy and catnip? \(w/ Ari Kelly\)](#)

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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, and today I am so very happy to be joined by an awesome, an awesome kid, and a fellow podcaster, my friend, Ari Kelly!

Ari: Hello, yes! I am Ari Kelly.

Mr. Eric: Ari, thank you so much for joining me on this show. You are not only a podcaster for kids but you are a kid who podcasts. Is that right?

Ari: Yeah, that is, actually very true. I am a podcaster. And I am a kid.

Mr. Eric: And your podcast is called, "At Your Level"?

Ari: It is, yes. So, At Your Level is kind of just an interview podcast with fun segment, like Bad Dad, Bizarrious Mar, Nerd Out, just a couple of those. It is super fun and lots of kids get to join me and I get to interview them.

Mr. Eric: That's super cool and I'm going to ask you little bit more about these fun segments after the story. Speaking of which, we need our first question. And this comes from a listener named Persephone. And I also want to thank her brother Ares who submitted a question as well.

Persephone askEd the Dog: what if the middle of the earth was cotton candy and catnip?

Ari, I'm excited about this one.

Ari: Yeah, this one's gonna be quite difficult.

Mr. Eric: But it's perfect because we were asking for questions a couple weeks back because of our story where Fred went to the center of What If World and we didn't know what was there. Folks at home, Persephone was just one of several kids who called in with questions or wrote in with ideas. So we are actually going to include a few extra questions but I am going to keep some of those a surprise. So we'll read off a few more and we'll play one from a patron named Alex at the end.

Ari, are you ready to tell our story?

Ari: I'm pretty ready.

Mr. Eric: Excellent. So let's find out what if the middle of the Earth was cotton candy and catnip?

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Our story starts at the edge of a great big hole going all the way down to the center of What If World. But no one can see the bottom of that hole. And Fair Elise and Sprite Alright, well, they're so tired, they've used up all their magic getting everyone out of the hole and finding each other in that last story, if you remember. So they don't know how to save Fred. And even Abacus P. Grumbler, he ran off on some adventure with Whendiana and the Learninator last week, so he's gone, too.

Fair Elise: Oh my, who ever shall save our Fred the Dog?

Ed the Dog: Hi, I'm Ed! [Record scratch.]

Fair Elise: Ed? You look a little bit like Fred, is that coincidence?

Ed the Dog: Oh, no. I'm his little brother.

Fair Elise: Fred has a brother?

JF Kitty: My goodness! How is it that I never knew this?

Ed the Dog: I'm kind of his long lost brother, so not a lot of people know me.

JF Kitty: Oh, well, I was Fred's best friend before you even existed possibly, I actually don't know how old you are.

Ed the Dog: Oh, I'm three.

JF Kitty: You're three years old? Okay, well, if you think you can rescue Fred, that's fine, but I think we're gonna need some backup. I'm gonna call my

friend, Patty Pan. I don't have a telephone, hang on. Patty! Patty Pan, can you hear me? It's J.F. Kat. Oh, okay, maybe she's not...

- Mr. Eric: And just then, Patty Pan, the flying green schnauzer zipped in and crashed into Ed the Dog and J.F. Kat.
- Ed the Dog: Who's this?
- Patty Pan: Patty! You never heard of me? Patty Pan? Is this a rescue mission, is that why I'm here?
- Ed the Dog: Well, J.F. Kat invited you.
- JF Kitty: Patty, why don't you fly us down to the center of What If World and we'll free Fred the Dog.
- Patty Pan: Yeah yeah yeah, sure. I can only fly one of you at a time because you are both a little bit big and a little bit heavy. Hmm...
- Ed the Dog: Oh, I actually fly.
- JF Kitty: No, you can't. You're a dog without wings! How is it even possible?
- Ed the Dog: Well, actually, I can spin my tongue like a helicopter.
- JF Kitty: Sure you can.
- Mr. Eric: And Ed started spinning his tongue very, very, fast, but under the stern gaze of J.F. Kat and the quizzical-looking tufted eyebrow of Patty Pan, Ed started feeling a little nervous. And instead of revving up into the sky... he ended up just licking a lot of dirt.
- Ed the Dog: Yuck, this dirt is gross.
- Patty Pan: I think that was a really great effort. I think you're being very brave.
- JF Kitty: Cram it, Patty Pan! We've got to get a plan together and we've got to get it fast!
- Ed the Dog: Um, guys, shouldn't we try to go rescue Fred instead of arguing?
- JF Kitty: Yeah, that sounds just like Fred, uh, whoever you are.
- Mr. Eric: Ed was trying to grab J.F. Kat and pull him into the hole while Patty Pan was trying to grab J.F. Kat and pull him into the hole. And so, all three of them tumbled into the hole together.

All three: [Screaming]

Fair Elise: Oh, okay, good luck. You'll need it...

Mr. Eric: They were falling and falling and falling some more!

Ed the Dog: I feel like I've been falling for ever and evers! It feels like that time Mommy went out to get groceries and never came back, but then she did.

JF Kitty: I think you have a very skewed sense of time. Why don't you just wake me up after we hit me something, a-purr-ssuming we survive. [Snores]

Mr. Eric: And J.F. Kat fell asleep. Meanwhile, Patty Pan was having a blast.

Patty Pan: I love falling! Falling is so much fun! And you know what's even better than falling? Bouncing!

Mr. Eric: And just as those words left her lips... [boing!] a bunch of trampolines popped into existence in this big black nothingness that they found themselves falling through. And Ed was bouncing off trampolines... and J.F. Kat was bouncing off trampolines, and Patty was diving into them and...

Ed the Dog: What happened? Is this, like, Patty Pan's imagination?

JF Kitty: I only prefer jumping up on things when people don't want me to in order to knock something down.

Patty Pan: Well, maybe we could land on something big and fluffy and pink and wonderful and delicious like candy?

Mr. Eric: And suddenly, in front of the trampolines appeared a big, giant, soft cloud of cotton candy.

JF Kitty: I'm not a big fan of cotton candy. Maybe if it had a little bit of-

Mr. Eric: Little green specks appeared in the cotton candy, just like catnip.

JF Kitty: Much better.

Ed the Dog: Wait a minute. Maybe there's a pattern. If we can match all the same things then maybe we can stop this pattern and get out and rescue Fred.

Mr. Eric: But Patty Pan didn't seem to be listening to Ed. She was too busy stuffing her face full of cotton candy. And folks at home, cotton candy is not good for dogs. Meanwhile, J.F. Kat was eating up tiny little shreds of

catnip that he found within the cotton candy as he scratched it apart, and both of them were going frantically wild, bouncing all over the cotton candy clouds!

- Fred the Dog: Is anybody there? I think I'm still falling!
- Ed the Dog: Hey, maybe we should try something a little bit less, I don't know... crazy? Maybe an art museum.
- JF Kitty: Oh, an art museum, yeah that is a little less crazy than catnip, I suppose.
- Patty Pan: Oh, but why should we imagine something like that when I'm having so much fun just bouncing around and around and around and around and around, but okay... I suppose I could imagine a little bit of art.
- JF Kitty: Oh, yeah, fine.
- Mr. Eric: But instead of imagining an art museum, they just imagined a bunch of paintings. And then they saw Fred in the distance, crashing through a painting.
- Fred the Dog: Sorry, Mona Lisa!
- Ed the Dog: You're lucky that's imaginary.
- JF Kitty: Oh, look at this very Starry Night. It's beautiful. I wonder if it could light up this black void.
- Mr. Eric: J.F. Kat, in classic cat fashion, knocked a priceless painting into the void. And ... beautiful stars and swirls spread throughout the nothingness.
- Ed the Dog: It's the same thing as Fred. Thank goodness this is all imaginary.
- Patty Pan: Are you trying to say that if we imagine the same thing, then maybe that thing will appear?
- Ed the Dog: Yeah!
- JF Kitty: I say we imagine more catnip.
- Patty Pan: Or more candy!
- Fred the Dog: I say, we imagine sticks!
- Ed the Dog: I heard, sticks.
- Fred the Dog: Yeah, dirty, old sticks!

Patty Pan: You know, a candy cane is kind of like a stick.

JF Kitty: Some sticks are like ropes where they put catnip on them.

Mr. Eric: And just as everyone was imagining slightly different kinds of sticks, those same sticks, candy canes and catnip ropes, and old dirty sticks, started whizzing through the void, and even bumping and scratching everyone.

Ed the Dog: No, just plain sticks! How is it that I have to be the responsible one, here?

Fred the Dog: You heard him! Plain old sticks even though they're much less delicious!

Mr. Eric: And everyone focused on just a regular plain old stick and... suddenly there were no paintings and no trampolines and no candy canes and catnip ropes and old dirty sticks and cotton candy clouds of catnip. There was just one little sphere of sticks floating in the middle of a whole bunch of blackness like a tiny planet with J.F. Kat, Patty Pan, Ed the Dog, and Fred.

Fred the Dog: Hey, you did it!

Patty Pan: Yeah, now I'm really tired. I've got to take a nap. I think I'm having a little bit of a sugar craaaa...

Ed the Dog: I have one last plan.

JF Kitty: You say that plan. I'm just gonna... take a nap....

Ed the Dog: Fred, I think your tongue is long enough so that we can fly out of here.

Fred the Dog: What do you mean? What am I supposed to do with my tongue to make me fly?

Ed the Dog: Just spin it around in a helicopter motion.

Fred the Dog: [Gasps] Oh, my goodness! You think that could really work?

Ed the Dog: In theory. It could be very, very very very very dangerous.

Fred the Dog: I can fly, yay!

Mr. Eric: And Fred first stretched his tongue around his three friends, then starting whipping it around and around and around and around and around around around faster and faster and faster and faster until, yes, indeed, he was floating up, up, up, towards a tiny pinprick of light that must have been the surface of What If World.

Ed the Dog: Fred, why haven't you mentioned your little brother before?

Fred the Dog: I'm really sorry about that. It might seem strange but that's a very long and interesting story and when I finish telling it to you, it will not only make complete sense, you'll think it was very good that I didn't tell everyone until right now.

Ed the Dog: Wait a minute. This isn't good! The whole of What If World isn't big enough for you, Fred.

Fred the Dog: Oh, you're right. My tongue is way too long as it spins around. We're gonna need a smaller, stronger tongue. A younger tongue. Like from another dog. Maybe a pug mix.

Ed the Dog: Oh, okay! Maybe me!

Fred the Dog: Yeah... that's what I was getting at. You can do it, Ed! I believe in you even though I only just met you!

Ed the Dog: [Screaming and howling]

Mr. Eric: And Ed, while he did have a very long tongue like Fred, it wasn't quite as long, so he had to spin it even faster and faster and faster. And they were still going up through the hole. As they went up, his tongue scraped dirt off the sides of the hole and it fell behind them. His tongue was getting dirty and cramped and they were almost, just a foot away from the top of the hole back to the surface of What If World when...

Ed the Dog: [BLECH]

Mr. Eric: His tongue was finally licked.

JF Kitty: Meow, what's going on?

Mr. Eric: J.F. Kat grabbed the very edge of the ledge and as Ed and Fred and Patty Pan were about to fall back into the hole, he clawed and scrambled his way back up and out.

JF Kitty: What would you three do without me?

Mr. Eric: Patty Pan immediately started digging with her hind legs and filling up the hole with dirt while J.F. Kat found a whole horde of Abacus P. Grumbler's crystal balls and [crashing] was crashing them into the hole to help fill it up, too.

Fred the Dog: Ed, thank you so much for helping save me. Will I ever see you again?

Ed the Dog: Why wouldn't you see me? It's totally not like I'm from a different podcast and I'm going to disappear at the very end of this storyyyyyy...

Fred the Dog: Okay, bye, little brother Ed. Love you! See you soon!

Ed the Dog: Bye, Fred!

Fred the Dog: Have fun at At Your Level!

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Ari, that was a blast!

Ari: That was pretty good.

Mr. Eric: And I have been on your show, isn't that right?

Ari: That is. I think you were on episode four?

Mr. Eric: At Your Level, which is Ari's podcast. Do you want to tell us a little bit about it?

Ari: So, At Your Level is a stories podcast for kids by kids with tons of segments like Bad Dad, Bizarrus Amar, Nerd Out, that one's where we basically just learn a bunch of stuff about the episode's topic. It's very kid-based.

Mr. Eric: Yes, and every so often an adult gets to bring out their inner child by having some fun on At Your Level. Ari asks me about every single character in What If World.

Ari: This is the sign that you're a very big What If World fan.

Mr. Eric: Aww! Well, I'm a very big At Your Level fan. Is there anyone at home or abroad that you would want to shout out or thank or anything like that?

Ari: I mean, I would really just like to thank my brother and my mom because they've really helped me with the podcast, like Ben makes all the transitions and my mom helps with all the editing and scripting, and really just all of it.

Mr. Eric: Ben and Tal are a big part of At Your Level and much like my show would not exist without Miss Karen, your show would not exist without them. Oh, before we go, we've got to play the secret question from our patron named Alex.

Alex: Hello, my name is Alex. I am seven years old and this is my what if question. What if Fred the Dog used his tongue like he was a helicopter to get out of the hole he made?

Mr. Eric: Thank you, Alex, that was the inspiration that allowed Ari and I to quite literally, or quite figuratively, dig ourselves out of that hole. We also had the following questions from patron Emma: What if the center of What If World was candies? Tying in with the cotton candy and the sugar rushes and the candy canes. Then we had Oliver: What if it was made out of trampolines? We had Maya and Gavin: What if Fred fell into a famous painting? I had a lot of fun with that, and Ari, thank you for pointing out that it is not fun to destroy precious art.

Ari: Yes, please, if you see that do not go and headbutt that painting.

Mr. Eric: Do not headbutt it.

Ari: It is a historical piece of art and one of the most fine pieces.

Mr. Eric: Enjoy it, that's what it's there for. And leaving it there lets generations continue to enjoy it.

And then, finally, Dante, who said, what if it were a bunch of sticks? Of course, and that's how we got our ending. So, thank you, again, Ari, for your help today. Thanks to all of our listeners and patrons for their questions around this topic. We tried to squeeze in as many as we reasonably could. And Ari, I'm sure I'll talk to you soon.

Ari: Yeah, for sure!

Mr. Eric: Have a good one!

Ari: All right, bye!

Mr. Eric: All right, bye.

Fred the Dog: Now, I've got a big woof woof for Alex, who'll be turning eight on March 2nd. And hi to his little sister, Anastasia.

Mamma Jamma: Mamma Jamma here to give a big old shout out to Aurora.

Fred the Dog: And now I've got another for Sassy, who loves gaming, both computer games and tabletop games.

Alabaster Zero: Now, let's hear it for Zane, age eight. He likes Legos and reading.

Randall Radbot: And his beep-boop mom, Christine, loves me, Randall Radbot.

JF Kitty: Purr, finally, there's Jacob who loves Legos, cats, dogs, and Fortnite. He's twelve years old.

Mr. Eric: And I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, Ari Kelly for his great guest work as Ed the Dog, and all you kids at home who know that sharing your imagination can be a lot more powerful than keeping it to yourself.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]

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