

Who When Wow, Season 2, Episode 19

The Flying Dutchman

Carly. Tell me listener, do you believe in magic?

(Soundbite of Magical/mysterious music.)

Carly. I LOVE magic. Always have. That's why for this years annual BUTTHED Talent show I'll be performing my world famous, one woman magic show! Wanna preview? Okay ... keep your ear on the card.

(Soundbite of card shuffling.)

Carly. You wanna know my favorite part of this magic trick? It's how easy it is to do. It LOOKS super complicated, but like all good magic tricks it's simply ... (grand reveal)... AN ILLUSION!

(Soundbite of Magical/mysterious music.)

Carly. Ah No wait. That's not the card you should have gotten! Ah alright,well ,I need a bit more practice. Roll the theme song. I'm gonna go over this one more time ...Uh, I'm Carly Q and this is Who, When, Wow Mystery Edition

(Soundbite of card shuffling.)

(THEME SONG)

(Soundbite of office noise, commotion going on.)

Carly. Hey! Hey Steven! Wanna see a magic trick? No? OK. Oooh Donna! Donna Sue! You look like the kind of person who likes to be mesmerized! Nope? Not your thing? OK, fine.Brendan! My man! Wanna see some magic?

Brendan. Uh sure Carly Q. I'm just waiting for my face paint to dry.

Carly. Ooooh, very cool. You're face painting for the talent show?

Brendan. What talent show?

Carly. Never mind....Wait a minute! What's that behind your ear?

Brendan. What?

Carly. Let me just .

Brendan. Careful of the paint Carly!

(Soundbite of Card flicking.)

Carly. Ah ha! My ace of spades. It was behind your ear this whole time!

Lewis. It's a trick , Brendan! She has cards up her sleeve!

Carly. Lewis! Don't listen to him Brendan, I do not have -

(Soundbite of a whole bunch of cards come crashing to the floor.)

Carly. Ah! Oh mumble crust

Brendan. Well! That's the last time I trust a magician! HR will be hearing about this!

(Soundbite of Brendan storming off.)

Carly. Great! Way to go Lewis. Now I'm gonna have to deal with HR again.

Lewis. I can't help it. I'm a natural cynic and -- wait what do you mean "again?". Carly?

Carly. Nevermind!

(Soundbite of Carly going down basement steps.)

Carly. I went down to the basement to practice my magic tricks but I found something rather interesting lying on my desk. Well well well, what do we have here? A time sealed event. I suppose magic practice can wait. Let's see what we've got.

Audio File. Event, (BLEEP) Cape of Good Hope. (BLEEP) 1799 (BLEEP) Flying Dutchman.

Carly in the background. The Flying Dutchman?

Carly. I was confused. The Flying Dutchman was one of my all-time favorite professional wrestler. What in the world was he doing in 1799?! I decided to ask my hand-held device.

H-dad. H-dad pooooooooowering up!

Carly. H-dad, What is the Flying Dutchman?

H-dad. Analyzing! Clock emoji... hourglass emoji... Pensive face emoji.

Carly. As per usual, H-DAD was taking ages to...

H-dad. (cutting off her VO) Analysis complete!

Carly. Oh. That was a lot quicker than I expected. What have you got for me H-dad?

H-dad. The Flying Dutchman is the name of a ghost ship that allegedly haunted the Atlantic Ocean in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Carly. Ooooooh baby. Now we're talking!

Carly. Fair to say, I was excited to bust out this mystery.

Carly in the background. I am excited for this mystery! I can't wait til lunch!

Carly. But first... I had some card tricks to practice.

Carly in the background. Alright right up my sleeve! Nothing to see here! Andddd Wallah..Is that your card?..that's what I thought.

(Soundbite of walking to elevator.)

Carly. Hey there basement companion!

Odie. Hey there,yourself, Carly Q.

Carly. Wanna see a magic trick,Odie?

Odie. Do I have a choice?

Carly. So The ace of spades has gone missing

Odie. Guess not

Carly. And... wait a minute, Odie, what's that behind your ear?

Odie. The Ace of Spades.

Carly. What? Ughhh! Did Lewis come down here and spoil my trick for you already?

Odie. I can see the card poking through your fingers

Carly. Ah... right. I guess I could use some more practice. But it'll have to wait until after we tackle... THIS!

(Soundbite of Carly pulling out a slip of paper.)

Odie. Another time sealed event?

Carly. You know it. The flying dutchman, 1799. And it's not the professional wrestler

Odie. I assumed

Carly. Yeah. This one's a flying ghost ship that haunted the Atlantic ocean in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Odie. Oh right. THAT Flying Dutchman!

Lewis. That doesn't sound very believable.

Carly. Lewis?! Stop sneaking up on me!

Lewis. Why? Afraid you'll get caught doing something your not supposed to?

Carly. (Slightly nervous)What? Pffft. No. Right, Odie?

Odie. She was planning to use the elevator for another unsanctioned time trip.

Carly. Odie!?

Odie. What? My talent is that I cannot tell a lie.

Carly. Wait? Really?

Odie. Uh huh.

Carly. Who's your best friend at BUTTHED?

Odie. Phineas Junior.

Carly. The plastic office plant up on level 2?

Odie. He's a really good listener.

Carly. Huh.

Lewis. So shall I record this trip in the official BUTTHED logbook oooooor ...

Carly. Fine! You can come along again,but not if you're gonna be a hater!

Lewis. No promises. So what nonsense have you gotten yourself into this time?

Carly. The Flying Dutchman. NOT the wrestler. It's a ghost ship from the turn of the 18th century.

Lewis. Ohhh a flying ghost ship Huh?.I'm sure there's some logical explanation for it.

Carly. Do you have to suck the fun out of everything?

Lewis. I don't *have* to...

Odie. Okay you two, are we going or what? I've got a hot bowl of Sinigang to get to.

Lewis/Carly. Yes./Ready.

Odie. Great. You both remember the rules?

Carly. Don't alter the past.

Lewis. Be back by the end of lunch.

Odie. Good. And remember, just like Carly's card trick; sometimes seeing and believing are not the same thing. (Soundbite of wind chimes.) Now hold on tight. Here. We. Go!

(Soundbite Odie cranks the lever. Ding and travel noises.)

Carly. Oh that reminds me, pick a card, any card.

Lewis. CARLY Nobody wants to see your trickkkkkkk

(Soundbite of thud as elevator lands.)

Lewis. I suppose a smooth landing would be too much to ask for.

Carly. Yeah, I got a funny feeling, she's doing it on purpose.

Lewis. So, where did she plop us down this time?

Carly. Well, this is where you've got to start using your detective skills. Ok Let's see here, from the sound of the waves outside and the dampness of this room I'd say we're in the hull of some sort of ship. NOW, what KIND of ship. A great question, we can,

Lewis. It's the Malabar

Carly. What?

Lewis. The ship, it's called the Malabar. Look, it's written right here on this barrel.

Carly. Oh yeah.

(Soundbite a wooden door opens.)

First Mate Phillips. Hey! Who goes there!

Carly. (Whisper) Lewis, get down.

First Mate Phillips. Any stowaways had better come out now or be tossed overboard. You've got til 3. 1 ... 2 ... 2 and a half ...

Lewis. (whispering). Carly! Do something!

Carly. (Whisper) Fine! (normal voice) Hello! Hi. No need to throw anyone overboard.

First Mate Phillips. Who are you?

Carly. Who are you!?

First Mate Phillips. I, am first mate Phillips, and if you don't identify yourselves this instant I will have no choice but the throw you in the brig!

Carly. Ah Well my name is Caaaa ...(catches herself)... aaaarly. Wow, it's really hard to think of a fake name once you've already started.

Lewis. Now you've done it Carly!

First Mate Phillips. And who are you?

Lewis. My name is Lew ... is. Wow, that is hard.

Carly. We're here on an investigation.

First Mate Phillips. An investigation?

Carly. Yes! We're here to solve the mystery of the Flying Dutchman.

First Mate Phillips. The Flying Dutchman? You two wait right here. DO NOT move a muscle.

(Soundbite a wooden door opens.)

Lewis. Way to go Carly! You scared him off.

Carly. No I didn't, he's probably just going to get the...

Captain. Where are these stowaways?

First Mate Phillips. This way sir.

Carly. Captain. Uh,uh, shiver me timbers, Captain. We're not stowaways.

Lewis. No, We're investigators who have been sent to solve ...

Captain Edmeades. To solve the mystery of the Flying Dutchman. Yes, First Mate Phillips here told me all about you two. My name is Captain Edmeades, commander of this vessel.

Carly. And A very nice vessel it is Captain.

Captain Edmeades. Well I'm afraid you've wasted your time. There is no mystery here. There's no such thing as ghosts and I won't have you two spreading lies and hysteria amongst my crew. First Mate Phillips.

First Mate Phillips. Yes, Captain.

Captain Edmeades. Would you be so kind as to escort our guests to the brig. We'll dispose of them once we make landfall in the Cape of Good Hope.

First Mate Phillips. Yes sir.

Lewis. The brig? That doesn't sound so bad.

H-dad. Brig is nautical term for jail on a ship.

Carly. Oh, that's pretty bad.

First Mate Phillips. Alright, you heard the Captain. Follow me.

Lewis. (Whispering) Carly! Do something. We can't let them lock us up until they dock. That could be weeks!

Carly. Yeah I know, I'm working on it.

First Mate Phillips. Will you two, stop whispering?

Carly. Listen, first mate, about this whole brig thing.

First Mate Phillips. I know all about the Dutchman. I've laid eyes on her myself!

Lewis. What?

First Mate Phillips. I've laid eyes on her myself!

Carly. You mean you've seen the flying ghost ship?

First Mate Phillips. That's what I said, innit?

Lewis. You actually witnessed the flying boat?

First Mate Phillips. You daft? I said that twice already, But you saw what the Captain's like. He wants to keep calm and order, but some of us—

(Soundbite someone comes running down the hallway.)

Sailor Kelly. (out of breath) The Flying Dutchman! It's back. 400 feet off the starboard bow.

Lewis. What? Now?....What? Now?

Sailor Kelly.. Come on! Everyone's gathered on the deck.

First Mate Phillips. Alright! Come on. Lets Go!

(Soundbite running upstairs to deck.)

Sailor Sean. There she blows!

First Mate Phillips. And you lot didn't believe me!

Carly. Excuse me, coming through! Just gonna squeeze past you there. Come on Lewis, keep up. Before this ghost ship disappears again.

Lewis. I'm sure whatever these sailors are gawking at, Carly Q, it's not a... (gulp) Ghost ship.

Carly. (in awe) The Flying Dutchman.

First Mate Phillips. In all her glory.

Lewis. (in disbelief) I don't understand... how is it?

Carly. There it was. A real life floating ghost ship, hundreds of feet off the sea and half transparent. Lewis couldn't believe his eyes.

Lewis. But... but.

Carly. Oh, I wish you could have seen Lewis's face. I did not know his mouth could hang open that wide. And I have seen him eat a six foot sub.

Captain Edmeades. What is the meaning of all this? Everyone back to their stations!

First Mate Phillips. (interrupting) Sir, look!

Captain Edmeades. Look at wha...cut off...w-w-w-what? What is that?

Sailor Kelly. It's the Flying Dutchman Captain.

Captain Edmeades. No, it can't be. That's, that's impossible.

H-dad. (muffled) I know ! H-dad with an update!

First Mate Phillips. What was that?

Carly. Uh nothing. (whispering aside) H-dad mute!

Sailor Sean. I definitely heard something.

Sailor Kelly. What if it's a... ghost?

(Soundbite of the crowd starts to grow anxious.)

Captain Edmeades. Everybody calm down. There are NO ghosts here! I will not let hysteria take a hold of my ship.

Lewis. (whispering to Carly) Now would be a really good time for us to get out of here, Carly.

Carly. Good idea. Let's just move to the other side of the poop deck.

(Soundbite of Carly and Lewis scurrying off while the crew are distracted.)

H-dad. (increasing volume) Full Analysis complete. Thumbs up emoji. Party popper emoji. Fist bump emoji.

Carly. What you got for us H-dad?

H-dad. The Flying Dutchman... SECOND ENTRY... referring to the flying ghost ship of the 18th and 19th centuries, was the result of an optical illusion known as... Fata Morgana.

Lewis. What in the world is Fata Morgana?

H-dad. Fata Morgana is a rare optical illusion that can take place at sea when a cool layer of air gets trapped underneath a warm layer of air. Light interacting with this air can make objects that are BEYOND the horizon appear closer AND as if they are floating.

Carly. Wait. So, let me get this straight, What we just saw on that deck wasn't a flying ghost ship... it was just a regular ship... beyond the horizon that was being distorted by the air?

H-dad. That is... AFFIRMATIVE.

Carly. So that flying ghost ship is just like my magic trick... an illusion.

Lewis. Yes. Except this one is actually a CONVINCING illusion.

Carly. Well that's funny Lewis.

Sailor Kelly. The Stowaways! They brought the ghosts.

Lewis. Uh-oh.

(Soundbite of the crowd charging after Carly and Lewis.)

Sailor Sean. Get 'em!

Carly. Quick, through that door, Lewis!

Captain Edmeades. (yelling) Now, now! Calm down! CALM DOWN!

(Soundbite of Carly and Lewis running to elevator.)

Lewis. Hurry, Carly! Call the elevator! Call the elevator!

Carly. I will! I just need to find the key card in my bag.

(Soundbite of the sailors getting closer.)

Lewis. Caaaarly, they're getting closer!

Carly. I know, I know. It's in here somewhere. Ok Lip balm... keys... lip balm... Ooooh coconut lip balm! I was looking for that one!

Lewis. Carly!

Carly. (securing the keycard) Got it!...So long sailorsssss.

(Soundbite of elevator ding and travel noises. Elevator lands.)

Odie. So, how'd it go?

Carly. We saw it!

Odie. You saw it? You saw a flying ghost ship?

Lewis. And, as I had predicted from the start, the whole thing had a very reasonable scientific explanation.

Odie. Is that so?

Carly. Yeah, turns out it was something to do with air above the water making it look like ships in the distance were floating.

Odie. Huh.

Carly. Buuuuuut, we learned something even more important.

Lewis. We did?

Carly. Yes! We learned that sometimes an illusion is more impressive than the explanation behind it. Right, Lewis?

Lewis. (sighs) I suppose...

(Soundbite of audience applauding.)

Carly. By the time the talent show had rolled around, I still didn't have that card trick down perfect...

(Soundbite of cards dropping.)

Carly in the background. Oh mumblecrust, let me just pick these up real quick.

Carly. But at least I knew that Lewis wasn't going to ruin it for everyone anymore.

Coworker. (whispering) So why did all those cards fall out of her sleeve again?

Lewis. (whispering too) You know sometimes, it's more fun NOT knowing how the illusion is done.

Carly. Be it an 18th century floating ghost ship or a mediocre card trick, sometimes the illusion is more... magical, than the explanation. Until next time, this is the Amazing Carly Q saying, now you hear me, now you don't.