

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 272: What if grown ups wore diapers and kids wore underwear?](#)

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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'm really delighted to be joined for the third time by basically our most regular guest, I think, at this point. Unless you count Miss Karen, and that is Mick Sullivan.
- Mick Sullivan: Yes, three times. And I'm glad to be considered a regular. It's so great to be here.
- Mr. Eric: And Mick, your show is one of my favorites, *The Past and The Curious*, a history podcast for kids. You've got some big news, right now, too, though, right?
- Mick Sullivan: Yeah, I just released a book. It's the second book that I've released and it is ... it's so much fun. It's called *I See Lincoln's Underpants: The Surprising Times Underwear And The People Wearing Them Made History*. People who've listen to my show might have listened to a few episodes of something that I call the Underwear Chronicles. And so that's an adaptation of this book, but there's a lot more stuff in this book, and it's just... there's amazing stories of notable people, people that you should know about, and their underwear. It's not all about their underwear, but every story somehow involves their underwear.
- Mr. Eric: Yeah, and often in surprising ways. Like, you will never guess how Al Capone's underwear plays into his ultimate fate. Suki Anderson does these great illustrations, adds so much life and character to the book.
- Mick Sullivan: Yes, yes. And the sweet spot, I think fourth grade, fifth grade, up. But I know a lot of parents who are reading it with their younger kids right now. So it's perfect for that, too.

Mr. Eric: And I found a question, a what if question that is... it was really the only underwear themed what if question I could find, but I'm pretty excited about it.

Mick Sullivan: Okay, that's good.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, let's listen to Peter's question, here.

Peter: My name is Peter and one of my favorite things is playing with my friends and my what if question is what if grown ups wore diapers and kids wore underwear? Thanks, bye!

Mick Sullivan: Whoa.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, do you feel a little strange right now, or is it just me?

Mick Sullivan: Oh, uh, weird. Do you have any diaper cream?

Mr. Eric: You know, I do. I do. I'll mail you some. Yeah, I'm in a diaper now, and we have Peter to thank for that. Yeah, and so... I...

Mick Sullivan: Peter...

Mr. Eric: Kids out there. If you were in diapers and you are suddenly in underwear congratula—oh. No, I just remembered, I had to bring Rory to daycare so we could record together and he is definitely still in diapers. He's not even two yet, so, yeah, I'm sorry, I gotta run and call them and make sure that they can, you know, uh, handle this new underwear. I'm not sure if he's ready for that freedom yet.

Mick Sullivan: Okay.

Mr. Eric: So, ooh, Mick. While I'm gone, here's uh, I'm just gonna text you the what if question, here.

Mick Sullivan: Okay, will you ask Rory if he has an extra pair of underwear that I could borrow maybe while you're calling him.

Mr. Eric: I'll mail you some diaper cream and some underwear. I'll overnight it to you. In the mean time, just go ahead and host the show. Read the next what if question. You've... I mean, you're familiar. You can handle this. I'll see you.

Mick Sullivan: Okay, all right. Uh. Okay, so in the driver's seat, me. Okay. All right. Well, I guess Samuel, I see, yes, Samuel W. has got a question. He said what if the time vortex called What If World to become Cthunkleland. Okay,

well, I'm not really sure what the time vortex is but I don't like the sound of it, really. I don't like being here alone with it.

Kragon: No, no. Don't you worry about the time vortex. What If World is fully inhabited and uh, very safe in fact. Um. It's me, the Kragon. Yeah, introduced recently. So yeah, we haven't met before since you're you know, a recurring guest and I'm kind of a new character here. But I built Cthunkleland, I'm very proud of it. Very, very popular. You should come see it.

Mick Sullivan: Uh... I'm kind of nervous about this. One, I'm in diapers so that makes me, you know, I'm a little self conscious about that right now.

Kragon: You might need them. That could actually end up being a good thing, depending on how some of these rides turn out for you, so um...

Mick Sullivan: Oh, okay. Well, I'm waiting on some diaper cream, but I guess maybe I can get a delivery?

Kragon: That sounds like you're ready to come. Okay, let's go.

Mick Sullivan: Okay, let's go. Eaugh! Yeehoo!

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Hey, Mick, yeah, so everything's okay. They're just... and I got some of Rory's underwear. I hope you're a size 2T... Mick? Oh. Oh, no. Uh. Mick are you in What If World by any chance?

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, I think so. Um. Uh, does Cthunkleland ring any bells to you?

Mr. Eric: Um... no... oh, was that the what if question, though?

Mick Sullivan: Oh yeah, you missed that. Um. Yeah, yeah, so I am in Cthunkleland, which is a cephalopod-themed amusement park and I am standing here in a diaper and um... it's uh... it's really something.

Kragon: Yes, welcome to Cthunkleland, the most maniacal place on earth.

Mick Sullivan: Maniacal?

Kragon: Yeah, I mean there's a small chance that you might be driven mad by the things that you witness. Your mind might not be able to handle them.

Mick Sullivan: Oh, I see.

Kragon: And anyway, you're wearing a diaper-

Mick Sullivan: I'm glad I have the diaper. Yeah, I get it, now. That's good.

Kragon: Now that you're saying it, I feel like it is. It's just too heady of a theme. Maybe that's why nobody's here. I mean, it should be more fun.

Mick Sullivan: It seems really empty. Where is everybody at this amusement park? I... has anyone tested these rides before?

Kragon: I've been on all of them. Of course, I'm an interdimensional being of massive power so now it's really good that you get to try it out, see how you feel about it.

Mick Sullivan: Okay...

Mr. Eric: Mick, I'm gonna. All I can really do right now is help narrate from out here in What Is World. You're just gonna ride this one out.

Mick Sullivan: Okay.

Kragon: Our first ride is the ferris whale.

Mick Sullivan: The ferris wheel?

Kragon: The ferris whale.

Mick Sullivan: Like the sea mammal?

Whale: [Makes whale noises] It's meeee!

Mick Sullivan: Well, what do you know? There's a whale here. It's a familiar creature. At least I've seen a whale before.

Whale: All you got to do is you just sit on my tail here and I rotate around vertically a la a ferris whale, but wheel, you know, whale.

Mick Sullivan: I can do that.

Whale: Yeah, I thought you might enjoy that. So hop on. It'll be a fun ride.

Mick Sullivan: Just... just go slow. I don't... I'm not really a big fan of heights, either. So... just take it easy.

Whale: I'll go extra slow for the first rotation.

Mick Sullivan: Well, this is a nice view. I do like, I like the landscape here.

Mr. Eric: And as Mick was being slowly, gently rotated and viewing the beauty of Cthunkleland... well, the weird, slimy, tentacled beauty of this cephalopod theme amusement park... the whale's t—I'm so sorry, I just have to tell you what I'm seeing, Mick. But the whale's tail... is kind of about to launch you so I would say hold on tight, but there's really nothing to hold onto!

Mick Sullivan: Like a? What's happening?

Whale: Whee!

Mick Sullivan: Aaaaaaah!

Mr. Eric: Oh, okay, he's fine. He's fine, everyone. He's traveling through a shoal of giant squid that's kind of like the name for a group of squid, yeah, but they're all very slimy and soft, and okay, okay, he's making... he's almost through the the other side and...

Mick Sullivan: Ooh, that smells awful.

Whale: I'll catch you. [CHOMP]

Mick Sullivan: Who turned out the lights?

Mr. Eric: Ferris the whale caught you inside their mouth, there, so... um...

Mick Sullivan: Smells... Whale breath is not a good smell.

Whale: I'll get you out of here in no time.

Mick Sullivan: Whoa!

Mr. Eric: Okay, and he's blasted up through the blow hole, I didn't even know a human could fit through one of those and oh, there is a shoal of even bigger, angrier colossal squid.

Mick Sullivan: I'll come back with a breath mint for you, whale.

Mr. Eric: Okay, you've gently landed back on the land and you're only just covered in a very light layer of slime.

Kragon: What do you think?

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, this is pretty gross. But that was okay.

Kragon: Okay, okay, all right.

Mick Sullivan: I would like to check on that diaper cream? Has any shown up yet?

Kragon: Oh, I can reach through dimensions, don't worry about that. There you go. I'll give you some privacy. You can just step into the funderwear house.

Mick Sullivan: This isn't diaper cream, this is just more squid slime.

Kragon: It's actually the finest form of diaper cream. I was doing you a favor.

Mick Sullivan: Oh.

Kragon: You know how like sometimes you put things on your wishlist and then people think they can buy you the better version of that thing and you're always really appreciative of it?

Mick Sullivan: Always, yes. Of course. Um. Well, I'll give it a shot. And if it works I'll pass it on to someone else who needs it. Maybe Mr. Eric will need it by then. Okay, so. The funderwear... this looks like a cool place, the funderwear house. So I'm just going to head into the funderwear house and put on this squid grease diaper cream.

Mr. Eric: Oh, it's a creaky old house full of mirrors and smoke. But you can see just through it enough. Okay, and actually a little less smoke so that you can see yourself in these mirrors wearing all different kinds of underwear. Ooh, it's like a history of underwear in mirror form, cool.

Mick Sullivan: Oh, I get it now. It's like a funhouse, but with underwear.

Kragon: Funderwear house.

Mick Sullivan: All of these... I'm looking around. All of these are better than my diaper, frankly. Oh, look, there's a pair of boxers. Those are comfy. I'm used to them. There's uh...

Kragon: Oh, Elizabeth I's silk stockings, those look pretty nice.

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, those were cool. They were expensive, and silk is a fragile material. You know, here's the one I don't like, though. I'm looking at it right now. It's a hair shirt. So it's actually a shirt and pants made out of goat hair. Which was real. People wore those and I bet that they could have used some of this squid grease diaper cream. I wish could pass that to myself-

Kragon: Oh, I should probably warn you that there's a small, 99 to 99.5% chance that they will come alive and try to catch you and put you in a mirror and

make you wear their weird underwear so they can wear your more comfortable underwear.

Mick Sullivan: The diaper that I'm wearing right now? I might trade. I would trade for just about any of that except for the hair shirt.

Kragon: Yeah, okay. I can see that the Mick in the hair shirt was about to grab your underwear but now seems to be thinking of it again. Because that diaperwear looks like it's seen better days. I mean, you've been underwater this whole time.

Mick Sullivan: I've been through a whale.

Kragon: Okay, okay, okay, fine. I thought it might be fun for you to get chased by underwear wearing version of yourself, but this ride's a bust, too.

Mick Sullivan: It's cool. Like, the name is fun. It's right there in the name, the funderwear house. It's a great idea. You're right, you're right, you're right. I should have more of an open mind for this.

Kragon: It's so hard to come up with original ideas. I mean, every kind of amusement park's already been made. I was just trying to do something different, I don't know.

Mick Sullivan: Look, I didn't know what to expect. Now that I've seen it and now that I understand it—

Kragon: You love it?

Mick Sullivan: I can find a way to appreciate it.

Kragon: Oh, great, well, then, that's why I saved the best for last. It is the roller coaster themed after my idol, Cthunkle. And on this coaster you're going to be riding along his many tentacled body in a very tiny cart and you know what, we could just make it shaped like your favorite pair of underwear throughout history if you want, because I can do anything pretty much.

Mick Sullivan: Oh, you have that power?

Kragon: Yeah.

Mick Sullivan: Like, you can just imagine it. You can will it into being?

Kragon: Well, in my theme park, yes. Not throughout all of What If World but everyone in What If World seems to still be gone. I thought maybe if I

made this awesome theme park, they would come back. Yeah, trying to work out the kinks.

Mick Sullivan: So it's like the StayPuft marshmallow man. Whatever I want to carry me around on this roller coaster can happen. Okay. You ever seen, like Catherine the Great. She was the monarch of Russia. She had these things called panniers and they were like birdcage baskets that went foot and a half out from her waist. It made her dress gigantic.

Kragon: That sounds glamorous.

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, super glamorous, and also you could carry so much stuff in it. So, you know, I could bring the diaper cream with me and then still have hands-free operation. Maybe we could have a change of clothes. Maybe you could conjure me up a change of clothes?

Kragon: Oh yeah, no. Here. [Squelching] Here you go.

Mick Sullivan: Thanks. That's just another diaper.

Kragon: Yeah, I cleaned it off with a nice thick layer of squid slime.

Mick Sullivan: All right, I assume because of the smell that it was not clean.

Kragon: Upworlders have trouble understanding how many uses squid slime in fact has in our world. All right so your roller coaster is a pannier? is that what it's called.

Mick Sullivan: It's called a pannier, yeah. A pannier.

Kragon: Yeah, it's like a giant wire basket but you're inside of it.

Mick Sullivan: Yes. Yes yes yes.

Kragon: Yeah, no, I'll just hit the button here.

Mick Sullivan: Oooh, this is exciting.

Mr. Eric: Oh, Mick, that's... you know that part where the roller coaster slowly ticks up the hill?

Mick Sullivan: Anticipation is building. Nothing can go wrong. If it does, I have a diaper on, so you know.

[Sound of machinery powering down.]

Kragon: Sorry, just gotta hit it. Probably won't fall. Okay, there it goes.



Mick Sullivan: Aaaaah! Oh my gosh, I'm going so fast I don't know what's happening.

Mr. Eric: Oh, you are approaching, exceeding the speed of light. Whoa, you can probably see through time right now.

Mick Sullivan: I can. I can see everything. I can see everything that's ever been. This is insane. I don't know what's happening.

Mr. Eric: Okay, now I understand the maniacal thing.

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, I get it now, too.

Mr. Eric: Focus on the slimy diapers, something to keep you grounded in reality.

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, diapers. Okay. Ugh, oh my gosh. I shouldn't be able to see Abraham Lincoln right now, and I definitely shouldn't be able to see Abraham Lincoln's underwear right now. Um, but I see both of those things. Am I losing my mind? Like, this is... this is bananas.

Roller Cthoster: Now, I, the roller cthoster, will eat you.

Mick Sullivan: Aah!

Mr. Eric: I'm so sorry. I should have assumed that any Cthunkle-themed ride would end that way.

Mick Sullivan: Ugh. How many times am I gonna get eaten today?

Kragon: You're right. You're right. It's so unoriginal. It's just when Cthunkle did, he was always eating people, so I thought my ride should eat people.

Mick Sullivan: I mean, I've never been eaten before, so it's not... that was definitely original.

Kragon: Yeah, then you get inked out of the ride's ink gland. I thought that would be fun.

Mick Sullivan: Does this stain?

Kragon: Yeah, it's pretty permanent, but it's, you know, it's kind of like you'll have a really cool full body tattoo everywhere except on your diaper.

Mick Sullivan: Would that squid cream get it off, do you think? You said it had a lot of uses.

Kragon: You're right. I should have thought of that. Here you go.

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, that's working. Okay, okay, all right. I'll take some back and I'll bathe in it.

Kragon: It seems like at the end of the day, you were a little disappointed. You're just this big shot publishing books and making dreams come true and I just wanted a little taste of something like that. It's really hard.

Mick Sullivan: Don't be so hard on yourself. You don't understand. Like, it is so difficult to create something original. You're not gonna reinvent the world. But what you can do, and what I think you have done, is that you've taken something that you liked and you've made it your own. You created the funderwear house.

Kragon: Yeah.

Mick Sullivan: All of this is absolutely amazing. It's unusual. It's weird. It might not be everybody's cup of tea, but, you did it. And it's yours.

Kragon: Wow. That's a really healthy perspective.

Mick Sullivan: Oh, well...

Kragon: Thank you. Well, I'll give you one free ticket on the scary-go-round, where you could just. You just get to pick your favorite monster and you'll just go round and round and round on it, and then I'll spray you with more of my magical ink and you can just imagine it taking you to any place in the world.

Mick Sullivan: Uh, you know, I think... if you've got a sasquatch on the scary-go-round, always a big sasquatch fan.

Sasquatch: [Sounds kind of like Chewbacca.]

Mick Sullivan: Oh, it's alive. I thought it would just be like a merry-go-round. Okay, here we go.

Mr. Eric: Oh, and the sasquatch gave Mick a big warm hug as they spun and spun and spun around and then... the Kragon's magical ink squirted out, changing color and shape and forming wherever it was that Mick wanted to go.

Mick Sullivan: I'm gonna click my heels together. There's no place like... the zoo!

Sasquatch: Zoooooo.

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, all right. This is more my speed.

Mr. Eric: I hope you don't get confused with one of the animals, because you still are kind of covered in squid ink and slime...

Mick Sullivan: I might go to the aquarium real quick.

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

All right! We did it.

Mick Sullivan: We did it!

Mr. Eric: This is a few... we had to wait to record the ending until Mick could get home and back into normal clothes.

Mick Sullivan: That was quite a smell, oh ho! Yeah.

Mr. Eric: It shouldn't be possible, but from several thousand miles away, I could also smell you, and...

Mick Sullivan: It's weird, and... oh, and have you checked, Eric? You still wearing a diaper?

Mr. Eric: I'll change it out later. I didn't really want to leave while we were recording. It's not like it's my new favorite thing, or anything.

Mick Sullivan: I don't know. I might make the jump. I might just switch over.

Mr. Eric: Yeah, and hopefully Rory's doing okay in his underwear. Well, Mick, thank you, so so so much for coming on the show.

Mick Sullivan: Thanks for having me.

Mr. Eric: It's always such a weird, fun time with you. And really, *I See Lincoln's Underpants*, every story is so entertaining and you're learning history through the lens of—

Mick Sullivan: It's true.

Mr. Eric: This weird specific...

Mick Sullivan: It's true. That was the idea. Like, you know, you'll walk away. You'll know everything about Garrett Morgan, who's like one of my favorite people in history of the world, and Buster Keaton, and Annette Kellerman, and just really fascinating people. And you learn about them. And you learn

about their underwear. Their underwear is not the star of the show, they are. But... it's still in there, you know?

Mr. Eric: And truly often in surprising ways. You're kind of like, when's it gonna get to the underwear, and then it does and it's always really satisfying.

Mick Sullivan: Yeah, totally. That was the goal.

Mr. Eric: Mick, is there any... do you have anybody you want to shout out today, or anything like that?

Mick Sullivan: Well, I'm sure my kids will listen to this, so they'll get a kick out of it if I say hello to Owen and Ben because I'm sure we'll be listening in on the car sometime soon. So, hi, guys.

Mr. Eric: Hey Owen, hey Ben!

Mick Sullivan: Mr. Eric says hi. Your dad is not wearing a diaper in real life.

Mr. Eric: [Laughs] Well, that we can tell. Um. All right, Mick. We'll see you next time. Thanks for coming on.

Mick Sullivan: Thanks Mr. Eric!

JF Kitty: J.F. Kat here to meow out Joshua, age nine. His favorite character is me and he loves his dog, Bella, a lot.

Pikasnu: Pikasnuu. Pika pika.

Mr. Eric: Quick translation: that's a shout out for Zeke, age eight, from Mount Rainier, Maryland. His favorite character is Pikasnu because it came from a Pokemon question. And Zeke likes soccer, Pokemon, video games, animals and science.

Pixicato: Pixicato here to shout out Kit. She is nine years old and loves cats and all animals. Her favorite character is me because I am a fairy with magic. Kit has two big brothers, Trott and Boone, who are also fans of the show.

JF Kitty: Then there's Annalise Alderot, age eight. She has a big sister who is nineteen, named Cadisia. Her favorite character is me, J.F. Kat.

Fred the Dog: And me, Fred the Dog! Because my tongue's too long for my mouth. Annalise says, "I like What If World because all of the characters are super funny." And Annalise likes community theater, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, and playing with friends and family.

Then I have one final shout out for Ivy, age nine, who loves me, Fred, the best. She also has an older brother named Gray. Hi, Gray!

Mr. Eric:

And I'd like to thank my new friends at Airwave Media who are helping me to keep this show going. If you haven't checked out Good Job, Brain, yet, it is my favorite trivia show, one of my favorite podcasts of all time. So I'm really honored to share a network with them.

I'd also like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, my producer, Miss Lynn, and all you kids at home who know that originality is about putting your specific brand of passion and awesomeness into anything you do.

And until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]