

Podcast: What If World

Episode: 005: What if things were floating in outer space?

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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 we have a brand new question, which means we're going to get a brand new story. It's like What If World keeps getting bigger and bigger every week. Thank you all, for your continued questions.

Today's question comes from a very special little girl named Della. Let's listen up.

Della: My name is Della and I like fairies and my question is: What if things were floating in outer space?

Mr. Eric: Wow, Della. Thank you so much for your question. Thank you for calling! I know you said it a little fast at the end. You were just clearly very excited, and I love that excitement. Your dad gave us a little bit of help, and folks at home if you didn't hear it, she said: What if things were floating in outer space?

Wow. Della, I gotta tell you, that's a question that keeps me up at night. Wait, I thought there already were things floating in outer space like stars and planets and moons and asteroids.

Fair Elise: Oh, Mr. Eric, I don't think she was referring to any of those things.

Mr. Eric: Well, then what kind of things were she—

Fair Elise: All sorts of other things floating in outer space. Like things that wouldn't normally be floating there.

Mr. Eric: Ooh. Oh, wait, I'm sorry, I haven't introduced you.

Fair Elise: I am Fair Elise. I have come to say hello to Mr. Eric for being a good little boy, and—

Mr. Eric: Um, Fair Elise, I'm not a little boy. I'm actually a grown up.

Fair Elise: You're rather short for a grown up, Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: Oh, well, I guess I'm a little below average height.

Fair Elise: And your voice is rather high for a grown up's is it not?

Mr. Eric: My voice isn't that high—my voice. AHEM [Faking a lower voice] My voice is not that high, Fair Elise. I'm just, I'm just, you know, I had a little cold this week, so sometimes it squeaks a little.

Fair Elise: Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that, Mr. Eric. Well, I hope you're feeling better. I hope when you listen to this story, you feel better.

Mr. Eric: Oh, Fair Elise, that is really nice of you. Hey, I've always wondered, are you named after Beethoven's bagatelle?

Fair Elise: Excuse me? Whose what?

Mr. Eric: Beethoven, he's a composer, and a bagatelle is like a short song.

Fair Elise: Oh, no. Mr. Eric. You're not that short, you've already said so.

Mr. Eric: No, I mean the song's short. It's, um, [sings the first few bars of Für Elise]. It's a very popular song.

Fair Elise: Well, I do love music. Maybe that's where I got my name. Maybe I'm just named it because it sounds like fairies.

Mr. Eric: Oh, I don't know. I guess I haven't really thought about that. Hey, do you want to help me tell Della's story today, since she likes fairies?

Fair Elise: Well, Mr. Eric, what a great idea. Why don't we get started.

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: One evening, Fair Elise was throwing a party with all the other fairies. [Sings dance music] [Dance music starts playing in the background]

Dap a doob a doop doop doop. They were dancing around at night outside in her backyard. They had lights and lamps all set up with fairy fire and fairy dust floating through the sky. It was a really beautiful party and everyone was having such a good time.

And at the end of the party, like at the end of most parties, there was a lot of trash around. You know, old rolled up flower wrappers

and little broken off pieces of tiaras, and glitter off of magic wands, and the cores of various fruits and vegetables. You know, that sort of thing.

And all these fairies had had such fun partying late into the night that they didn't really have the energy to clean up after themselves.

Fair Elise: Oh, don't worry friends, fairies, wizards, pirates, and all. It's so good to just have you. You can just go ahead home and I'll clean up in the morning.

Various voices: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Mr. Eric: And all of her friends sped off home.

Fair Elise: Oh, I'm rather tired myself.

Mr. Eric: said Fair Elise.

Fair Elise: I think I'll off to bed with me.

Mr. Eric: And so, she slept soundly through the night and when she woke up and went outside to lean up, huh? There was no trash. No flower wrappers. No broken off little pieces of tiara. No glitter off of fairy wands. Nothing. Not even an apple core in sight.

Fair Elise: My goodness. Where did all the trash go? What a mystery this is.

Alabaster Zero: Did someone say mystery?

[Record scratch]

Mr. Eric: Fair Elise spun around to see a man standing a few feet down the road dressed in a leather jacket, wearing cool sunglasses and chewing on a toothpick.

Alabaster Zero: The name's Alabaster Zero and solving mysteries is my specialty.

Fair Elise: Oh, oh thank you so much, Alabaster. I don't know where all of this trash went off to, but I don't think it's a matter for the police.

Alabaster Zero: Oh yeah? Well, what if someone stole the trash? Then would it be a matter for the police?

Fair Elise: Stole it? You think someone could have stolen my trash?

Alabaster Zero: Well, probably not. In any case, it's a mystery. So what's the last thing you remember? Be detailed.

Fair Elise: Well, I was about to go to sleep, so I closed my eyes and I started breathing extra deeply and I started counting sheep back from a hundred. 100, 99, 98—

Alabaster Zero: Okay. You can be a little less detailed than that.

Fair Elise: Okay, then I counted down to 90, then eventually I was down to 80, and then—

Alabaster Zero: You know what, you can kind of drop the whole counting thing all together and just tell me what you remember about your backyard where the trash was.

Fair Elise: Well, I told all my guests that I would clean it up in the morning, and then I went to sleep. And when I woke up in the morning, everything had floated away, it seems.

Alabaster Zero: Wait a second. What'd you just say?

Fair Elise: I said everything had floated away, it seemed. I mean, not literally, but—

Alabaster Zero: Oh, no. I think you're on to something lady. I think that trash did float away. And we're going to find it.

Fair Elise: Oh, very good. Let's find it then.

Mr. Eric: So Fair Elise and Alabaster went to the one place where they could see anything that might have floated away. The Observatory.

Abacus: Come one, come all, to Abacus P. Grumbler's Observatorium! My telescope can show you anything you ask to see.

Alabaster Zero: Actually, we came to look for some trash.

Abacus: Oh, yes. Oh, the wonderful trash. The mysterious trash island growing in the middle of.

Fair Elise: No, not any special trash really. Just some that floated out of my backyard last night or maybe earlier this morning. It's hard to say.

Abacus: That doesn't really sound like an exotic enough use for my telescope, but go ahead.

Alabaster Zero: Thanks a lot, Abacus. And here's a little tip for you.

Abacus: Oh, a tip. Wonderful. Oh, just put it right into my hand.

Alabaster Zero: Okay, I'll say this into your hand, then. [Muffled] Remember to brush your teeth.

Abacus: Oh, wonderful. Use the telescope.

Mr. Eric: So Fair Elise flitted up to the telescope, and before she put her eye to the lens, she said, I wish to see the trash that floated away from me. And when she looked through, suddenly, she was seeing outer space. And there were her flower wrappers. And there were little broken off bits of tiara. And oh my goodness, so much glitter. Wow, when glitter spreads out, it really takes up a lot of space. All those fairies must have lost a lot of glitter and apple cores. Oh, and pumpkin seeds. Oh! And olive pits. Uh oh.

Fair Elise: Oh, goodness. Now I can never clean it up.

Alabaster Zero: What are you talking about? Your trash is in outer space. Problem solved. Case closed. We can rest easy tonight knowing that our trash isn't gonna come back to haunt us.

Fair Elise: I wasn't really worried about it haunting me.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, you should be. I've seen trash haunt some people real bad.

Fair Elise: I was more worried that the trash would not be cleaned up, and now I've made a mess, sort of forever.

Alabaster Zero: Made a mess of outer space. Okay, yeah. Whatever. Now I know that all my trash is going to float away. That's pretty awesome.

Mr. Eric: And he busted out a bag of chips.

Alabaster Zero: [Loud chomping noises] Mm. Oh, I love chips.

Fair Elise: Oh, well you could eat them a little more slowly.

Alabaster Zero: Don't tell me how to eat potato chips. I wrote the book on eating potato chips. It's called: How to Eat Potato Chips by Alabaster Zero: the Chipping.

Fair Elise: That's a very exciting title, Alabaster. You were going to show me something?

Alabaster Zero: Oh yeah, check this out.

Mr. Eric: After he finished eating, he rolled up the bag and threw it in to the air.

Fair Elise: Alabaster, what are you d— Oh.

Mr. Eric: The bag floated into the sky. Floated so high that before long, they couldn't even see it anymore.

Alabaster Zero: See there? You just made life in What If World easier for everybody. Congratulations, Fair Elise. You're a hero.

Fair Elise: It's funny, I don't much feel like a hero. Thank you, I suppose.

Alabaster Zero: Heroes get to celebrate. Let's have another party!

Mr. Eric: So that very same night, Fair Elise threw yet another party, and all the fairies came over and all the pirates and all the wizards, and Alabaster Zero brought all of his police friends, too. So it was an even bigger party. And I'll tell you what, they didn't even try to get neat this time. They ate hamburgers [chomp chomp] and threw half the bun on the ground. They drank bottles of water and then just crinkled them up [crinkling] and tossed them on the ground.

The fairies took out their wands and sprayed so much glitter into the air that you could barely even see the stars. As the glitter floated up and up and up, all the way into outer space.

Alabaster Zero: Wow, that was a great party Fair Elise. You should throw a party like that every night.

Fair Elise: Oh, no, I'm afraid it would just be too much mess. Oh. Wait. I guess it wouldn't be any mess at all. But really, I'd rather not have a party ever night.

Alabaster Zero: Nope, you said it. No mess means yes! We can party every night. And tomorrow night, I'm going to bring even more friends. We're going to have an even bigger, better party.

Mr. Eric: On the next night, it wasn't just pirates, and police men, and fairies, and wizards. It seems like word had spread all over What If World because suddenly, there were unicorns, knights, mermaids, robots, just about everything from every corner of the world was at her party. And man, could they make a messs.

Petey: Y'arr what a great party.

Unicorn: [Neighs] This is our favorite party.

Randall Radbot: This is like a totally rad party, people.

Skeletons: Oh, sorry for making a mess with our boo-ooones.

Mr. Eric: said a group of skeletons.

Fair Elise: Oh, don't worry. Apparently we don't have to worry about our messes anymore. If it's in outer space, it's not something we need to worry about, right?

Skeletons: Booones?

Fair Elise: Okay, skeletons, I should have realized that you didn't have brains inside of your skulls. Ahahaha... heh.

Alabaster Zero: What's wrong, Fair Elise? You look like you've seen a crime.

Fair Elise: Well, I supposed I have. Isn't littering a sort of crime?

Alabaster Zero: Yeah, you can get a ticket, but, all this litter's just disappearing.

Fair Elise: It's not really disappearing, though, is it? Just because we can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there.

Alabaster Zero: Um. I don't think I quite follow. If I see a crime, I do something about it. But I don't see any criiime. Niddly!

Mr. Eric: Suddenly, they realized that all the trash that all the people of What If World had just been throwing up into the air was cluttering all of outer space!

Fair Elise: Oh dear, I can't even see the stars anymore. We need starlight to power our wands.

Alabaster Zero: Uh oh. Um. I think we might have a problem.

Mr. Eric: And through that pile of garbage in the sky pushed a little green fairy.

Spiffy: Hello, hi everybody. Um, you know, I don't know if you realize, but we're the space fairies and we're not all that fond of the amount of trash you've been throwing in our backyard.

Fair Elise: Oh, wait? Your backyard is all of outer space?

Spiffy: Well, it was until you all threw your trash in there. Now it's not much of a yard at all. I mean, what were you thinking?

Alabaster Zero: Wait a second. Are you saying that we littered into outer space?

Spiffy: Well, yeah, sorta.

Alabaster Zero: But that means that we committed, A CRIME! [Cries]

Spiffy: Well, yeah, I mean. I'm the space fairy police and I've come to give you all a fine.

Fair Elise: A fine. Well, that's fair. How big is the fine?

Spiffy: One trillion cyclopods!

Fair Elise: I'm actually not sure what a cyclopod is. It sounds like some sort of creature.

Spiffy: Well, if you can't pay the fine, then you get to do the time. That means clean this mess up.

Mr. Eric: And all the fairies got together and the pirates, and wizards, and unicorns, and robots, and everybody in What If World, including Alabaster, starting cleaning up everything that they could reach. They got the biggest ladders they could find. The unicorns flew as high as they could. The fairies flittered even higher. They even found some giraffes with extra-long necks and climbed up there to pick up trash. It was kind of hard to find a place for all this trash at this point. And a lot of it, they realized, they could reuse.

They put pieces of tiaras together and made whole new tiaras. They got enough glitter for magic wands to make a whole new wardrobe for every fairy in the kingdom! And all those apple cores and pieces of fruit and vegetables? Well, even if they were a bit rotted, the skeleton people thought they were delicious. Really, almost every bit of that trash got reused. And if not reused, recycled.

Fair Elise: All right, space police fairy.

Spiffy: You can just call me Spiffy.

Fair Elise: All right, Spiffy. How do you think we did?

Spiffy: Well, it looks pretty spiffy [laughs].

Alabaster Zero: Is that kind of space joke, Spiffy.

Spiffy: No, I mean it. You did a good job cleaning up after yourselves, thanks.

Alabaster Zero: All right, I've had just about enough of you.

Fair Elise: Alabaster, I think he's being serious. Look, we cleaned all day. It's night again and we can see the stars.

Mr. Eric: They all looked up together and the stars looked brighter than ever. They'd forgotten how beautiful they were until they were gone.

Alabaster Zero: Wow. I think maybe there's a lesson in this. Don't commit crimes, or space aliens will come and try to take over the world, and—

Fair Elise: Alabaster, I don't think the lesson is about space aliens trying to take over the world.

Spiffy: No. We don't want to take over the world at all. We have all of outer space to hang out in, heheheh. We just want to keep it clean.

Fair Elise: Well, Spiffy, I'm sorry we spoiled outer space for you. Is there any way we can make it up?

Spiffy: Well, now that we're all new friends, I thought maybe we could throw a party!

Alabaster Zero: Oh yeah. Partying with space alien police officers. I think I had a dream like this once.

Fair Elise: Maybe one last party.

Spiffy: Oh, great. I'll sing you all the most popular song in outer space!

Fair Elise: Oh, wow. You know, I very much love music. Go ahead.

Spiffy: Okay. Whuoooo outer space is greaaaat...

Petey: Oh dear, me ears.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, that is so horrible.

Fair Elise: That's quite nice.

Spiffy: [Continues to sing badly about outer space]

Abacus: Oh, please, boy, stop. Spare us your awful singing.

Randall Radbot: Your singing's like, not too rad, man.

Spiffy: Oh, well, in outer space, people do think that I have a great singing voice.

Fair Elise: I'm sure in outer space, it is one.

Mr. Eric: And finally, exhausted, after a lot of cleaning and too much partying, all the people of What If World and What If Space went back to their homes for a nice long rest.

The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Wow, Fair Elise! I loved that story. I did not realize that there was a What If Space!

Fair Elise: Of course there's outer space in What If World. What If World has everything you can imagine.

Mr. Eric: Well, I can't really imagine that.

Fair Elise: I suppose it is difficult.

Mr. Eric: Well, see you later, Fair Elise. Thanks for coming. I'd like to thank Della for her excellent question today. And for all the kids who've already called in with awesome questions.

Until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]

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