

Who When Wow, Season 2, Episode 4

The Mystery of Eilean Mor

Carly. Hey you! Thanks for tuning into this super-secret-podcast-that-is so-secret-you're-not-actually listening-to-it. Today was a real stormy day here at BUTTHED. I got a bit too angry for some not very good reasons, found myself trapped in a lightning storm and almost got trapped on a mysteriously deserted island. Keep listening and you are in for a wild ride lads and lassies. I'm Carly Q and this is Who, When, Wow Mystery Edition.

(Theme song)

Carly. I was in kind of a bad mood when I got into work this morning. (Yawns) I hadn't slept very well, so I woke up with a serious case of the grouches.

Coworker. Morning CQ!

Carly. Is it tho? Is it a good morning? How does one really tell? I thought about calling in sick, but the thrill of exploring a new mystery and sharing it with you, felt too good to pass up. (Yawns) Uh-huh. Mm.

(Soundbite of Carly going down to basement)

Carly. And once I got to my desk, it was a long, slow morning of cataloging random events. Filed. Filed. Filed. It is snack break yet? I just want to go back to sleep. Since my desk is in the basement, my nearest co-worker is a rat we call Nibbles. Well I call her Nibbles. What are you doing Nibbles?

(Soundbite of rat squeaking)

Carly. I guess she could tell I was a little down, because she tried to cheer me up by dancing. Ok that kind of looks like the running man.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking)

Carly. It *almost* worked.

Carly in background. Uhhhh, I don't know that one. The zombie? Sorry. I been behind on trending rat dances. I been busy producing a secret podcast, ever heard of it?

(Soundbite of Rat protest squeaks)

Carly. This day is not getting any better. A little before lunch time though, I finally got something to brighten things up: a new time-sealed file!

Audio File. Event: December 15th, 1900

<<BLEEEEEEP>> The Island of Eilean Mòr <<BLEEEEEEEEP>> Lighthouse keepers

Carly. in background. Lighthouse keepers?! That's fun!

Carly. (Continued. I could actually feel my mood starting to perk back up. I pulled out my company-issued portable computer **H-dad.** and got to work--

H-dad. H-dad. says Howdy-do!

Carly. Know anything about the "Eilean Mòr lighthouse keepers"?

H-dad. Lifehouse: an American rock band formed in 1995. Their hit single "Hanging by a Moment" went —

Carly. No, No! I said LIGHThouse.

H-dad. Lighthouse: a tower with a beacon, or light, on top to help ships know they're close to a rocky shore so they don't crash.

Carly.

What about the "Eilean Mòr lighthouse keepers"?

H-dad. Lighthouse keeper: someone who maintains a lighthouse and makes sure the light always stays lit.

Carly. H-dad what about this *specific* lighthouse? Got anything on that?

H-dad. Not until I....analyze! Brain emoji, computer emoji, thinking statue emoji.

Carly. Ugh, no, come on.

H-dad. Analyzing. Analyzing. Analyzing.

Carly. NO! H-dad. you take WAY TOO LONG to analyze.

H-dad. Analyzing. Analyzing. Analyzing.

Carly. I could feel my mood starting to go sour again. I want some information NOW!

H-dad. Analyzing. Analyzing. Analyzing.

Carly. ARGGG!!!

(Soundbite of LoudSpeaker mic)

Carly. Luckily, saved by the bell.

Loudspeaker. Attention, Butthead employees: Lunch time! Please refrain from any loud or excessive chewing.

Carly. Lunch break. The perfect time to sneak into the Time Elevator! Come on Nibbles. I grabbed Nibbles and my H-dad. device, and took off for the elevator.

Odie. (extra grumpy) Hello basement companion.

Carly. Hi Odie. Don't tell me you're in a bad mood too.

Odie. Excuse me?

Carly. Oh, I just thought your face looked kind of, uh....nevermind!

Odie. You have another mystery?

Carly. I do, though I don't know much about it, since SOMEBODY isn't being very helpful.

H-dad. Analyzing. Analyzing. Analyzing.

Carly. Odie do *you* know anything about the Eilean Mòr lighthouse keepers?

Odie. That is familiar, yes. Eilean Mòr is an island off the coast of Scotland. Three lighthouse keepers disappeared there, and no one knows where they went or why.

Carly. Whoa, a mysterious disappearance?? I wonder what happened.

Odie. Oh, it is indeed a mystery, and remember: The uncontrolled storm consumes all.

(Soundbite Wind chimes.)

Carly. Excuse me what?

Odie. Before I send you back, let's review the time-travel rules. You can't change or stop anything in the past. You may observe and ask questions, but do not meddle. And the time seal on the file means the earliest I can send you back to is--

Carly. December 15th, 1900. *After* the men went missing.

Odie. Correct. Now, when you arrive back in time, a card reader will remain where you came in. Use this keycard and the elevator will reappear. But you must return before the end of lunch break.

Carly. Got it

Odie. Okay here you go.

(Soundbite of elevator ding, then taking off sounds)

Carly. Ugh this is not helping my mooddd.

(Sound bite of waves and birds)

Carly. Whoa those are some big waves. Look at that lighthouse! We're HERE! Okay, leaving the elevator, we've just arrived here on the island of Eilean Mor on our search for the three missing lighthouse keepers. The lighthouse itself is really impressive, it's a round chunky tower, perched on top of a cliff overlooking the sea. Also it is so COLD out.

Nibbles. I'm freezing my tail off! This is no place for a basement rat!

Carly. Ah there you are Nibbles. Just when I was starting to forget that you can talk when we go back in time.

Nibbles. This island looks deserted.

Carly. Hellooo??! Hello? Can anyone hear me?

Nibbles. Let's take a look inside?

Carly. We went into the lighthouse to have a look around, but there was definitely no one home. Lighthouse keepers? Anybody home?

Nibbles. Hello? This whole place is empty.

Carly. But look at all the clues! H-dad catalogue the clues.

H-dad. Isn't cataloging your job?

Carly. Nevermind, I got it. There's so much to observe.

Nibbles. The fireplace hasn't been lit in awhile.

Carly. The beds are unmade.

Nibbles. There's a rain coat hanging in the mud room.

Carly. All the clocks have stopped!

Nibbles. And a lone rat scurrying around looking for left-over food..

Carly. Wait Really? Where?

Nibbles. Right here! A girl's gotta eat!

Carly. Okay, I see what you did there. I soured the cold room for some sign of a struggle. Or an emergency. Or something. But everything just seemed, normal. The only thing missing was the people. Okay, maybe this is too wild, but what if, it's aliens??

Nibbles. Carly Q.

Carly. What? The clocks are stopped. Classic alien abduction tactics!

H-dad. Error in factuality!

Nibbles. You don't say.

H-dad. Battery-powered clocks were still being developed in this time period. In 1900, many clocks still had to be manually wound by hand.

Carly. Of course! So it's just like the cold fireplace -- all it means is the lighthouse keepers haven't been here in a few days.

Nibbles. At least.

H-dad. Clock emoji. Stop sign emoji!

Nibbles. I don't see a speck of food anywhere. No crumbs. No nuthin.

Carly. H-dad. haven't you been "analyzing"?? What else you got?

H-dad. Historical anecdote: an Irish monk and his flock once built a chapel here, but later abandoned it, claiming that magical beings were haunting the island.

Carly. Whoaaaaaaa.

Nibbles. And what about the lighthouse itself?

H-dad. Construction began in 1895, and was completed in December 1899.

Carly. Wait, December 1899? We're here in December 1900! You're saying the lighthouse keepers disappeared almost exactly one year after the lighthouse was built? AND it was built on a haunted island?? The cause of this disappearance is obvious.

Nibbles. What?

Carly. GHOSTS!

Nibbles. (groans) Yeah, I think I liked aliens better. But they're both ridiculous. There's gotta be a more rational explanation.

Carly. Like what?

Nibbles. Look at this raincoat.

Carly. What about it?

Nibbles. There should be three of them, right? But there's one still hanging there. What does it mean?

Carly. Well, people wear raincoats when it's raining.

Nibbles. The smart ones do. Some people just wear hoodies, though. I don't get that. Like just because it has a hood doesn't mean --

Carly. Wait! Maybe there was a storm! Like a really bad one! And they had to go out in it!

Nibbles. Maybe we should go back outside and take a look around in the cold?

Carly. Yeah Let's go! We left the lighthouse to look for some storm clues.

(Soundbite of the sound of the door opening and wind blowing)

Carly in background. It's even colder than it was before.

Carly. (Continued) and then immediately came back inside cause it was so cold.

(Soundbite of the door slamming back shut)

Carly. But I was not going to let that storm beat me.

Carly. Wait the raincoat. So I put on the one remaining raincoat, and went back out with Nibbles keeping warm in my breast pocket. We walked down to the shore where the boats would come in.

Nibbles. Carly Q. Look how those iron railings are bent. It looks just the Jersey shore - only less graffiti

Carly. Nibbles was right: the railings were all bent over, and other pieces of equipment seemed missing or damaged. And obviously there was no graffiti. It must of been caused by the storm.

H-dad. A lighthouse at this time should be equipped with a life buoy --

Carly. That's like a life jacket, to help you float in the water. But there weren't any around.

H-dad. And a box of mooring ropes should be neatly stored nearby --

Carly. Mooring ropes are used to tie down a ship when it comes in, so it doesn't float away. But the box of them had been flung open, and the ropes were all over the place.

Nibbles. Alright, Here's my new theory: the two missing rain coats mean two of the men went out during a storm.

Carly. But why?

Nibbles. I'm not sure. But the two men are out here when they suddenly need help, so the third one rushes out in a hurry without bothering to put his coat on. And then, all three get washed away in the storm. Huh? Bingo, Bongo..

Carly. Orrrrr, Maybe they used the storm as cover to sneak away and start a new life! Maybe they were abducted by bad guys! Maybe -- wait, we're near Scotland, right? Maybe it was our old friend THE LOCH NESS MONSTER!!!!!!?!!!!

Nibbles. Oh no, we're not doing the Nessie thing again, are we?

H-dad. Analysis complete! Theory one: a lighthouse keeper stationed here in the 1950's believed one of the missing men may have been caught in a sudden storm, and when the other two came to rescue him, all three got swept out to sea.

Nibbles. That's just like my theory! Only, different.

H-dad. Theory two: research from 2016 indicates that one of the men had previously been fined when lighthouse equipment got destroyed in a storm on his watch.

Nibbles. There's your motive! They went out in the storm to secure the equipment so they wouldn't have to pay a lot of money again. Money talks baby!

H-dad. Cha-ching! emoji.

Carly. No no no no no NO! Motive shmotive, I want some evidence that this WASN'T aliens or ghosts.

Nibbles. What? That doesn't even make sense.

Carly. I could feel my bad mood coming back on. No, what doesn't make sense is how weird I feel right now!

Nibbles. What?

Carly. I don't know, I'm just having a very confusing set of emotions today!

H-dad. Warning: stormy weather approaching!

Nibbles. What emotions? What is going on with you sis?

Carly. I don't know! I'm *disappointed* that we can't find evidence of something more interesting going on. I'm *annoyed* that H-dad takes so long to analyze. I'm *angry* that I woke up on the wrong side of the bed this morning. And I'm *sad* because, I don't know why! I just feel sad!

Nibbles. Wow. That's a LOT. I mean, sometimes you gotta let yourself feel the feels, but, wow.

Carly. I just want to find the answer to this mystery, AND have it be utterly stunning and unexpected! Is that really too much to ask?

(Soundbite of crack of thunder)

Carly and Nibbles. AhhhHHHHHHHH!!!

Nibbles. Alright, That was close. I'm just gonna go see if i can sniff out some crumbs over there while you work this out.

Carly. Nibbles hopped out of my pocket and ran back to the lighthouse, but I wasn't going anywhere. I am GOING to find more clues.

H-dad. Warning: stormy weather has arrived! Rain is imminent.

Carly. No! H-dad listen up: I need every single piece of information you have about this place, anywhere in your database. And don't you dare say--

H-dad. Analyzing?

Carly. No.

H-dad. Analyzing.

Carly. No!

H-dad. Analyzing.

Carly. NO!

H-dad. Analyzing.

Carly. No, No, NOOOOO!

(Sound effect rain pouring)

Carly. I stuffed H-dad. back into my pocket and set out to find for more clues. Helloooo? Clues?? Where are youuu? But if there were any, I wasn't finding them. How am I going to see anything in this storm? It was wet and windy and hard to see, and I couldn't find anything else at the shoreline.

Carly. H-dad., do you have *anything*?

H-dad. I predict you are NOT going to like my answer. Zipper-mouth emoji!

Carly. Ughh! But worst of all? It just wasn't very much fun. I suddenly felt for the men who worked here as lighthouse keepers, how isolating and lonely it must have been. But at least they had each other!

(Soundbite of Thunder)

Carly. Ahhh. It turns out that running around a deserted island in a thunderstorm without your rat friend to keep you company is not exactly a very good time. But luckily for me--

Nibbles. Carly!

Carly. Nibbles! She came back for me!

Nibbles. OK hon, we need to get you back inside. It's too dangerous out here, we're in the middle of a storm!

Carly. A *bad* storm.

Nibbles. I know you're disappointed about the mystery, and feeling some other bad stuff too. But getting soaked to the bone isn't gonna make it any better!

Carly. (sighs) You're right.

Nibbles. Also lightning. That's bad too. Come on!

Carly. Okay! I followed Nibbles back into the lighthouse --

(Soundbite of the creak of the door opening, then closing shut, the storm noises quieter in there) --

Carly.-- where we were finally able to warm up. I don't know why I'm so riled up, Nibbles. This has just been a really hard day.

Nibbles. Happens to the best of us. I once had a day so bad I picked a fight with a toothpick!And lost.

Carly. It's just that when I get these feelings inside me, these boiling emotions, it's like they just want to take over everything, it's like--

(Soundbite of wind chime)

Odie. (flashback voice) The uncontrolled storm consumes all

Carly. It's like a storm inside me that I can't control!!

Nibbles. Why does that sound so familiar?

Carly. Cause Odie said it before we left!

Nibbles. Right and also cause there's a storm outside.

Carly. How does Odie always know??

H-dad.Incoming message from Butthead-quarters.

Loudspeaker. Attention BUTHEAD employees, Lunch time is coming to an end. Please finish putting food into the belly, and trash into the trash.

Carly. Well I guess it's time to head back.

Nibbles. Just our luck. The storm's finally starting to clear.

Carly. Really? We went back outside to find the rain had stopped and the sun peaking through the clouds.

Nibbles. Whoa, Look at that!

Carly. Whoa a rainbow! A beautiful rainbow had appeared.

Nibbles. I wonder if there's a pot of gold.

Carly. An awful nice send-off after that storm. And after a nice brisk walk across the island, we arrived back at the elevator. It's kind of pretty here, when it's not raining.

(Soundbite of elevator ding and traveling noises, then another ding)

Odie. Hello basement companion. How was the lighthouse?

Carly. Cold and rainy! We did find some interesting clues though: there was lots of damage around the area where the ships would dock, and a couple of missing raincoats inside, and I guess one of the men had previously gotten in trouble for not securing his equipment?

Odie. Very interesting.

Carly. Nibbles thinks that's the whole story: that a storm came, and when the men went out to tie their stuff down they got swept out to sea.

Odie. Makes a lot of sense.

Carly. I don't know. I mean, maybe it does? But it's such a bland explanation, it's too simple, I don't like it at all!

Odie. That doesn't mean it's wrong.

Carly. But the *real* answer should be wild and exciting, not just an accident. Why is everyone so satisfied with that?

Odie. Because it's probably true?

Carly. Yeah, but that's so disappointing! It makes me angry and frustrated and (deep breath) sorry.

Odie. (shrugs) Eh, it's fine. Everyone gets mad sometimes, or angry, or upset. Feelings can be like the weather. Sometimes they are good, sometimes they are bad. You just have to deal with them the right way.

Carly. Right as usual Odie. Thanks so much for all your help. I really appreciate it.

Odie. You're welcome, basement companion. And I hope you have a better rest of your day

(Soundbite of Carly walking back to her desk)

Carly. As I walked back to my desk, Nibbles hopped out of my backpack and got right down to eating some crumbs from under my chair. I see you found your crumbs pile? Probably chips. They always collect there. I don't know why.

(Soundbite of rat noises)

Carly. Nibbles, Thank you for your patience with me today. I was in a very strange mood.

(Soundbite of Rat squeaking)

Carly. I'm going to be better at not making others feel bad just because *I* feel bad. I can't take out my emotions on other people. Or, robot helpers. Or rats.

(Soundbite of Rat noises, Nibbles squeaking in agreement)

Carly. Nibbles climbed into my lap, and I swear I could see a little smile on her face. Thanks Nibs! She was giving me a hug!

(Soundbite of rat squeak)

Carly. Or maybe she wanted a change of scenery, but I'm going with hug. After the day I'd just had, it sure felt good. Anyway, until next time, this is Carly Q, signing off. And remember: you never heard this!