

Who When Wow, Season 2, Episode 11

Bigfoot

Carly. Hello! Remember me? Your favorite secret host from your favorite secret podcast that you NEVER ever talk about? Well guess what, I'm back with another mystery! And I've got a show for you that's truly filled with everything: monsters, ice cream... and unusually large-sized feet! I'm Carly Q, and this is Who When Wow, Mystery Edition!

(THEME SONG)

(Soundbite office noise, printers, phone ringing.)

Carly. When I got in to work today I expected everyone to be talking about my co-worker Lewis and his big competition tonight at the local ice cream store.

Carly in background. Linda! You're probably ready for the end of all this ice cream talk, huh?

Linda. He's actually barely mentioned it.

Carly. But to my surprise, no one was talking about it at all.

Carly in background. What?! That's so strange! It was strange because Lewis had been bragging to ME about it for weeks! He'd been going on and on about how no one else stands a chance, how he's gonna make the perfect ice cream sundae and win the top prize: free ice cream for a year. Ugh, I sound like *him*. *I'm* talking about this so much!

(Soundbite of walking downstairs to basement.)

Carly. I decided to make my way down to the basement before he saw me, I really didn't need him to corner me with me more ice cream talk. Once I got to my desk, I got right down to work. And the best part? I only had to catalog a few random historical events before getting to the good stuff.

(Sound bite of a thumb drive drops down the vacuum tube.)

Carly. That's right, a new a time-sealed mystery!

Audio File. Event: June 1971 (BLEEP) The Dalles, Oregon (BLEEEP) Giant- sized footprints (BLEEEEEEP).

Carly. Giant-sized footprints in Oregon? More like giant-sized curiosity in Carly!

Carly. I pulled out my AI device H-dad.

H-dad. Hey there Howdy, it's H-dad time!

Carly. And typed in the keywords from the event. Oregon. Giant footsteps.

(Soundbite of typing.)

H-dad. Analyzing, analyzing. This file most likely refers to the purported ape-like creature known as Bigfoot. Gorilla emoji!

Carly. Bigfoot? An ape-like creature?! Cool! Unfortunately, I wasn't able look into it more, cause just then.

Lewis. (calling out, sing-song). Oh heeeeyyyy, Carly Quuuuu!

(Soundbite of Lewis walking down the stairs with ice cream truck music playing.)

Carly. The ice cream man himself. Lewis could you please stop the music?

(Music stops)

Lewis. You must be sooo jealous of all that free ice cream I'm about to get for the next year.

Carly. Ice cream shmice cream, I'd be more impressed if it was free PIE. And you haven't even won the competition yet!

Lewis. Well I'm gonna!

Carly. If you're so confident, then why haven't you told anyone about it besides me? I figured it'd be the talk of the town upstairs, but they've barely heard of it.

Lewis. Oh, because,well, I mean come on. they don't understand competitions and stuff, so.

Carly. They don't?

Lewis. Yeah, they just..you know they wouldn't get it. I have a very sophisticated palate. That's a fancy way of saying I'm a picky eater. So, I don't need them to care.

Carly. But you need *me* to care?

Lewis. No! No! I don't "neeeeeeeed" anyone. Just yesterday I learned it's actually a partner competition, "You and a *teammate* will *each* create a sundae."

Carly. Oh so who's your teammate?

Lewis. I don't have one, that's my point! I don't need one! I'm gonna make TWOOOOOOO perfectly delicious sundaes, all on my own. One`s gonna be chocolate with a banana and whipped cream, and the other will be perfectly vanilla with more strawberries and hot chocolate fudge. So take that, all you office workers and Carly Q and everybody.

Carly. Cool, well...good luck?

Lewis. Thank you! I don't need it. But thank you...Who needs luck anyway when you have talent.

(Soundbite of Awkward moment of silence.)

Carly. Oh-kay

Lewis. Bye I'm leaving now byeeeeeeee.

(Soundbite of Footsteps as he walks back up the steps.)

Carly. That was weird.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

Carly. I could tell my rat friend Nibbles thought so too. She'd been watching from the potted plant near my desk. I know H-dad said it was an ape-like creature, but I can't help picturing it as just a single giant foot.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

Carly. After another few more hilarious jokes about the giant foot. I hate to TOE the line, but I'd feel like a HEEL if I didn't think we could.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

Carly. Nibbles and I finally got down to work.

P.A. Voice. Attention, Butthed employees: The hour for caloric consumption has arrived. Dig in!

Carly. Yes! Let's go find Bigfoot! I grabbed Nibbles and H-dad, and took off for the elevator.

(Soundbite of elevator ding.)

Carly. Hi Odie!.

Odie. Hello basement companion.

Carly. Another day, another mystery. This one's about BIGFOOT. Some sort of ape-like creature in Oregon? Heard of him?

Odie. Ohhh Rumors of a creature like that go back hundreds of years, and come from many different indigenous cultures. In my day, I've heard him go by many names: Sasquatch, Skunk Ape. Wood Booger. In cold climates he's sometimes called a Yeti, or even The Abominable Snowman!

Carly. This one is for June 1971, so I'm not sure how much snow there's gonna be.

Odie. Probably none. But don't be surprised if your Bigfoot search goes differently than you expect.

Carly. Why's that?

Odie. Because even the biggest foot can have the softest heart.

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

Carly. What? That doesn't sound anatomically possible.

Odie. Okay quick review of the time travel rules: no changing anything in the past, but ask all the questions you like. And you **MUST** be back before the end of lunch break. Otherwise you might get caught!

Carly. Got it, but what if

Odie. Okay here you go.

Carly. Wait--But what if we get caught by Bigfooooooooooot?

(Soundbite of elevator travel noises and then loud thud. Then people talking on the street, music playing.)

Carly. Whew! We made it! And as expected, no snow, it's a warm sunny day. We're here in the center of a small town, there are houses and little shops, and lots of people are out. It sure is pretty scenic with the mountains all around, huh Nibbles?

Nibbles. Yeah and look at all the pay phones! And the people all dressed exclusively in beige and brown clothing!

Carly. I guess this is the 70's?

Nibbles. (sniffs). Sure smells like it!

(Soundbite of two people talking as they walk past.)

Townsperson #1. Huge! 10 feet tall at least.

Townsperson #2. No way!

Townsperson #1. And hairy, all over. Like an ape!

Carly. An ape?! Nibbles they must be talking about Bigfoot!

Nibbles. Either Bigfoot or my Great Uncle Ricky. He's the biggest rat you've ever seen!

Carly. Hey, excuse me! Are you ladies talking about... (whisper) Bigfoot?

Townsperson #1. Who are you? Some nosey newcomer in town?

Carly. Yes! Yes I am, I just love to keep tabs on everything happening in the neighborhood. I heard there's been a sighting of Bigfoot recently, sounds like you might know about it.

Townsperson #1. Sounds that way cause it's true. A friend of mine has seen him three times the past three days!

Carly. What! Where?

Townsperson #1. At the trailer park where he works, just outside of town. His name's Joe, he's the maintenance man.

Carly. So what did he see?

Townsperson #1. Something in the meadow just past the trailer park, a big creature or something. This was three days ago, but he didn't say anything because there were some important businessmen coming over the next day, he didn't want to disrupt things with the police coming in.

Carly. So that was it?

Townsperson #1. Until the next day. The businessmen had just arrived when the creature came back!

Carly. What did they do?

Townsperson #1. They saw it through the windows, so they went outside to have a look. It was this hairy ape thing, but huge and walking-upright. They stared at him for a good minute or so, and he stared right back at them.

Carly. And then?

Townsperson #1. And then it walked back off into the woods.

Carly. Oh my goodness, oh my GOODNESS, I have so many questions! Okay, how close did he get? Was he smiling? What color was his hair?, was it blonde? Brunette? What did he smell like??

Nibbles. (whispers) .You're coming in hotter than a Coney Island hot dog, cool it!

Carly. Sorry, sorry, I get a little excited sometimes. You said your friend saw the creature *three* times?

Townsperson #1. That's right, the third time was just last night. He was working when there was a scream at the entrance to the trailer park. A guy named Rich

Brown and his wife were out of their car, pointing into the woods. There in the headlights was the creature again.

Carly. He sure seems to like this trailer park.

Townsperson #1. Rich ran back to his trailer and came back with a gun. He aimed it at the thing, but in the end he didn't shoot it. Afterwards he said he *couldn't* shoot it...because it looked more human than animal.

Carly. Oh my WOW! That is unbelievable!! What happened next, did he run off? What does he look like when he runs? How fast does he run? What would he win in the Olympics, gold? Silver? Bronze? What color unitard would he wear??

Nibbles. You're doing it again.

Townsperson #1. Uh, sorry young lady, we're gonna have to...get going. Nice talking with you.Byee

Carly. Oh, uh, okay, maybe I can

(Soundbite of them walking off.)

Nibbles. They're already walking off Carly, you're cooked.

Carly. Ahhh I just got so excited by how wild this story is. And honestly, by how scary! Can you imagine seeing him at night like that? Terrifying!

Nibbles. Why don't we go find this Rich Brown guy and ask him about it?

Carly. We could OR we could just go out in the woods and look for Bigfoot ourselves!

Nibbles. What?!

Carly. If he's been around here the past few days, maybe he's still nearby.

Nibbles. You just said he was terrifying!

Carly. Well yes, but I am way too intrigued to turn back now. If we don't go out there and look for him ourselves I'll always regret it.

Nibbles. Can you at least check in with your dad machine first?

Carly. Uh alright uh H-dad, got anything yet?

H-dad. What? Oh, still analyzing!

Carly. For once, I'm glad to hear it! Come on Nibbles, let's go!

Nibbles. Ohhhh joy.

(Soundbite of the forest, birds chirping, wind through trees.)

Carly in background. (Singing) Let's go into the woods and lets find Bigfoot. Let's go into the woods and see the creature with our own eyeballs, our own eyeballs.

Carly. It didn't take us long to get to the forest right outside of town. It was nice, it smelled like moss and dirt, and the woods were beautiful with the sunlight streaming in through the trees.

Carly. What do you think Nibbles? Any sign of Bigfoot?

Nibbles. Not so far. But if I see anything, I'll be sure to run as fast as I can in the other direction.

Carly. Oh shush, you're fine.

(Soundbite of a rusting in the bush.)

Carly and Nibbles.. AHH!

Nibbles. There's something in the trees!

Carly. Bigfoot??

(Soundbite of little footsteps, and then an animal slurping up water.)

Nibbles. (sighs) No, just a beaver at a stream.

Carly. Phew! That was scary.

Nibbles. Yeah, maybe we should...turn back?

Carly. Nice try, just because we're a little bit terrified doesn't mean we're giving up. Onward! We kept traipsing through the woods, keeping our eyes and ears open for any trace of him.

(Soundbite of a gurgling sound.)

Carly. Is that Bigfoot?

Nibbles. Nope, that's a skunk with indigestion.

(Soundbite of Clomping.)

Carly. Is *that* Bigfoot?

Nibbles. Nope, that's a person in a bear costume--

Bear costume person. Rawr!

Nibbles. With a sign that says "I heart Bigfoot."

Carly. Nice costume, love the sign!

Bear costume person. Thank you.

(Soundbite of clanking.)

Carly. Is *THAT* Bigfoot?

Nibbles. Nope that's just a big rock that looks like a face.

(Soundbite of munching.)

Carly. Is *THAT* Bigfoot?

Nibbles. Nope, that's the same beaver we saw before.

Carly. Oh no, are we just going in circles?

(Soundbite of rustling leaves.)

Carly. (gasps) Bigfoot?!

(Soundbite of fast approaching steps.)

Bigfoot Hunter. Ha ha, I've finally got yo-Oh, you're not Bigfoot.

Carly. Who are you? You're not Bigfoot either!

Bigfoot Hunter. I'm a Bigfoot hunter.

Carly. So you're *hunting* Bigfoot?

Bigfoot Hunter. I'm *looking* for Bigfoot. I'm not actually trying to hunt him.

Carly. Oh, I am too. He's been sighted a bunch in town.

Bigfoot Hunter. As I am well aware. After the film from 1967 I have been obsessed with finding him.

Carly. What film?

Bigfoot Hunter. The Patterson film! There have been plenty of claimed sightings of Bigfoot over the years, but that film set the Bigfoot community aflame.

Carly. A film, like, a whole movie?

Bigfoot Hunter. No no no, it's only about a minute long. Two men, Roger Patterson and his friend Bob Gimlin, were riding on horseback in Northern California when they saw it, and managed to get it on camera.

Nibbles. (whisper). Get it on camera like those pranksters got the Loch Ness Monster on camera?

Carly. Well How do you know it's not a prank?

Bigfoot Hunter. Both men have sworn up and down it's real. And the footage matches all the other descriptions of Bigfoot, a tall hairy ape-like figure. Also, when the men were interviewed separately, there were a few minor inconsistencies in their stories.

Carly. Wouldn't that mean it's more likely they're lying?

Bigfoot Hunter. No, because if it *had* been a hoax, they likely would have practiced in advance.

Carly. Oh of course! They would have gotten their stories straight!

Bigfoot Hunter. Exactly.

Carly. Weren't they scared then, when they saw it? A big tall hairy monster, it's been giving me the heebie- jeebies all day!

Bigfoot Hunter. On that I disagree. I certainly understand why everyone thinks Bigfoot is so dangerous, what with him being so big and hairy and frightening looking. But *I* think he's just sad.

Carly. Sad?!

Bigfoot Hunter. About being all alone! About having no one in the world on his (or her) side! Just people like us searching for him in the woods. Can you imagine how unsettling it must be for him?

Carly. So that means Bigfoot isn't SCARY as much as he is SCARED.

Bigfoot Hunter. Precisely!

(Soundbite of clomping.)

Bigfoot Hunter. (gasps) Look, there! It's Bigfoot!

Carly. Oh my gosh! Wait, no no no no , that's just the guy in a bear costume we saw before. (to the guy) Hi.

Bigfoot Hunter. He's waving at us!

Carly. Yeah, cause I saw him before--

Bigfoot Hunter. No, now he's running off. I've got to chase him!

Carly. No, that's not Bigfoot!

(Soundbite of footsteps as The Bigfoot Hunter runs off.)

Carly. Oh But I guess you're just gonna ignore me and run off, okay!

Nibbles. In his defense, it is a great bear costume.

Carly. Very convincing. H-dad what's the story?, you got anything yet?

H-dad. Analysis complete! There is no scientific consensus on whether Bigfoot exists.

Carly. Wait, that's it?

Nibbles. We coulda told you that.

H-dad. Many, though not all, of past Bigfoot sightings have been proven to be hoaxes.

Carly. Any theories for the ones that HAVEN'T been hoaxes?

H-dad. Theory one: misidentification.

Nibbles. Come again?

Carly. It means when you identify something incorrectly. Like thinking an animal is Bigfoot when it's actually just a beaver or a skunk.

Nibbles. Or a guy in a bear costume.

Carly. Exactly.

H-dad. Theory two: pareidolia.

Nibbles. Pareido-WHAT-now?

Carly. Yeah this one I'm gonna need some help on. Definition?

H-dad. Pareidolia: the tendency to observe human-like faces and figures within the natural environment.

Carly. Oh! That's like when we saw that big rock and we thought it had a human face, but once we got up close we could see it was just a trick of the light.

Nibbles. And this is why rats prefer the dark.

H-dad. Theory three: Bigfoot is real!!

Carly. Whoa, really?

H-dad. Scientist John Napier concluded that, whether Bigfoot is real or not, there is "something in north- west America that needs explaining, and that something leaves man-like footprints."

Carly. Not to mention something to explain all the eyewitness accounts. The people who claim they've seen it seem very sure!

Nibbles. You know, if Bigfoot really IS real, it would make sense about him being scared. As a member of the animal kingdom myself, I get it. It's a big scary world out there!

Carly. Well sure, but you're a rat. I just mean, you're so small! No offense.

Nibbles. None taken, but I think you're missing the point. And someone else maybe pointed out something similar.

Carly. Who?

(Soundbriet of wind chimes.)

Odie. Even the biggest foot can have the softest heart.

Carly. Odie! So that's what she meant! Just cause Bigfoot is big and frightening, it doesn't mean he doesn't have *feelings*.

Nibbles. Doesn't matter how big or small you are. You can still get scared!

Carly. Wow. That's a really good point!

H-dad. Incoming message from Butthead- quarters.

P.A. Voice. Lunch time is ending. Stop consuming and start producing!

Carly. Oh uh the elevator's back in town, we gotta get outta these woods!

Nibbles. Let's go!

Carly. We raced back through the trees as fast as we could. And no more signs of Bigfoot, or bear costume guy either. Finally, we got back into town, found the elevator, and moments later. I really hope we're not too laaate-

(Soundbite of elevator ding, travel noises and then loud thud.)

Odie. You're late, basement companion.

Carly. I know, I'm sorry! We were out in the woods looking for Bigfoot!

Odie. And what did you find?

Carly. Oh A lot! There have been many supposed Bigfoot sightings over the years, though many of those have been hoaxes.

Odie. Uh-huh.

Carly. And some other ones might have been more genuine, but were just mistakes -- like people saw bears or beavers or big rocks and mistook it for a creature.

Odie. "Big rocks"?

Carly. It kinda looked like a face, okay? Anyway, I actually think it makes sense that there's not more evidence of him.

Odie. And why's that?

Carly. Because if Bigfoot really is real, can you blame him for hiding from us? Nibbles helped me see it, he'd be scared of humans just like any wild animal!

Odie. Very interesting.

Carly. So I can't say for sure whether he's real or not, but I sure hope that if he IS, he's not too lonely out there.

Odie. Hmm, Bigfoot being "lonely" and "scared of us", that seems a little different from what you'd expect.

Carly. Which is exactly what you meant with your riddle! "Even the biggest foot can have the softest heart."

Odie. I did say that, didn't I?

Carly. You meant that even though Bigfoot might seem intimidating, he could still have a soft side and need other people-- or, other Bigfoots, or Bigfeet in order to not feel so alone.

Odie. A very good point. I'm glad you've been able to see it from Bigfoot's point of view.

Carly. Honestly it kind of reminds me of someone else I know.

Odie. Oh?

Carly. My coworker Lewis! I mean his feet are more dainty rather than big, per se, but he's kinda got some of the same bluster going on -- like he wants you to *think* he's tough and doesn't care, but underneath he's got a soft heart.

Odie. It's not just Bigfoots who can put on a scary front.

Carly. So true. Thanks again for all your help today Odie. When I see Lewis next I'm gonna-

Lewis. Eh EM Hey Carly.

Odie. Uh Oh Good luck Carly Q , Gotta go.

Carly. Hey Lewis.

Lewis. Have a nice ride in the time traveling elevator?

Carly. What?!...NO! I mean yes, this a lovely elevator, but I've never used it before. It's certainly not like I traveled back in time to find Bigfoot or anything.

Lewis. Well whatever you did, I'm sure the bosses upstairs will find it fascinating.

Carly. B-But..Don't you have an ice cream challenge to win?

Lewis. Yes, I do Carly Q... Yes, I do.

(Soundbite of footsteps walking up.)

Carly. Good Luck!

Lewis. (calling back) Don't need it!

Carly. I spent the rest of the afternoon in terror.

Carly. Did I just ruin my whole secret?! He never came back down, and I was too scared to go upstairs and talk with him. Am I gonna get in trouble?? Is he gonna turn me in?

Carly in background. Maybe he was too distracted with his ice cream competition to care? Or maybe that's just wishful thinking...

Carly. I guess I'll have to wait and see tomorrow, wish me luck, I am going to need it! Until then, this is Carly Q, signing off. And remember: you never heard this! And hopefully neither did Lewis?