

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 217: G&G 12: What if the sun was cold and the rain was hot?](#)

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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: Greetings, Adventurers, and welcome back to Guilds & Goblins, the What If World game where your questions and ideas combine with our totally random, in the moment dice rolls to inspire off-the-cuff adventures. I'm Zizi JammaLoo, your host, joined as always by my brother, Zach.
- Zach: But you can call me Zachimedes! That's my Guilds & Goblins character. He's a goblin and an eggchanter who casts magic spells through his eggs! And I'm here with my buddy, Scully the Squid!
- Scully: A.K.A. Scullen Bones! Scullen is a skeleton trickster who can move and rearrange all the bones in their body. Oh, and that's my friend, Lola Rabbit.
- Lola Rabbit: But in Guilds & Goblins, I play Lowlandra! She's a were-bunny who can control plants with her nature magic.
- Zizi: We're at the end of our four-part Guilds & Goblins adventure, answering questions from patrons Emma and Serafina as well as our listeners Maggie, Julia, and Ruby. But before we get to that adventure, we're going to give you a quick recap.
- Zach: So our team has all jumped inside the Trumpet of Travel to break the curse and free all the people from all the different guilds that are trapped inside.
- Lola Rabbit: Yeah, but it seems like there's a lot of trouble and turmoil inside the trumpet and their little magical world seems to be falling apart!

Scully: The only way out is through a portal, but that portal turned into a rainbow and swam away!

Zach: So we're trying to get the colors of the rainbow, one by one. We've made an uneasy truce with Fox who only seems to want to help us in order to make himself more powerful.

Lola Rabbit: Lowlandra has the color red coursing through her body.

Zach: And Zachimedes has the color green trapped inside a mossy egg.

Scully: And somewhere out there is Wolf, who has captured the color yellow and won't rest until she's captured us, too.

Zizi: And that is where our story starts.

[Rising harp scale.]

[Wolf howling.]

Zach: Fox, why is Wolf tracking us down? And why is she capturing the rainbow? Did you sell us out?

Fox: Not intentionally, but Wolf is an excellent tracker, and I might have shared my theory with her about how to find the rainbow before I realized I could get you to help me. [Laughs.]

Lola Rabbit: Ah, perfect. Now Wolf's gonna eat the rainbow, trap us here forever, then eat us, too.

Fox: In theory, we should be able to call the portal as long as we have the majority of the rainbow under our control.

Scully: I think I might have an idea how to find indigo.

Lola Rabbit: What even is that color?

Scully: It's like a dark blue meets a dark purple and my mom used to always wear an indigo scarf to inspire her when she painted.

Lola Rabbit: So we gotta find some inspiration or art or something?

Scully: Or maybe people wondering at someone else's art.

Fox: Like at a pickle parade, perhaps?

Scully: Exactly.

Fox: And who ever said skeletons weren't clever.

Scully: Who ever did say that? We're plenty clever.

Fox: Oh, well, I've said it multiple times but perhaps I was wrong.

Zach: Oh, I can't stand this fox. Let's get back to town, fast!

Zizi: And so you race back to town, but you hear a howl in the distance.

Scully: Oooh...

Zizi: It seems Wolf has caught your scent at least. And while with Lola's bunny jumps, you do get back to town first, you sense the wolf will be arriving soon.

Scully: I want to look around for the rainbow as soon as we can see the parade.

Zizi: Hundreds of people gather in the square of this run-down town as a parade of floating pickles, all of different sizes, shapes, colors, and textures, float through the air. Some of them even glowing in their jars.

Scully: Wow.

Zizi: Children sit on their parents' shoulders as the hot rain washes their faces clean and you can see their bright smiles from blocks away. Everybody roll wonder.

Scully: Oh yeah, and we have to roll better than the fox.

Zizi: Well, maybe not. You actually don't see the fox anymore.

Zach: They're up to something! I got a 16.

Scully: I got a 12.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, boy. I got another natural one.

Zizi: With only four colors left, the rainbow is getting harder to see. But Zach, you're the first to find it swirling around the children as they watch the parade.

Zach: Well, I want to point it out to Scullen since it was their idea that helped us find it.

Zizi: All right, Zach. I'll award you a heart for being so kind.

Zach: Nice!

Zizi: Okay, Scullen. Give it your best shot.

Scully: You bet. My best shot was an eight.

Zizi: Scullen, as you wrestle with the rainbow, you feel a sense of wonder and a burst of imagination flow through you, but then you imagine your mother, the brave pirate captain who you haven't seen since she was lost at sea. The rainbow suddenly slips away, leaving you feeling jaded and pessimistic.

Scully: Oh, that's not hard. I'm so bad at rolling dice!

Zizi: You take one hurt as you see the fennec fox suddenly appear out of a flurry of snow just as a massive, gray, shaggy wolf leaps into view.

Wolf: [Howls]

Zizi: Both of them running toward the rainbow. Lowlandra, you haven't acted yet, but you also haven't seen the rainbow.

Lola Rabbit: I don't know anything about this wolf but I just can't bring myself to help Fox.

Zizi: You see them both diving in the same direction. What do you do, Lowlandra?

Lola Rabbit: All right. I'm gonna try to control one of these pickles in the pickle parade again, and just kind of nudge it right in the way of the Fox so that nobody can tell it was me.

Zizi: Okay, but pickled vegetables in a jar are a lot harder to control than plants in the ground.

Lola Rabbit: So I roll dare but it's a hard roll?

Zizi: Exactly.

Lola Rabbit: That's a 12 and a 13 plus 3 is 16!

Zizi: The pickle pig is the only one to feel your power as you reach out to the cucumber and the jar clonks right into the fox, leaving the wolf to barge into the middle of the parade and suddenly start to glow with a swirl of indigo and yellow.

Zach: Now we're tied, two and two. Lowlandra, I hope you have a plan.

Zizi: The sun has gone colder, still, and the snowy slush upon the ground starts to harden into ice even as the rain gets hotter so the icy ground keeps melting and refreezing.

Pig 2: I guess our distraction's over.

Zizi: Says the pickle pig controlling the jars.

Pig 1: Okay, everybody. Move back, move back. Get to safety. The rain is too hot and the ground is too treacherous.

Zizi: Says the pickle pig guard. And the townspeople flee under awnings and inside buildings. But you soon see hundreds of pairs of eyes peeking out of every window and between every crate as they watch you face down Fox and Wolf.

Wolf: Outsiders!

Zizi: Howls Wolf, her eyes now glowing bright yellow and her fur becoming streaked with indigo.

Wolf: You have brought ruin upon this land!

Zach: First off, we're not outsiders. We're from your guilds.

Scully: And secondly, this land was already turning into a desert before we arrived.

Lola Rabbit: And thirdly, the fact that we may seem strange and different to you shouldn't make our opinions any less valid.

Zizi: I'll let you each roll wonder to see if you can change the mind of Fox or Wolf. Who got the best roll.

Scully: I think I did at a 17!

Zizi: Unfortunately, Wolf rolled a natural 20. She is not ready to listen to reason. But you see Fox pause and scurry back under the canopy of a nearby kiosk to shelter from the uncomfortably hot rain.

Wolf: I'm not falling for any more of your tricks. You're clearly working with Fox and they've been nothing but trouble as long as I've known them!

Scully: Even when I roll well, things don't turn out the way I want.

Zizi: I know, Scullen. Sometimes the dice tell a story of their own.

Dice: That's right, Scullen. Have a little faith. This story isn't done being told just yet.

Scully: Oh, I know, Dice. I've got a plan.

Zach: All right, Scullen! You're an idea factory tonight.

Zizi: What do you do?

Scully: I start sobbing uncontrollably. [Record scratch.]

Lola Rabbit: Okay, it's good to share your feelings.

Scully: And I'm feeling cold as the sun and sad as a skeleton who's always had to struggle.

Zizi: The street has now turned into an icy river but the rain is so hot that you're going to take hurt if you don't take shelter. But swimming along this icy river, you all suddenly see a three-colored rainbow splash up and out of the sandy water. The color blue is brightest of all and Scullen, I'm going to reward you one heart for facing your feelings and drawing out the rainbow.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, blue! I should have seen it!

Zizi: Well, the wolf certainly has. And she's diving from one sheet of ice to the next as she makes her way toward the three-colored rainbow. What do you do?

Zach: Well, first thing's first, I want to use my fiery egg shield and protect all three of us from the hot rain and the icy river.

Zizi: A shield that big and strong is a little outside of your power zone.

Zach: What if I use a heart.

Zizi: Okay, then. The biggest egg shield you've ever made forms a sort of sideways oval catching you, Lowlandra, and Scullen's head so as long as you stay close to one another, you won't take any hurt from the weather.

Lola Rabbit: If I pick up Zach and Scullen, can I still bounce for the rainbow?

Zizi: You could do that, but if you're holding both of them, it's going to be harder to catch the rainbow.

Lola Rabbit: Okay, fine. I jump out of the egg shield and just go for it.

Zizi: Searing rain and icy water splash onto you as you bound from ice floe to ice floe. You're neck and neck with Wolf. Scullen do you want to do anything before she rolls.

Scully: Wolf chased the rest of my skeleton bones out of town earlier, right?

Zach: Wait, you're still just a head walking around on a hand?

Scully: Yep.

Lola Rabbit: Then what the bones happened to your body?

Scully: Can I sense my skeleton at all?

Zizi: It's out of sight but I'll let you roll for it.

Scully: That's a five. Can I use my heart to reroll.

Zizi: Of course.

Scully: Skeleton fingers crossed. Hoo... an 11?

Zizi: Just good enough. You do sense your bones very nearby in fact.

Scully: Then I want to try to call them towards me wherever they may be.

Wolf: Something's gone down the wrong pipe, I think, [Hurk].

Lola Rabbit: No, way! She ate your skeleton?

Zizi: Scullen is making this roll a lot harder for the wolf. Lowlandra, you reach the rainbow first. But jumps alone can't conquer the sadness radiating from it. It's a straight dare roll for you and a hard dare roll for the wolf.

Lola Rabbit: That's my third natural one of the game.

Zizi: Maybe the wolf will also roll a natural one? No, but she did roll a four. As you both tug on the color blue, it seems to stretch and pull and start to separate away from the rainbow. But instead of flowing into one of you it grows brittle and shatters like ice. The tiny blue shards fly off in every direction and everyone in the square suddenly feels deeply sad and lonely. You all take one hurt.

Zach: Whoa, does my shield protect me and Scullen?

Zizi: Roll learn to see if you can stay focused.

Zach: 13?

Zizi: You and Scullen are safe and it appears no one or everyone has gotten the color blue.

Wolf: You've doomed us all, little bunny. [Crying]

Zizi: Cries Wolf.

Fox: Oh, what good are my schemes if we are all trapped here forever?

Zizi: Joins in Fox.

Lola Rabbit: Lola starts crying, too. I always liked to make the best of everything, but I can't really see a silver lining here.

Zizi: It's the next round and none of you can see the rainbow anywhere. Lowlandra, if you don't get to safety, you're going to get hurt again this round.

Scully: What about me? If my skeleton bones are out there with Wolf?

Zizi: Oh, that's right. Your skeleton is finished climbing out of Wolf's mouth, looking quite chewed and slobbery. Fortunately, Wolf's too busy trying to find the rainbow, so you can try to move your body to safety, too.

Zach: If I just focus on the shield, can I make sure it stays up?

Zizi: Yes, Zachimedes. It'll hold up against the heat and the cold, but if anyone attacks the shield, you'll still have to roll to keep it up.

Zach: Okay, I'm gonna do that until Scully and Lowlandra—come on, you two! Get back here, quick!

Lola Rabbit: I want to try and scoop up Scullen's body and hop back the Zach's shield.

Zizi: This wide avenue at the center of town has turned into a raging river of hot, silty water with giant, treacherous ice floes freezing over left and right before being melted again by the hot rain. So it's gonna take a dare roll to get back to the shield safely.

Lola Rabbit: If I rely on my bunny hops going from ice floe to ice floe can I make it an easy roll?

Zizi: Very clever, Lowlandra. Yes.

Lola Rabbit: 19 + 4.

Zizi: With a total of 23, you effortlessly bound from ice floe to ice floe without so much as singing a paw. And you and Scullen are safe inside the shield.

Fox: Please let me in.

Zizi: You hear a muffled request from Fox, from right outside the bubble.

Zach: Fine, get in, quick!

Fox: This is worse than I could have imagined. No one is safe, now.

Zach: I can hold up this shield as long as Wolf doesn't attack us.

Zizi: But of course, you do see Wolf headed your way. Scullen, you're the only one who hasn't acted. What do you do?

Scully: Well, I want to finally join my head and hand back to my body and then I just want to soak up the warmth of this fire shield and take one, deep, calming breath, even though I'm a skeleton and I don't have lungs. [Deep breath.] I'm feeling safe, safe, safe, safe safe, and warm, like I'm sunbathing my bones on the deck of a ship.

Zizi: And with that, you see why Wolf is lunging towards you. A two-color rainbow with orange glowing bright has just leapt out of the water and swirls around your fire shield, swimming its way to Scullen.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, Scullen! Nice going!

Zizi: But before the rainbow can get all the way through the shield, Wolf leaps through the air, snapping at the color orange. She manages to hold on, but half the rainbow is still on your side. What do you do?

Zach: I've got to keep holding up this shield. That wolf's too dangerous!

Lola Rabbit: Hey, Zizi, does the wolf look like, hurt, at all?

Zizi: Now that she's up close and personal, you can see through the fire shield that she's been scalded by rain and her paws are red-raw from painful ice and snow.

Scully: And having a skeleton climb out her mouth couldn't have felt good.

Zizi: No, indeed. Wolf doesn't look like she can take much more punishment.

Scully: So if we just hold onto our piece of the rainbow, Wolf will be too hurt to hold on any longer.

Zach: I let her into the shield. [Record scratch.]

Scully: What?

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, we gotta do it, Scullen.

Scully: She literally ate me and she won't listen to reason!

Zizi: You're all so tightly packed inside the shield that you can hardly move or breathe.

Lola Rabbit: Eesh. Wet wolf probably doesn't smell much better than wet dog.

Zizi: Zach, you're going to have to roll learn, but I'm going to make it an easy roll for you this time.

Zach: I might need it. Ooh, I really needed it. Eight plus four is 12.

Zizi: You can feel your spell almost fail, but as the wolf enjoys the warmth of your shield and you all feel safe, even if just for a moment, the color orange swirls through your shield making it wider and stronger, and the color orange flows into you, Zachimedes, as you keep all of these people safe and warm. And your eyes start to glow a bright, flittering orange.

Wolf: Why'd you save me?

Zizi: Whimpers Wolf as she flops down to the bottom of your shield.

Zach: Well, you know, ignorance is no excuse for intolerance.

Wolf: What?

Lola Rabbit: But if we left you out there with that burning rain and icy sun before ever trying to understand you.

Scully: Oh, then we wouldn't have been much better.

Wolf: Fox has just played so many tricks on me. I don't know who I can trust anymore. I gave up trying to reason with you years ago. So that's what I became.

Lola Rabbit: Okay, we're a couple of kids. We can't teach you two to trust again after all these years of he-said, she-said. But look at your people out there.

Zizi: Fox and Wolf do look and they see their townsfolk, people from many different guilds, all huddled against the painfully hot rain and the dreadfully cold sun.

Scully: You're supposed to be their leaders, and it's not fair that a couple of kids have to save this world for you.

Zach: We've got one more color to catch, so one of you better start feeling really purple right away because I can't hold this shield much longer.

Fox: Well, purple is obviously the color of royalty, and seeing as I was born to lead the color purple should naturally flow towards me.

Wolf: How are you still so full of bologna. No one's born royal! You gotta struggle and work and then you become better than everybody else. Which is what I did! So that makes me the best and the most royal of them all.

Lola Rabbit: Hey, these two are really full of themselves. [Record scratch.] Do I have a seed in my pocket or something?

Zizi: You're a nature mage. Of course you do.

Lola Rabbit: Well, I see how Scullen's body is all beat up and chewed so I whisper to this little seed.

Zizi: What do you whisper to the seed?

Lola Rabbit: I say, there's no such thing as nobles. We are what we do. And I place it on one of their busted up ribs. Then I want to make the seed sprout out into a sprawling purple flower and vine that wraps up all the creaks and cracks in Scullen's bones.

Zizi: Oooh, roll Wonder and I'll make this an easy roll.

Lola Rabbit: 18! Yes!

Zizi: Scullen Bones, you've been through the ringer today, both physically and emotionally. And despite all your wonderful ideas, not a single color of the rainbow has flowed into you just yet.

Scully: Yeah, what gives?

Zizi: But these ropy green vines flow around your battered body and gorgeous purple flowers bloom from them. A single band of purple flows back into the shield. It has to pass by Fox and Wolf to get to Scullen, and you see it getting pulled in their direction. But they bickered rather than work together, and this tiny, shrinking wisp of rainbow slips away from their grasping paws and flows into you, Scullen, making your flowery vines feel even more verdant and full of life.

Wolf: Impossible! How can something I puked up five minutes ago be more noble than me?

Zizi: And with that, the sky goes dark and the rain suddenly stops. Zachimedes' shield is the only bright glow left in this tiny world and you can hear more than see the townsfolk barreling towards you, fear and hope bubbling up all at once.

Townspeople: Aah!
Get me out of here!
This is really bad!
How'd you do that?
I don't think we have much time!
Help us!
Aaah!

Zach: Wolf, I don't know how to make a portal but I think the best way is to put every pieces of this rainbow back together.

Fox: Wolf, I know you don't trust me, but I think we need to trust them right now.

Wolf: All right...

Zizi: Says Wolf, and she lets loose a howl.

Wolf: [Howls]

Zizi: Yellow and indigo billow out of her mouth in a frosty cloud as the air grows cold. The colors combine with your fire shield making it bigger and brighter, a yellow, orange, indigo bubble of magic. Dozens of townspeople can suddenly fit inside.

Lola Rabbit: I want to join hands with Scullen and Zach and anybody else that wants in. Then I want to let the red of the rainbow that I captured flow into those green vines that I made for Scullen.

Zizi: The vines grow taller towards the shield, stretching away from your bones, Scullen.

Scully: I shape my body into a ladder to help the vines climb.

Zach: And I crack my mossy green egg right over Scullen's head.

Scully: Ew.

Zizi: Goopy green, and glowing purple, and vibrant red reach toward the shield and it grows until everyone in the town can just barely fit inside. And with every towns person that passes through this ever-expanding shield, a little bit more blue shines around you as well.

Scully: Oh yeah, they've each been hit by a piece of the blue rainbow.

Zizi: I need you to each roll wonder, but you can take the best roll and add the best odds.

Lola Rabbit: Oh boy.

Zach: Uh-oh.

Scully: Eeh.

Zizi: Did anyone get better than a five?

Scully: No...

Zach: Nope.

Zizi: The rainbow shield starts swirling around you, funneling up and out like a cyclone. The people at the edges are gently lifted up and out of the Trumpet of Travel, but as it gets closer to you, the base of the cyclone starts to freeze and you all take one hurt from the suddenly unbearable cold.

Lola Rabbit: Oooh... can I make these vines wrap around us and try to protect us from the cold?

Zizi: I'll let you roll dare as you quickly try to shape the vines.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, no, that's a two plus three. I don't have any heart or anything.

Scully: Wait, wait wait. I have one heart. I want to let out every piece of my ship in the bottle and let the wood help shore up the vines and I want to use my heart, too, to make it as strong as possible.

Zizi: Okay, but your ship in the bottle would be trapped here, forever.

Scully: Well, yeah, better than us, though.

Zach: Good point.

Scully: Here goes nothing. A seven.

Zach: Oh no...

Scully: And a 17!

Lola Rabbit: Hoo... that was too close.

Zach: Oh, thank goodness.

Zizi: The vines around you start to freeze and crack but Scullen lets out his ship in the bottle, its wood growing and expanding until you and the last of the townsfolk are protected for a brief moment inside the biggest, most beautiful pirate ship you've ever seen before... it, too, starts to crack and splinter and break apart.

Scully: Thank you, ship in a bottle.

Zizi: As you're all finally freed from the Trumpet of Travel. And that is where we'll end our adventure.

[Falling harp scale.]

Scully: We did it!

Zach: Yeah!

Lola Rabbit: Oh, that was a rush, I'll tell you.

Zizi: Well, everyone. I hope you've enjoyed this four-part Guilds & Goblins adventure.

I'd like to thank Eric O'Keeffe and Karen O'Keeffe, our co-creators, Craig Martinson for our theme song, our always awesome helper, Miss Lynn, and all you kids at home who know we don't have to tolerate intolerance.

Until we adventure again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]