

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 216: G&G 11: What if rainbows could swim?](#)

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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.

[Guilds & Goblins theme plays.]

- Zizi: Hey there, folks and welcome back to Guilds & Goblins, the What If World show where your questions and ideas–
- Zach: Combine with our totally random, in-the-moment dice rolls–
- Scully: To bring you off-the-cuff adventures.
- Zizi: I'm Zizi JammaLoo, your host, and I'm going to let our players introduce themselves this week.
- Lola Rabbit: My name is Lola Rabbit but in Guilds & Goblins, I play Lowlandra, a nature mage and were bunny who can speak with plants and jump real high.
- Scully: Hi there, I'm Scully the Squid. I play Scullen Bones. They're a skeleton trickster who can reshape their body into all kinds of useful stuff.
- Zach: Then there's me, Zach JammaLoo, Zizi's little brother, but my character is Zachimedes, the goblin eggchanter who faces every challenge with his wits and his magical eggs.
- Zizi: In the last two adventures, we used three questions from our listeners so this week we're going to add on two patron questions. The first is from Serafina.
- Serafina: My name is Serafina. I like Fred the Dog and my what if question, what if the sun was cold and the rain was hot? I love your show, Mr. Eric. Bye!
- Zizi: Thanks, Serafina. And thanks to your kitty, Jasper, who meowed their question at the end.

And we have one more question from a patron named Emma.

Emma: Hi, my name is Emma. My question is what if rainbows could swim? Bye.

Zach: Oh, wow, this is some crazy stuff. Swimming rainbows? Cold suns? Hot rain?

Scully: Can't wait to play!

Lola Rabbit: Hey, whoa, everybody. First we gotta hear a recap.

Zizi: That's right! In the last two adventures, our heroes went into the Trumpet of Travel, but they weren't met with a very warm reception.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, instead Zach and I were put to sleep by a couple of bees and then put in jail by a couple of pickle pigs.

Scully: Good thing I didn't get captured and I was able to sneak down to the basement where they were being held in giant pickle jars.

Zach: I used an egg-tangle egg to catch one guard and Lola Rabbit used the everthorn to whip up another.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, but before we could really escape...

Scully: It sounded like Wolf, one of the leaders of the town, had found my body because I was just a rolling head and hand at this moment.

Zizi: So Scullen Bones made his body get up and run out of town, buying you all some time in the basement with the two pickle pigs who had agreed to help you.

And that's where we are now.

[Rising harp scale.]

Zizi: One of the pickle pig guards snorts anxiously.

Pig 1: Well, if she's off chasing something then the townspeople will probably follow her. This might be our only chance to sneak out.

Scully: But we can't keep sneaking around forever. We've got to convince these people to come with us.

Pig 2: Well, then you kids are gonna have to capture the rainbow.

Zach: Capture... the rainbow?

Pig 1: Don't bother with that. No one's even seen the rainbow since we first slid down it into the Trumpet of Travel.

Lola Rabbit: Hey, Zizi, was the portal that we came in kind of rainbow colored?

Zizi: That's a great question, Lowlandra. I'm going to let you roll an easy learn check.

Lola Rabbit: Hoo. A five, but also a 14.

Zizi: You all fell face first in the sand when you arrived but Lola, now that you think of it, you spied the portal behind you shimmering and swirling and turning rainbow colored before seeming to dive into the sand behind you.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, hang on a minute, everybody. I'm not even sure the portal's back where we left it.

Zach: We have to convince these people to leave through the portal but we don't even know where the portal is!?

Scully: Well, if no one will trust us unless we found the portal, then I think we need the pickle guards to try to cover for us while we search.

Zizi: At that very moment, the light filtering through the floorboards into the basement where you all dwell, seems to suddenly dim as the air grows chilly.

Zach: I mean, I like a good challenge, but can't anything go our way?

Zizi: Zachimedes, roll learn for me.

Zach: At least I have a bonus to that. Ooh, 14 plus one is 15.

Zizi: Now that you've learned some fire magic, you feel a frightening power in the sky, as if the sun is losing its heat.

Zach: Uh... how long before that's really, really, bad for like living creatures?

Zizi: You feel like you might have four hours, tops, before the sun goes ice cold.

Pig 1: That's weird. The sun hasn't gone down in months. That's what turned everything into a desert in the first place.

Zach: I can sense that in four hours, this desert's going to be too cold for anything but an ice monster. So we need you two pickle pigs to make a really good distraction.

Pig 2: Well, if this world's gonna end, I might as well have that pickle parade I always dreamed of.

Pig 1: And I'll keep guard and make sure people don't wander off and see what these kids are up to.

Scully: It's a great plan. Actually, it's ridiculous, but so are most of our ideas so let's just go with it.

Zizi: The pig that sounds most excited about the parade suddenly seems to focus, and using their pickle-kinesis, they make all the pickle jars float off the shelves.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, wow! I could hardly get those pickles to budge an inch.

Pig 2: Amateur. Maybe I'll show you a thing or two after you save our bacon.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, right right right right right, let's go save the world, everybody.

Scully: Well, I reattach my skeleton hand to the bottom of my skeleton head so I can at least walk around.

Zach: Oh, yeah, let Scullen ride on my shoulder like a little skeleton parrot.

Zizi: The pickle pigs direct you towards the back door while they march out the front, calling attention to their pickle parade.

Pig 2: Hip hip, parade!

Pig 1: It's definitely the most interesting thing going on right now. Come watch!

Zizi: And I'm just gonna do a secret roll to see how successful their parade is. You hear a delighted clamor, and though you can't see much from the back alley, it sounds like the pickle parade is drawing quite a crowd.

Lola Rabbit: Now, first thing's first, everybody. How do we find the rainbow that can move around?

Scully: Oh, am I still wearing my lens of the lost?

Zizi: Yours was an eye patch, so presumably yes.

Scully: Then I want to look around and tell the lens to help me find a rainbow.

Zizi: Okay, this is one of your goods and you can only use it once per day, but it's gonna make this an easy roll.

Scully: Ooh, a higher roll was a 17.

Zizi: It starts to rain... softly at first, but as the sun grows darker and colder, the rain is getting warmer and warmer, making it feel like the hottest, most humid day you can imagine, until it touches the ground and the cold sun suddenly freezes it into slushy snow.

Scully: That's what I get for rolling a 17?

Zizi: But, Scully, you also see a dune at the outskirts of town where the rain comes down in a steamy drizzle, then sends up a cold fog from the ground. And wavering within that cloud of fog and steam is a rainbow, glowing even redder than usual.

Scully: There it is! Let's get it!

Lola Rabbit: Well, I'm a nature mage who can jump really far. So I want to try to leap on top of the rainbow and wrestle it down.

Zizi: Well, using your bunny hop, I'll make this an easy roll.

Lola Rabbit: That's a 20!

Scully: Yes!

Zach: We got it!

Zizi: With a natural 20, yes. You do catch it.

Zach: I don't like the tone she's taking.

Zizi: You grapple this rainbow. As you pull it down to the suddenly snowy ground, you feel a surge of adrenaline course through your body, like you're dancing to your favorite were bunny jig. And as the excitement and passion flow into you, so, too, does the color red from the rainbow. But as the rainbow gets smaller, it slips out of your grip and slides, undulating back and forth like a snake that swims across the snowy, slushy, ground.

Scully: Why'd the question have to be about swimming rainbows?

Zach: You know it would have been hard, no matter what.

Lola Rabbit: Okay, a rainbow's got seven colors, right? ROYGBIV.

Zach: Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet.

Scully: Now it's more like OYGBIV...

Zach: Scully, can you still see the rainbow out of your magic eyepatch?

Scully: Oh, I look after where the rainbow went.

Zizi: The magic seems to have run out for the day. You've lost all track of the rainbow.

Fox: Bravo little guildlings.

Zizi: You hear a small voice from down around your ankles and look down to see an adorable fennec fox with orange-white fur, big pointy ears, and a narrow snout that's somehow turned up to you arrogantly even though you're giants compared to this little fox.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, you must be the notorious Fox of Fox and Wolf. You don't look too scary.

Fox: I do not need to be scary for I am clever. Just as it seems are you three. Huh, we thought there were only two.

Zach: How'd you find us?

Fox: The little people can be delighted by a pickle parade, but I can smell a distraction from a mile away.

Scully: Hi, Fox. Uh... you talk really slowly and we're in a hurry so you can either help us.

Fox: Or, I can alert the townsfolk to the presence of the outsiders who caused our sun to go cold.

Zach: We didn't have anything to do with it. We're trying to save you!

Fox: Oh, I believe you and I am willing to help as long as you give me the powers of the rainbow as we find them together.

Lola Rabbit: Zizi, I don't like the smell of this fox, figuratively speaking, anyway. Can I roll to see if they're, uh, on the level?

Zizi: Sure. Roll wonder.

Lola Rabbit: A 13?

Zizi: You get a sense that this fox does know something that can help you, but they aren't gonna share it unless it directly benefits them.

Lola Rabbit: Hey, Fox. I know you love being in charge but this is bigger than that, you know?

Scully: You could all be in grave danger.

Zach: How about we promise to work together to get everybody out by sharing the colors of the rainbow when we find them?

Zizi: The fox considers your offer. I'll let you roll wonder to try to convince them.

Zach: Ooh, we need this. Six plus one...

Fox: This is not enough for me. Perhaps if you promise to hand over all the power of the rainbow after we have used the portal?

Zach: Can we have a side huddle for a second, Fox?

Fox: Tempus fugit.

Lola Rabbit: Hey, watch your mouth.

Zizi: It means, "Time flies."

Lola Rabbit: Okay, we step off a little bit to whisper to each other.

Zach: I don't trust this fox one bit.

Scully: Me neither, but even if you both use your lens of the lost and you both roll well, that means we only get two more colors.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, that leaves four colors of the rainbow that we haven't collected.

Zach: And presumably we need them all to open the portal. Oh...

Lola Rabbit: If we say yes, then we might be giving this fox all kinds of crazy powers.

Scully: But if we say no, Fox could sic the whole town on us and we all might be trapped here forever.

Zach: [Unclear] one who would risk the safety of their own people in order to make themselves more powerful doesn't deserve to be a leader!

Scully: You're right, but there's just not enough time to do this on our own.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, I'm voting with Scullen here. Maybe we can outfox the fox later. But right now we need their help.

Zach: Ah, phooey. I turn around and stomp back to the fox.

Zizi: You notice now that the rain has gotten a little warmer and the sun a little colder.

Zach: I think what you're doing is despicable but we need your help to save your people so you're gonna give it to us and then, after the four of us have opened the portal together, we promise to give you every color of the rainbow we've got.

Fox: What a generous offer. I accept.

Zizi: And as the fox says I accept, a wisp of orange and white magic curls out of its mouth and encircles you and you feel magically bound to this promise.

Zach: Hey, you didn't say anything about a magic binding.

Fox: It will be of no consequence as long as you keep your word.

Lola Rabbit: Okay, Fox. You got what you wanted. Now tell us how to find the rainbow again.

Zizi: The fox shakes out their fur and then starts drawing a rainbow in the snow atop this dune. But with each swipe of their paw, the snow changes color, and you see what appears to be a real rainbow spring out of the ground right in front of you.

Scully: Oh, nice work, Fox. That makes it extra easy.

Fox: This is not the rainbow, merely a helpful illustration. Were bunny, what did you feel when you touched the rainbow?

Lola Rabbit: I felt great! Like I was dancing to my favorite song on top of the world.

Fox: And then you captured the color red as is indicated by your fur.

Zizi: And you now notice that there is a reddish glow to Lowlandra that wasn't there before.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, cool.

Fox: When we first went through this portal into the Trumpet of Travel, we slid down a massive rainbow slide. Some people were excited, some people were scared, but I felt something different. I felt safe, which seemed quite unusual, given our circumstances. Then I realized I was on the color orange, which has always reminded me of my family.

Zach: Oh, I've read about this. Colors make people feel different ways but it can vary from person to person based on our experiences.

Fox: I believe with a red of the rainbow was being drawn here by Wolf's anger and frustration at being outwitted by a few guildling children.

Lola Rabbit: So the rainbow is drawn by strong emotions.

Zach: But each color might have different emotions.

Fox: So if you can figure out what the color means to you...

Scully: Then we can find a place where there are big feelings?

Zach: Or even make our own big feelings to draw the rainbow out?

Fox: It's a theory but I feel confident about it.

Lola Rabbit: Are you saying we swore to help you over a theory? Sheesh.

Zach: It's fine, it's fine. Fox, is there an oasis left in this desert?

Fox: There is one, though I doubt it will last very long.

Zach: Well, lead the way, fast!

Zizi: The fennec fox takes off, faster than you could have imagined, seeming to bound across the sky as little wisps of orange and white smoke seem to appear below its feet wherever it lands.

Lola Rabbit: I pick up Zachimedes, who's holding Scullen, and I hop after it as fast as I can.

Zizi: You feel time slipping away as the sky grows darker, but after 20 minutes of bouncing, you arrive at a tiny oasis. A small grove of date palm trees encircle a tiny body of water and tough little desert shrubberies cling to life around its banks.

Lola Rabbit: Wow. To think that even in this weird, wild, place where hardly anything survives, you could have such a beautiful little piece of life holding on tight.

Zizi: I want everyone to roll learn.

Scully: 12.

Lola Rabbit: Ooh, a natural 1.

Zach: 18! Yes! Plus 3 is 21.

Zizi: Let's see if the fox can roll higher?

Zach: What? The fox gets a roll?

Zizi: Ooh, 14 plus 3 is 17. So, Zachimedes, you are the first to see an almost complete rainbow seeming to swim across the snowy sands towards your little team. The fox's ears are twitching in a different direction and they haven't noticed yet.

Zach: Is there one color glowing brighter than the others?

Zizi: Good guess, Zach. The color green glows brightly.

Zach: Okay, before the fox sees, I want to take one of my old egg vials and try to use it to catch the color green.

Zizi: Oh, good idea. I'll let you roll learn.

Zach: Let's see. $17 + 4$, 21!

Zizi: Eggs are one of the most fundamental source of animal life in the world and as you open this egg vial, you feel the color green drawn towards you. Fox turns and notices too late as you feel a sense of peace and growth. The egg seals tight and glows green as a beautiful, spongy moss forms around it.

Zach: Two colors down! Ugh... five more to go.

Scully: Why'd you make another secret roll?

Zizi: Zach, with your very high learn rolls, you also notice that this rainbow is now missing the colors red, green, and yellow. [Record scratch.]

Zach: Yellow? It's missing the color yellow? How's that possible?

Fox: I'm afraid it must be Wolf. She's out there somewhere hunting for us and for the rainbow.

Scully: Well, we can't possibly get all the colors now.

Zach: So now we have to out-wolf the wolf, too?

Fox: Just be grateful the wolf has not found us yet. You will not find her as open-minded as me.

[Howling!]

Zizi: And that is where we will pause our adventure.

[Falling harp scale.]

Zizi: Emma and Serafina, I hope you enjoyed the first part of your adventure. We'll be finishing up this four-part Guilds & Goblins epic next week.

Zach: And before we go, I've got a shout-out for Emerson, who's almost 10. His birthday is September third. He loves rocks and fossils and gems and wants to be a geologist. He also loves tabletop role-playing games and would like to try playing a minotaur one day. And finally, he likes video games and martial arts.

Scully: Then there's Alexander who's almost seven. His birthday is October 23rd. He loves trampoline and tumbling and wants to be a game designer. He also loves board games like Uno, Skip-bo, Settlers of Catan, and Monopoly. He loves to learn and talk about everything he's learning and he also loves playing goblins.

Zizi: What If World is created by Eric O'Keeffe and Karen O'Keeffe. And we'd like to thank Craig Martinson for our theme song, our helper, Miss Lynn, and all you kids at home who explore your big feelings. They can be pretty scary sometimes, but they help you learn a lot about yourself.

Until we adventure again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]