

Who When Wow, Season 2, Episode 5

Toad Fall

Carly. Greetings millions of secret listeners. It is me, Carly Q, your favorite time traveling, international podcaster! That's right we're going international, because today I went to France in pursuit of a frog storm. Ribbit, Ribbit. I'm Carly Q and this is Who When Wow; Édition Mystère!(whispering) That means Mystery Edition, in French.

(THEME SONG)

PA System. Welcome employees to another exciting day at BUTTHED HQ; where the future is ... tomorrow!

Carly. It was another boring day the Bureau of Universal Time Travel Historical Exploration Division. I was cataloging another historical event for the archives in my subterranean lair when who should show up at my desk but..

Carly in background. Cataloging, cataloging, cataloging.

Lewis. Hey there Carly Q ...

Carly. Lewis.

Lewis. Basement life treating you well?

Carly. (snarky) Actually, it is. I'm taking care of some very important work down here.

Computer. File submitted. Fart Bottling. Bubonic Plague. 1665. London.

Carly. Shoot, I thought I muted this thing!

Lewis. Riiiiiiiiight.

Carly. What do you want Lewis? I'm very busy!

Lewis. Well Carly Q, as much as it pains me to be down here in the basement, it looks like I'll be stationed here for the rest of the afternoon.

Carly. What!? Why!? I have a very specific system down here Lewis, and if anyone

Lewis. (cutting her off) Nothing I can do about it I'm afraid. There's a drip above my desk upstairs and it's going to take all afternoon to get it sponged up!

Carly. Oh no! I was about to suggest Lewis set himself up in the janitor's closet because Glen was on vacation that week. But then something very interesting arrived on my desk.

(Soundbite of A thumb-drive arrives through tube)

Carly. Huh ... what do we have here?

Lewis. Um, another time event for you to catalogue? Obviously.

Carly. But this wasn't just any time event, this was a time sealed event! Uh, hey Lewis. Why don't you go and check out Glens closet real quick?

Lewis. The janitor? Why would I do that?

Carly. Well he's on vacation at the moment and you get the best wi-fi signal in there.

Lewis. Oh! I *will* travel for superior wifi! Catch ya later Q!

(Soundbite of Lewis walking away)

Carly. Byeee. As soon as Lewis was gone I plugged the time sealed event into the computer. Let's see what we got, and..

Computer. Event. BLEEP. Lalain, France. BLEEP. 1794. BLEEP. Toad Fall.

Carly. Toad Fall? I did what I always do when I get one of these time sealed events. I asked H-dad, my hand-held Digital AI device....

Carly. H-dad

H-dad. H-dad ... Powering up!

Carly. What is a Toad Fall?

H-dad. Searching now! Searching! Searching! Still Searching!

Carly. Oh that's new. But as per usual his feedback was not exactly helpful.

(Soundbite of DING)

H-dad. Result found! Toadfall is the name of a 2005 punk rock band from Illinois.

Carly. Yeah, no. It was a good first guess but something was off. The time sealed file clearly said that it was from 1794 ... not 2005. AND it said it took place in Lalain, France. Lalain? L-a-l-a-i-n, Lalain? Ok Toad fall sounds great, anyway that's nowhere near Illinois!

Lewis. Ah, Toadfall. Love that band.

Carly. Gah! Lewis where did you come from?

Lewis. I just got back. Glen's closet is locked by the way. Obviously. Why are you looking up Toadfall?? You want some post 90s punk rock suggestions because I know several.

Carly. No that is not the Toadfall I'm looking for.

Lewis. Then why are you listening to Toadfall? You researching animal rain or something?

Carly. Animal rain?

Lewis. Yeah, it's when, basically.

H-dad. (interrupting) A rain of animals is a rare meteorological phenomenon in which flightless animals fall from the sky. Rain emoji. Cat emoji. Dog emoji. Pig emoji. Chicken emoji.

Lewis. Yeah, what he said.

Carly. I don't think so Lewis. Lewis is always doing this; telling me fake facts so he looks smart at the next BUTTHED corporate trivia night. But he's not going to get me this time ...

Lewis. Seriously! Frogs, toads, fish ... my cousin Leroy once swore an entire octopus fell on his car.

Carly. Oh please ... Your cousin Leroy also said that dogs can't look up.

Lewis. Yeah, but this one is for real Carly Q. I'm serious.

Carly. Ok, sure you are Lewis.

(Soundbite Carly walks down the hallway)

Lewis. Carly Q where are you going?

Carly. No where. (whispers to self) to the time travel elevator. Certainly not to any time traveling transportation system. Nailed it.

Lewis. Can I use your wifi?

Carly. Go right ahead Lewis! I mean, I am absolutely willing to believe numerous inexplicable things but THAT is just absurd. Plus, talk about an unreliable source! Lewis cannot be trusted!

Carly in background. I'm fine with that!

Carly. I bet Leroy also told him that hot snow falls up! He's just.

Odie. Whoah! Easy there Basement Companion ..

Carly. Sorry Odie, I didn't see you there.

Odie. I noticed. So where do you want my elevator to take you today?

Carly. Come on Odie. Can't one basement companion come pay a friendly visit to another basement companion just to say hi?

Odie. I suppose they could but I haven't seen it yet.

Carly. OK, you're right. I do want to go somewhere, but that doesn't mean that our relationship is COMPLETELY transactional.

Odie. Uh huh.

Carly. Anyway, any chance you could drop me off in Lalain, France, 1794. I am not sure I'm pronouncing that correctly.

Odie. Don't worry you're not. Now why on earth would you want to go there?

Carly. What do you mean?

Odie. That country France, at war with that other country Austria, nasty business. Why'd you want to put yourself in the middle of that?

Carly. Because the time sealed event said that it had something to do with an event called Toadfall.

Odie. Oh I love Toadfall! I couldn't get enough of them back in 2006.

Carly. No this isn't the band Toad Fall it's something else, something, mysterious.

Odie. Oh right

Carly. Lewis thinks it's got something to do with animals actually falling from the sky, but I'm pretty sure he's messing with me and I would not fall for it!

Odie. Well, stranger things have happened.

Carly. What do you mean? It's animals falling from the sky! That is impossible, right?

Odie. Improbable sure. But impossible? Maybe not.

Carly. But

Odie. And once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.

(Soundbite of wind chimes)

Carly. Huh ... okay. You are doing that weird speaking in riddles things again.

Odie. Okay, the closest I can get you to this event is the following morning. Do you remember the rules for while you're down there?

Carly. Yes Odie. When you go to the past you can't change or stop anything, so don't even try.

Odie. (at same time)... so don't even try, that's right. Also, don't eat anything purple. That's not a time traveling thing that's just good life advice.

Carly. Hmm, Got it.

Odie. Alright then, here we go!

(Soundbite ding and traveling noises)

Carly. Viva la France!

(Soundbite of ding and landing, light rain fall)

Carly. Ooh fresh mud to squish through in my new rain boots! Excellent!

(Soundbite of Cannon fire)

Carly. Wait was that a CANNON? - NOT EXCELLENT!

(Soundbite of cannons builds and french soldiers in the background.)

French Soldier. Descendre!

Carly. What?! Who said that?

(Sounds of yells)

Carly. Gah! This is not good. This is VERY not good! Running! In! Mud! Is! SO! Hard!

French Soldier. Bouge de là!

French Soldier. Venez par ici, madame!

Carly. Boy, that was a close one. Thanks fellas. I think I ..hey, wait a minute. Are you arresting me?! Where are we going? You are not understanding.

(Soundbite of the soldiers speaking to each other in French)

Carly. I'm a detective! I'm just trying to solve a mystery! It has something to do with Toadfall.

French Soldier. Crapaud?

Carly. Umm excuse me, I don't think you can say that guys. This podcast I'm making is supposed to be G-rated so.

H-dad. FUN FACT! Crapaud means Toad in the French Language. French flag emoji. Toad emoji.

Carly. Ooh, H-dad! I completely forgot you were there ... Activate the time elevators translation feature!

H-dad. Activating translation feature.

French Soldier. What is she talking about?

French Soldier 2. Something about the Toads

French Soldier. Maybe we should take her to the commander?

Carly. Yes! Take me to the commander. I have a questions for him.

French Soldier. Ahhhhhhh, so you do speak French!

French Soldier 2. I knew she did, she's just toying with us!

Carly. I'm not toying with you. I'm just trying to solve a mystery!

French Soldier 2. I don't understand

French Soldier. Let's just take her to Général Gayet. He can figure out what to do with her.

Carly. Great idea! He can help me with my investigation!

French Soldier. Investigation? Are you from the Bibliothèque de l'Institut?

Carly. Uh, the what?

French Soldier. The research institute; they're always sending you science folk out here to collect data after weird events like this.

Carly. You don't say.

French Soldier 2. Yeah, like all these toads that showed up last night. I assume they sent you out here to investigate?

Carly. Yes. Yes. That's exactly what they did.

French Soldier 2. OK, we'll take you to Général Gayet; His command tent is at the other end of camp. Follow us.

(Soundbite of walking into a battle camp.)

Carly. Um fellas? Monsieurs? Where exactly are we? Hang on, is that? Woah, look at all these toads.

French Soldier 2. Yeah, they're everywhere! I found 4 of them in my boot this morning!

French Soldier. They fell from the sky!

Carly. Come on, next you're going to try to convince me that dogs can't look up.

French Soldier. The whole 3rd battalion saw it! Also, dogs can't look up.

Carly. That is so not true.

French Soldier. Nevermind, We're here. Come on Mademoiselle, into the general's tent.

(Soundbite of a sheet being pulled back)

French Soldier. (clears throat) Excusez-moi Général Gayet

Gayet. Yes, what is it private?

French Soldier. We have a woman here who..

Gayet. A woman? On the battlefield? This is no place for a lady.

Carly. Excuse me, listen mister ... Listen mister, a woman can do whatever she wants to. She can absolutely charge onto a Napoleonic battlefield in her new rain boots! She can also dance on said battlefield! She can nap on said battlefield! She can host a podcast in said battlefield! She can do two..

Gayet. Oh, and obviously an American to boot! Y'know I'm quite a fan of that Democracy thing you've got going over there. We've got our own version of it here now too. It's only a few years old so far but it's going pretty good I think.

French Soldier 2. Sir, she says that she's here because of the Toads.

Gayet. Ahhhhhh, the ones that fell from the sky last night? Gentlemen you are dismissed.

Carly. General I am here to find out about those toads.

Gayet. It's pronounced Général

Carly. Oh sorry, Général?

Gayet. Général.

Carly. General.

Gayet. Never mind. Did the Bibliothèque de l'Institut de France send you? I know they have quite a few Americans over there at the moment.

Carly. The what?

Gayet. The Bibliothèque de l'Institut de France. The institute collecting all that research data.

Carly. Oh yes! Right, totally. I am definitely from the ...(butchering it) Bibliothèque de l'Institut.

Gayet. Superbe, you can tell me how this bizarre weather is going to affect my battle plans.

Carly. Suuuuuuure.

Gayet. Follow me mademoiselle.

Carly. You can call me detective.

Gayet.

Very well. Follow me Detective.

Carly. General Gayet lead me out the tent to the battlefield where there were even more toads.

Gayet. So as you can see the toads have infested the entire base. We've found everywhere. In the armory, in the barracks and in one unfortunate incident this morning, the lavatory.

Carly. Oh my.

Gayet. Indeed.

Carly. And where did they all come from?

Gayet. I believe that is what you are here to find out, isn't it detective?

Carly. Right. Yes. Detective. So let me put my thinking cap on. And by thinking cap I mean; let me ask my H-dad if he has any new ideas.

Gayet. H-PAPA?

Carly. Yeah, it's this nifty little gadget I carry around with me ...

Gayet. Fascinant, your American science will never cease to amaze me.

Carly. Oh yeah, it's super handy. It can translate languages, you can play tetris on it, you can also ask it how all these toads got here!

H-dad. Analyzing origin of amphibians in immediate vicinity. Hour glass emoji. Frog emoji. Thumbs up emoji. Analyzing. Analyzing. Analyzing.

Carly. Ughhhhh! This is taking forever! Looks like I'll have to do this the old fashion way. General Gayet ...

Gayet. Oui?

Carly. Can I interview a few of your men to get a better idea of where these toads came from?

Gayet. But of course. Jaques, Henri, get over here.

(Soundbite of the troops assembling)

Carly. Ok lads, tell me. Where'd all these toads come from?

Henri. They rained down from the sky detective.

Jaques. It's true. Yup.

Carly. (Sigh) Okay, this isn't getting us anywhere. Let's wind this back a little bit. What happened before all these toads showed up?

Francois. Well we'd had some pretty bad weather in the last few weeks leading up to the toad fall.

Carly. Again, not totally convinced these things fell from the sky but go on.

Jaques. Last night was particularly bad.

Henri. Oui, I hid in my sleeping bag all night! It was really scary.

Carly. Wait a minute ... Major rainfall?.I've got it! I've cracked the case!

Gayet. What is it?

Carly. These toads didn't fall from the sky ...

Henri. Actually they did ...

Francois. Yeah, we all saw it with our own eyes.

Carly. Well I propose an alternative theory! The downpour just flooded all the nearby ponds and forced these toads to take shelter in this battle camp!

Jaques. I don't know.

Francois. Yeah, I'm pretty sure one fell on my head last night.

Henri. Yeah, and they're aren't any ponds anywhere nearby here.

Carly. Huh ... well maybe

H-dad. Analysis complete!

Carly. Ah ha! Here we go! H-dad will vindicate me! (clears throat) H-dad where exactly did these toads come from?

H-dad. The sky!

Carly. Wait, what?!

Henri and Francois. Haha! Told you!

(Soundbite of Henri and Francois high five)

Carly. High five? We're those even invented?

Gayet. Knock it off! Behave yourselves.

Carly. H-dad! Explain yourself!

H-dad. Analysis of nearby amphibians show that they're geographical presence is the result of a ... water spout.

Carly. A water spout?

H-dad. Correct.

Carly. Aren't they those things you take a drink out of in the park?

H-dad. Negative! A water spout is a weather event similar to a tornado; only it forms over water.

Carly. Okay, but I still don't understand what that has to do with this ENTIRE battle camp being filled to the brim with toads! Didn't you hear these guys? There's no water anywhere around here!

H-dad. As a water spout passes over water it sucks up aquatic animals close to the surface. Then, as it moves inland and loses power, it deposits the animals it sucked up onto the unsuspecting people below. Searching for shark nato emoji.

Carly. Okay, let me get this straight, this water tornado traveled over some body of water that had lots of toads and it sucked them all up and then dumped them here?

H-dad. That is correct! Green check emoji!

Carly. Woah ... what a highly improbable event.

Gayet. Oui ... but not impossible.

Carly. Yeah, and once you've eliminated the impossible.

Gayet. What ever remains must be the truth! A popular French saying.

Carly. A friend of mine told me that!

Gayet. They must be quite wise. Or possibly French.

Carly. It's the first one.

Gayet. Well Detective Carly Q it seems like you and your H-PAPA have gotten to the bottom of this bizarre weather event. Thank you kindly.

Carly. You are very welcome Général.

Gayet. Hey! You got it!

Carly. (oblivious) Got what?

Gayet. Never mind. I must return to my command tent. I wish you a safe trip back to the Bibliothèque de l'Institut de France.

Carly. The what?

Gayet. The research institute.

Carly. Oh yes! Right. That club that I am DEFINITELY a part of.

Gayet. Good day mademoiselle, I hope we meet again.

(Soundbite of Gayet walking away)

Carly. (yelling after him) You probably won't! I'll never see you again!

(Soundbite of the toads ribbeting rises.)

Carly. Let's get back to the time elevator. Whoa toad in my new boot. You stay here. Bye Bye.

(Soundbite of toad ribbits)

(Soundbite of card key beep and then whoosh as it returns to BUTTHED HQ)

Odie. Welcome back, basement companion. Did you solve your mystery?

Carly. Actually, yes! It turns out Toad fall is legit.

Odie. I know, right! I just found out they're touring again too!

Carly. How do you and Lewis have the same taste in music?

Odie. Oh that's disturbing. Have a good rest of your day, basement companion.

Carly in background. You too.

Carly. (Continued) I learned an important lesson that day; just because something seems impossible, doesn't mean that it is. It turns out Lewis was right; sometimes animals CAN literally fall from the sky! But that doesn't mean he's right about everything; I still believe that dogs can look up! El adventure!

Lewis. Carly Q, were you just speaking french? And is that a frog?

Carly. Trying. Au-revior. Until next time.

Lewis. Who are you talking to?!