

Podcast: What If World
Episode: 007: What if cats ruled the world?
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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. We've got a new question and we're gonna dive right in.
- Kylie: My name's Kylie and I love dance and what if cats ruled the world?
- Mr. Eric: Ooh, no, Kylie, I've been afraid of someone asking this question. What if cats ruled the world? Oh, it's perfect, because I actually have a kitty friend. I hope they make it to the studio in time.
- Musby: [Swanky background music with horns] Sorry, Mr. Eric. Instead, you're stuck with me.
- Mr. Eric: I'm sorry, have we met before?
- Musby: Musby Mistaken.
- Mr. Eric: I must be mistaken, meaning we haven't met.
- Musby: No, that's my name. Musby. Musby Mistaken. And I'm here for some flub talk.
- [Backing voices sing: "Fluuub talk."]
- Flub talk.
- Mr. Eric: What's flub talk mean.
- Musby: It means you made a little mistake, Mr. Eric, and one of your listeners caught ya.
- Mr. Eric: Oh, so someone who listens to the podcast sent in a message with a comment on one of my stories?

Musby: That's exactly right. You see, it seems you had a story about unicorns flying into outer space to pick up trash.

Mr. Eric: Oh yeah, yeah. That was the "What if things were floating in outer space?" story. I remember.

Musby: Well, here's your flub, Mr. Eric. You see, unicorns can't fly. According to Della, who emailed in her very own flub. Flowercorns are the only kind of unicorn that can fly.

Mr. Eric: Oh, flowercorns. I should have known. Flowercorns are like unicorns but with flowers for wings, right?

Musby: That's exactly right. Nice flub, Mr. Eric.

Mr. Eric: Hey, we all make mistakes, and you know what, it's hard for us to learn from those mistakes unless our friends point it out, huh. And I'm glad Della did it in a really nice way. But for now, it's time for us to get to our story.

[Rising harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Once upon a time, there were three good friends. A mouse named Mr. Mouser, a dog named Fred, and a cat named Jojo Fluffy Kat. They were strays, which means they lived out on the street. They didn't have a home.

Mr. Mouser: Oh, dear. It's so difficult being a stray mouse. You know, everything's much bigger and faster than me. I just wish I had wheels.

Mr. Eric: said Mr. Mouser.

Fred: Oh, that's a really good point, you would be really fast with wheels and you would look extra cool with wheels, too. I just know it.

Mr. Eric: said Fred the dog. He talked that way because his tongue was a little too long for his mouth.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: I, er, ah, promise that if I am ever in a position of powah, I will make sure that I get you wheels.

Mr. Eric: said Jojo Fluffy Kat.

Fred: And you know what else? It's tough being a dog with a tongue that's too long for its mouth. My tongue always get stuck on things. It gets real dirty too, I don't like it.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: I would like to fix that, too. Maybe invent some kind of tongue guard to help you out there.

Fred: Oh, that would be great, but we're just a couple of strays living in this old alley. We'll never be able to make any difference.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Now don't think like that. We could—

Fred: Hey, what's that,

Mr. Eric: said Fred the dog.

Fred: It looks like a button and the button says, "Push this button and become ruler of What If World."

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Just what I've always wanted! A button to push.

Mr. Eric: And the cat walked straight up and put its little paw on that button. And just like that [whoosh!] he was far away from his friends Mouser and Fred. He was in the What House.

[Triumphant brass music]

Mousdef: Hey there, Mr. President, there. Welcome to the What House.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: What?

Mousdef: Exactly, you're our first cat-like president.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Excuse me?

Mousdef: Oh sure, we've had dog-like presidents, and bear-like presidents and even a few fish-like presidents, but never a cat-like president.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Oh, I see. I'm your first president who is like a cat. I actually am a cat, in fact.

Mousdef: Oh, that's right, you know, we're all cats ever since you pushed that button. Cats rule the whole world.

[Cats meowing]

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Well, that's just swell. It's been tough being a stray cat. I want to make this world better for cats.

Mousdef: Well, I'm your top advisor, Meows Def, and we've been getting letters from all over What If World asking you to do this and that. So, why don't you just take a look at—

Jojo Fluffy Kat: I don't need to look at your letters. I know what cats want. Here is my first decree. All people other than cats must wear stovepipe hats.

Mousdef: Stovepipe hats like those tall hats that Abraham Lincoln used to wear?

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Exactly. That way cats will always have a place to climb up on and sit and rest and relax.

Mousdef: Uh, okay, boss. You're the rule of What If World. Whatever you say goes.

Mr. Eric: And everyone in What If World, except for the cats, was suddenly wearing a tall, felt hat. And cats all over What If World started climbing up on these hats and laying down for naps and being carried around by other people.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: I feel like we did a very good job there.

Mousdef: Uh, sure thing boss, but uh—

Jojo Fluffy Kat: What's the next order of business?

Mousdef: Oh, sure, well, you do have a meeting with the wizards, actually.

Mr. Eric: And the wizard Abacus P. Grumbler suddenly burst into the What House holding his crystal ball.

Abacus: No see here, Jojo Fluffy Kat.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Please, call me JF Kat.

Abacus: Whatever. JF Kat. Ever since you took over as the first cat-like president, all my crystal ball would play is these videos of cats chasing lasers and sliding into things and they can't stop running and [Meowing] knocking things off of tables [crashes] after being told not to.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: But JF Kat didn't seem to be listening. It was just staring at Abacus's crystal ball on top of his desk.

Abacus: Why are you looking at my crystal ball that way.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: I just really want to touch it with my paw.

Abacus: JF Kat, do NOT push my crystal ball.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: No, I wouldn't think of it. I'm the president. We must compose ourselves in such a—[FWAP! CRASH!].

Mr. Eric: Just like that, he thwacked the crystal ball right off the desk and it shattered into a million pieces.

Abacus: My crystal ball! You've broken it.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: You shouldn't, er, ah, put things on my table that I want to knock off of them.

Abacus: Well, that's another thing. I don't like wearing this stovepipe hat. It's warm and felty and it's not pointed like a normal wizard's hat.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Well, let me see about that. I'll just climb up there, and—

Abacus: Uh, get, get off of my hat [meow]. What are you doing up there?

Jojo Fluffy Kat: It seems comfortable enough for me.

Abacus: Right, it's comfortable for you, but it's not comfortable for me!

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Okay.

Mr. Eric: And JF Kat jumped off the hat.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: We're gonna fix this. If you don't like your felt hat because it's too hot, you could also wear a stovepipe hat made out of cat scratching post material.

Abacus: But that just sounds scratchy on my head.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: If you don't like that, plenty more options. You could make it out of cat food or fish sticks or—

Abacus: I just don't think you're listening to me. There are people other than cats who need your help. Do you understand?

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Not really. I got distracted by ah little string hanging from your robe.

Abacus: What, what are you? Oh, dear. Yes, yes, yes yes. All right, let me just trim this little string off.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: I would prefer if you would er, uh, dance around.
[Record scratch]

Abacus: I will do no such thing! I'm going to just walk right out of here and—

[Dance of the sugar plum fairies starts in the background]

- Mr. Eric: But as soon as he started to walk away, his feet started to dance.
- Abacus: What is, oh dear. I can, oh. Hey, you know, I've actually got pretty good dance moves. Oh, I'm like a ballerina. Oh, how I love dancing. I'm going to do a leap over here!
- Mr. Eric: And he leapt three feet into the air and landed ever so gracefully on one toe.
- Abacus: And I'm going to twirl all the way back.
- Mr. Eric: And he started twirling and twirling, but JF Kat had finally gotten ahold of that string. And as he twirled [buzzing noise], that string ripped away taking Abacus's robe with it!
- Abacus: Oh dear, uh. Why is it that every time I end up in one of these stories, I also end up in my underwear! Harumph!
- Jojo Fluffy Kat: I'm sorry. I just really like string. It's kind of a cat thing.
- Abacus: Dear thing. And Abacus collected all the string, pulling it away from JF Kat, and he harumphed his way out of the What House.
- Jojo Fluffy Kat: Now, there was something I really wanted to do.
- Mousdef: Well, you know, there's all these letters still from people asking you to make their lives better and—
- Jojo Fluffy Kat: Right, right. I wanted to make sure that everyone was always dancing so if they had a string hanging it would be more fun for a cat to chase it.
- Mousdef: I'm sorry, President, but that just doesn't seem like a good use of your power.
- Jojo Fluffy Kat: Meowsdef, how dare you suggest I do something I don't feel like doing?
- Mousdef: Well, that's just the thing. You've got responsibilities now. You've got to take care of other people. You can't just use your power to do everything you want.
- Jojo Fluffy Kat: How dare you—
- Mr. Eric: And just then, he saw two people he'd forgotten. A little pug and an even smaller mouse, walking outside the What House. Fred the

dog was wearing a tall hat made of fish sticks and there was a cat on top of it so Fred could barely carry himself up the walkway.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mouser had a little string hanging from his raggedy vest so he was dancing and he looked like he was so tired of dancing. And there was a whole trail of cats right behind him. His old friends looked scared and tired and lonely.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: What's going on there. Who's being mean to my friends.

Mousdef: Mr. President: you said that the cats could basically do whatever they want.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Well, they can't do it to my friends!

Mr. Eric: And he rushed out of the What House.

Cat: Meow, hey, you never made no rule saying we could just do whatever we wanted unless it was to your friends,

Mr. Eric: said a really big striped cat.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Well, I, er, uh, thought that was implied.

Fred: Jojo Fluffy Kat...

Jojo Fluffy Kat: The name's JF Kat.

Mr. Mouser: Not to us, it's not. Jojo, our lives have gotten really difficult ever since you became ruler of What If World.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: The name's JF Kat.

Fred: No, you're our friend. Jojo Fluffy Kat. At least, that's how we remember you.

Cat: Hey, can we go ahead and eat this mouse and this dog, or what?

Mr. Eric: asked one of the cats in the crowd.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: No, you can't harm my friends.

Fred: Well, that's okay. We don't want to be your friend anymore. You're making rules that aren't fair.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: What are you talking about! All the cats love my rules.

Mousdef: Actually, we really don't,

Mr. Eric: said Meowsdef.

Mousdef: I mean, some of us do, but you know your rules aren't fair to the rest of our friends. The dogs and the cats, the humans and the wizards, their lives have all gotten a lot harder since you took over.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: So what am I supposed to do?

Fred: Why don't you start by doing something nice for everybody.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Okay. I guess instead of wearing the stovepipe hats, people can all just put them down, and that way cats can just rest on them wherever they end up.

Mr. Eric: And everyone in What If World was finally able to take their hats off and put them down on the ground. A few cats grumbled, but then they just snuggled up and went back to sleep.

Mr. Mouser: That was really good. You're being a better president now.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Hey, that felt good. I made some people happy.

Mr. Eric: And he saw Abacus P. Grumbler still trying to sew his robe back together but he couldn't stop dancing.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: All right, I guess, I'll just take away that whole dancing thing, and now people can just trim the little strings off of their clothes and throw them down for a cat to play with. Or just throw them in the garbage.

Mr. Eric: And suddenly, Abacus stopped dancing.

Abacus: Oh, happy day. I, I know I'm such a good dancer now, but I'd really much rather dance on my own terms, thank you very much, Jojo Fluffy Kat.

Jojo Fluffy Kat: Hey, the name is JF—the name is Jojo Fluffy Kat. And you know what else? I'm going to get wheels for the mice.

Mr. Mouser: Hooray!

Jojo Fluffy Kat: And I'm going to invent a tongue guard for all the animals whose tongues are too long for their mouths!

Fred: Yay! Ow, I bit my tongue.

Mr. Eric: And Jojo Fluffy Kat started making lots of changes around What If World. But these ones didn't just benefit his friends, they helped everybody.

The End.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: Hey, Musby. What'd you think of today's story.

Musby: Well, you know, I was really listening for some flubs. I didn't pick up on any yet. I guess we'll have to have a few friends call in.

Mr. Eric: Yeah. I love when my friends call in. I really hope to hear more from them.

Musby: Well, that means you might be hearing more from me, too.

Mr. Eric: That's great. I can't wait to hear from you and all my friends.

I'd like to thank Kylie for today's excellent question. Della, for emailing back with her awesome flub. And the rest of you for your continued listening and support.

Kids, make sure to get your parents' permission before calling us at 205-605-What with your own questions and maybe flubs.

Until then, keep wondering.

[What If World theme song plays.]

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