

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 232: What if it started raining elephants?](#)

File Length: 00:19:35

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 we're starting off with a question from a listener named Liam.

Liam: Hi, my name's Liam, I'm from Minnesota. I like Fred the Dog, J.F. Kat and Dracomax, and my what if question is what if it started raining elephants, but Abacus P. Grumbler tried every spell he could to make it stop. Thanks, bye!

Mr. Eric: Oh, you know I like a good magic story, Liam. Now, we have two more questions today. The first, I didn't quite make out your name, I think the audio got a little mixed up, but I thought I heard Amitai, and if I'm wrong, I sincerely apologize. Now, let's hear your great question.

Amitai: Hello, my name's Amitai, and I am nine years old. I live in Germany and I like [unclear] and my what if question is, what if everything that fell and hit the ground disappeared.

Mr. Eric: Thank you so much! This one's gonna get weird! And let's add on our last question from Wyatt.

Wyatt: My name is Wyatt. I like chickens and my what if question is what if everyone in What If World got onto a phone call.

Mr. Eric: Perfect. Although I don't know if we'll have absolutely everyone talking all at once, but I promise I'll throw in a few extra characters for you, Wyatt.

Now, let's find out what if it started raining elephants, what if everything that fell and hit the ground disappeared, and what if everyone in What If World got onto a phone call?

[Rising harp scale.]

Abacus: All right, is everyone here.

Zizi: Yes.

Fred the Dog: I think so.

Lola Rabbit: You know it, boss.

Mamma Jamma: I'm here.

Petey the Pirate: Present.

Cthunkle: And others, as well.

Abacus: Then it is time for us to start our first video phone class. Introduction to magic for all ages. Should we all go around the "room" and introduce ourselves?

Fred, if you're going to eat, I'd prefer that you mute your microphone.

Fred the Dog: Who says I'm eating your wand.

Abacus: You're not, Fred. I sent you a box full of fake wands so you'd stop eating mine. Now, why are you here.

Fred the Dog: Well, I guess it's to learn how to enchant a wand so I can eat it, because the magic ones make my extra long tongue tingle in such a special way.

Abacus: Wonderful. Mamma Jamma, would you mind going next?

Mamma Jamma: Oh, of course. My kids, Zach and Zizi are always showing off with their magic and almost blowing up our house and putting us in grave danger, and now of course there's elephants raining from the sky. So I figured I should learn magic in order to do something about that.

Abacus: Uh, yes, very good. A magical conundrum is already afoot.

Mamma Jamma: Uh-huh. Would you happen to know anything about that?

Abacus: Petey, I see your hand raised. No, you've got to unmute now. It's a button. It kind of looks like a picture of a microphone and you click on it.

Oh, you just turned the video off. It's next to the button that looks like a screen. No, stop pushing the screen with your finger, use the mouse pad on your—

Petey the Pirate: Foolish computer! I'll send ye to Davy Jones' locker!

Pixicato: We can hear you now, Petey the Pirate.

Petey the Pirate: Thanks, Pixicato. 'Tis I, Petey the Pirate, and I'm hair for my here. I'm hearing that magic can help people with hair... growth. Like, some of the bald pirates I've known over the years. Other than me, of course. And my full head of rich, brown... hair.

Lola Rabbit: The wig you're wearing today is red, Petey.

Petey the Pirate: Y'arr. Magic must have dyed my hair. That's why I'm hair in order to fix my here.

Lola Rabbit: Okay, yeah, sure. So, it's me, Lola Rabbit here. My friend Zach and Zizi, and Scully, and even Pixicato, they all know a little bit of magic but I don't know any so I figured, well, why not get started somewhere.

Pixicato: And I, Pixicato know much much much about magic, but my mother says that sometimes I try things I am not yet capable of and should reinforce my basics by taking this class with a very basic wizard.

Abacus: Ah yes, the basics, oh, are so important. I'm glad you see that, Pixicato.

Pixicato: Oh yes. I'm very eager to learn.

Cthunkle: And I, Cthunkle, am here to take over the, no, wait [Record scratch.] No, that's not it, anymore.

Mamma Jamma: Oh, I'm so glad you're trying not to be an ancient evil creature anymore.

Cthunkle: Yes, that's right. But my nephew says the Cthoffee I sell at my shop tastes like unspeakable nightmares and that that's a bad thing? Oh, kids these days.

Mamma Jamma: Don't get me started...

Cthunkle: So I thought with some magic, maybe I could add a nightmare-free latte to the menu.

Abacus: Oh, wonderful. You're all here to learn completely different things. But that's okay, because in this ten minute course we're going to cover—

Mamma Jamma: Ten minutes?

Abacus: I know, I didn't think the introductions would take so long.

Fred the Dog: Well, then we gotta get straight to the learning how to make wands magical.

Abacus: Well, I wasn't planning on us starting with wands today...

Pixicato: I bought my own wand to class, Abacus.

Abacus: Fabulous, Pixicato—

Lola Rabbit: No fair! If she gets to have a wand, we should all have wands.

Petey the Pirate: I'd like my wand to have once been wielded by a bigfoot.

Cthunkle: I'd like mine to be made from an ancient tree.

Petey the Pirate: Or a werewolf.

Cthunkle: Whose foul roots—

Petey the Pirate: Or a [unclear]...

Cthunkle: Reach into distance universes.

Petey the Pirate: And a real shaggy—

Mamma Jamma: I just need a wand I can fit in my purse.

Cthunkle: All the evil contained therein.

Fred the Dog: Oh, that sounds yummy.

Mamma Jamma: So my kids don't—

Fred the Dog: I'd take one of those.

Abacus: Right, okay, okay. Can we all just mute our microphones and talk one at a time.

Pixicato: I would just like to point out that I did mute my microphone and have been waiting patiently for this class to start.

Abacus: Oh, if only all my students were like you, Pixicato... I wouldn't even need to teach this class.

Pixicato: I agree.

Abacus: Well, if you all check your mail, you will find a thin tube within which your beginner's wand is contained.

Fred the Dog: Mr. Abacus? Somebody ate my tube.

Abacus: [Groans]

Mamma Jamma: All right, I've got my wand. Now, how do I make these elephants disappear?

Abacus: That's not exactly basic magic, it'll take some time to learn—

Cthunkle: But we have been stuck inside for ages in fear of these elephants raining down upon us. You have no idea what it is like to feel so powerless.

Lola Rabbit: Oh, come on, Cthunkle. You're a giant squid-o-pus. Try being a little Lola Rabbit for a day, then see how you like it.

Petey the Pirate: Y'arr, maybe if we'd give the elephants a lot of furry, wooly hair, then they'll be more cuddly when they crush us.

Abacus: Listen, I'm not happy about the elephants, either. I've been having to teach all my classes over video calls, and believe it or not, it's not the best teaching environment.

Fred the Dog: So, I be getting a new tube, some time soon?

Pixicato: Well, Abacus, my family is not bothered by the elephants and I am ready to learn whatever you are able to teach us.

Abacus: Yes, Pixicato, but your mother is the president and you live in a cloud in the sky above where the elephants are raining from. Plus, both of your parents are very magical creatures.

Pixicato: Exactly. So just teach us all to be more magical, and then we can deal with the elephants ourselves.

Abacus: You are right, Pixicato, and that is what I wish to do. But first, you must understand that it is okay to feel trapped by these elephants.

Petey the Pirate: Y'arr, me pirate rocket ship is covered in them. Can't even take off anymore.

Abacus: And how does that make you feel, Petey?

Petey the Pirate: Y'arr... balding? No, bald. No, fully headed with hair.

Abacus: There's no right or wrong answer here, Petey. Elephants are raining all over What If World. Things are getting canceled and rescheduled. You may wish to leave your house but you always have to be careful of the elephants. How does it make you feel?

Mamma Jamma: Excuse me, Abacus, but what do feelings have to do with magic?

Abacus: An astute question, Mamma Jamma. See, magic most often fails in this world due to a lack of understanding. Our feelings are all jumbled up. We cannot hope to face the problems out there.

Lola Rabbit: Well, I gotta tell you, Abacus, I like bouncing around with my friends. I like playing outside. I like doing and trying and seeing new things. And I feel like I can't do any of that because of these elephants. That's why I wanted to learn some magic today! So I could have some fun.

Abacus: Yes. Yes, Lola. Now, take your wand.

Lola Rabbit: Seriously?

Abacus: Well, expressing your emotions, feeling your feelings, you're ready to start the work of dispelling these elephants.

Cthunkle: Dispel the elephants.

Abacus: Exactly.

Cthunkle: So the elephants are only in our head? We've been free all along. I can finally leave my cafe.

Abacus: Oh, no, that's not exactly what I meant.

[Tinkle of cafe door opening, following by a loud elephant trumpet and a splat.]

Cthunkle: Ah, yes, I'm only being metaphorically squished by this elephant, which represents my unresolved emotions.

Abacus: No, no, you're being actually smooshed.

Mamma Jamma: Oh, because his feelings are real. They weigh on him like an elephant because he hasn't acknowledged them, yet.

Abacus: Don't get me wrong. Acknowledging feelings is important but he really has an elephant on hi-

Cthunkle: Elephant, I've been feeling sad and stuck. I distract myself with unhealthy activities and choices. It is time to feel my sadness.

Elephant: [Sad trumpeting.]

Cthunkle: Only then can I begin the work of building myself up with joyous activities and new challenges.

Pixicato: Huh. It appears as if the elephant is getting off of him.

Fred the Dog: Abacus, you did it!

Abacus: No, no, the elephant just went into his cafe and is eating all the salad.

Petey the Pirate: I understand! We all just need to get crushed by our elephants.

Abacus: No no no no no!
[Elephant trumpeting and a thud]

Petey the Pirate: I think it's working...

Abacus: It's not! It's not that simple.

Mamma Jamma: Oh, right, because Petey didn't have a salad out for the elephant.

Cthunkle: Yes. The salad must be a metaphor for making healthy choices.

Abacus: No, they're just giant herbivores. They can eat up to 400 pounds of vegetation a day.

Lola Rabbit: Of course, Abacus. We need to make lots of healthy choices in order to achieve optimal magical fortitude.

Abacus: But that's only part of it. An elephant landing on you will still hurt.

Petey the Pirate: Maybe not if we make it hairy. You can just teach me that spell really quick.

Abacus: No. What you all need to do is visualize your elephant and see it as the many tiny elephants that in fact make it up.

Fred the Dog: That sounds like a lot of big words and a lot of work.

Abacus: Precisely.

Lola Rabbit: Okay, so we need something that's going to work faster, I get it, Abacus.

Abacus: Actually, that's, no...

Mamma Jamma: So what if we cast a spell that makes everything that falls on the ground disappear.

Abacus: That would just be a quick fix, Mamma Jamma!

Mamma Jamma: Hooray, quick fix!

All: Quick fix! Quick fix! Quick fix!

Abacus: Oh, how I love a good chant. Ala-quick-fiiix!

[Magical noises]

Pixicato: It appears all the elephants are disappearing the moment they hit the ground.

Fred the Dog: So as long as we don't get hit by elephants...

Mamma Jamma: Or trampled by the many elephants already roaming the streets.

Cthunkle: Then we shall be totally fine.

Abacus: But you see, our wands cannot deal with a whole elephant at once. You must split the elephant into its many tiny parts, just how you sort your emotions one at a time and let them fly away, still seen, still felt, but no longer a danger.

Pixicato: My mother just conjured me an umbrelephant for when I go outside. The elephants bounce right off of them, and now they'll simply hit the ground and disappear.

Fred the Dog: Oh yeah, umbrelephant. What a great idea, Pixicato.

All: Umbrelephant, umbrelephant, umbrelephant.

Abacus: Fine. You each want an umbrella that can deflect a 15,000 pound creature falling from the sky! Alli relevant, make them an umbrelephant!

Fred the Dog: Hooray, our problems are solved.

Mamma Jamma: You've done it again, Abacus.

Abacus: Oh, have I? What happens on the day you forget your umbrelephant, or drop it and it disappears? Or maybe you trip and fall and you disappear?

Cthunkle: Ah, yes. You've constructed an ingenious magical puzzle.

Abacus: Not a puzzle.

Lola Rabbit: Oh yeah, of course it isn't a puzzle, Abacus. This must be part of the test.

Abacus: It's not a test.

Petey the Pirate: I know, we just need to tie a disappearing proof rope to ourselves every time we leave the house.

Fred the Dog: It'd have to be a pretty long rope.

Pixicato: And we would need an extra rope for our umbrelephants.

Mamma Jamma: Okay, Abacus, we solved the new riddle.

Abacus: Not a riddle.

Mamma Jamma: If we want to go outside, we just need an umbrelephant plus two infinitely stretching, disappearing-proof ropes.

Cthunkle: And also a healthy salad to distract any nearby elephants.

Fred the Dog: It's all so simple.

Abacus: It really isn't.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, he's right. All those ropes will eventually get tangled together.

Cthunkle: Yes, we'd need some kind of creature, then, to assist with the ropes.

Fred the Dog: Oh, they'd have to have really good memories so they wouldn't get the ropes mixed up.

Pixicato: And be really large so they can see all of the tangles.

Lola Rabbit: And strong and heavy to hold the ropes up or down so others could get by them.

Abacus: Oh, good gracious.

Cthunkle: What if they had some kind of long appendage that could be used for gripping and untying the knots.

Petey the Pirate: Y'arr, like a trunk.

Cthunkle: Exactly.

Abacus: Oh, no.

Mamma Jamma: And there'd need to be a lot of them, like one or two for every person in the world.

Lola Rabbit: Are you kidding? They'd have to practically raining from the sky or something.

Fred the Dog: I know what we need.

Abacus: Please don't do this.

Fred the Dog: Elephants! The answer was in front of us all along.

Abacus: Well, I've failed miserably. I'm going to need a minute to deal with these big feelings. I'll be right back.

Mamma Jamma: He must be so impressed with us.

Pixicato: But there was that failed miserably comment. Could that be part of the wizard puzzle test riddle.

Cthunkle: It must be. You know how wizards always keep you guessing.

Lola Rabbit: Hang on a second. He muted himself but forgot to turn off his camera.

Mamma Jamma: Is he crying?

Petey the Pirate: Well, he was. Now he's yelling.

Pixicato: What is he saying? Maybe it's part of the mystery.

Fred the Dog: Uh oh. Those don't look like words I'm allowed to say.

Cthunkle: He is tugging upon his beard. Looks painful.

Mamma Jamma: Well, that's not a healthy way of dealing with your anger.

Lola Rabbit: Yes, he must have let a lot of frustration build up inside of him rather than dealing with his emotions honestly as they came.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, I heard about that somewhere. You know what he should have done? He should have imagined his feelings as a giant elephant.

Petey the Pirate: Y'arr, but made up of many tiny elephants that are easier to manage individually.

Lola Rabbit: Yeah, that sounds like a really good idea.

Cthunkle: We should teach it to him when he comes back.

Abacus: Okay, I'm back. I just had a little tickle in my throat and eyes that I had to deal with.

Mamma Jamma: You did it, Abacus!

Fred the Dog: You truly are a wizard of wizards!

Abacus: I'm sorry?

Pixicato: Your very public emotional meltdown helped us to see that we weren't dealing with our own emotions.

Mamma Jamma: That's what you were trying to teach us all along!

Abacus: It is? Yes, yes, it is. I think this has been the most successful class I've ever-

Randall Radbot: Boop boop hello, Randall Radbot here. Did I miss anything?

Cackula: Someone wouldn't admit us from the waiting room.

Abacus: Oh yes, I just clicked those buttons. How many more people are in the waiting room?

Fair Elise: Ready to learn, Abacus.

Recap: I told you my Papa Abacus wouldn't leave me in the waiting room.

Abacus: Oh...

Zach: Can you show us how to not get crushed by these elephants.

Abacus: No problem.

Mr. Eric: The end.

JF Kitty: Personally, I hope it involves a lot of napping.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Wyatt, Liam, Amitai and all you kids at home, I hope you enjoyed your story.

Dracomax: It is I, Dracomax, here to shout out Annie E, age nine, from Lancaster, England. Her favorite character is me because I get stuck in all the places. Annie also loves her cat Thistle, writing music, and doodling, as well as her best friends, Anna and Holly.

JF Kitty: Purr, I've got a meow out for Grayson, age seven, who writes: I have one sister and her name is Lailani. I go by he and my sister goes by she. Thank you for letting me know, Grayson.

Cleocatra: Cleocatra here to shout out Asher G, who is ten years old and her favorite thing is rainbows and her pet cat, Sweetie.

Abacus: And I'd like to shout out Otto, age eight, and Leaf, age five. Otto does an amazing J.F. Kat impression, probably aided by the Aussie half of his accent.

JF Kitty: Leaf's favorite characters are the same as Otto's because big brothers know everything. I'm not a big brother which is why I didn't know that.

Robot Llama: Finally there is April S. from Heidelberg, Australia. Her hobbies include hockey and listening to podcasts. She enjoys playing with her half-brother Gussy and her favorite episode is What if What If World wasn't real? I'm robot llama!

Mr. Eric: I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, my associate producer Miss Lynn, and all you kids at home who try to sort out all your big feelings. That's a skill that we grown-ups still need to practice every day.

And until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]