

Who, When, Wow, Season 2, Episode 23

The Green Children of Woolpit

Carly. Hello again, mystery enthusiasts. Question, do you like the color green? I know I do, but I don't know if I like it enough to want my skin to be that color...! In today's episode you're gonna get green skin, an unknown language and raw broad beans. What's that, you ask? Keep listening. I'm Carly Q and this is Who When Wow, The Mystery Edition!

(THEME SONG)

(Soundbite of office noises.)

Coworker. Top of the morning to you, Sandy!

Carly. As you know, I work at BUTTHED as a Junior Temporal Analyst during business hours.

Carly in the background. I think it's cool that when you walk barefoot on the beach, your feet get sandy.

Carly. But I spend my lunch breaks doing my real work.

Carly in the background. And your name IS Sandy!

Carly. Investigating history's mysteries to bring my findings to you through this extremely important and highly secret podcast.

Carly in the background. I'm Carly Q and my hair is curly! Ok, nevermind heading down to my office. Catch ya later!

(Soundbite of Carly running down the basement steps.)

Carly. I hadn't received a time-sealed event in a while so I was excited to get to my desk and see if today was the day.

(Soundbite of a thumb drive comes down the vacuum tube.)

Carly in the background. C'mon, time-seal!

Audio File. TIME SEALED EVENT!

Carly. Yeessss! Today is the day.

Audio File. Event: (BLEEP) England, 1150 AD (BLEEEP) Green skin (BLEEEEEEP) Unknown language.

Carly. I couldn't wait to dig into where I was taking the time-travel elevator. I entered my clues into H-dad.

H-dad. Powering up!

Carly in the background. 1150 AD in England, green skin, and unknown language.

H-dad. Analyzing, analyzing!

Carly. While I waited, I got a surprise visit.

Lewis. Heeyyyyy Carly Q!!

Carly in the background. (sighs heavily) Hey Lewis.

Amber. Hello Carly Q.

Carly in the background. Oh hi.

Carly. Lewis was in the basement... again. But he wasn't alone. He brought a woman with painted fingernails and a wide smile.

Lewis. Carly, this is Amber. She's new here at BUTTHED.

Carly. Oh nice to meet you, Amber!

Amber. Nice to meet you. Lewis has told me so much about you!

Carly. Uh oh.

Lewis. Amber is the new BUTHEAD Compliance Officer. Her job is to make sure that everyone is doing their job and only their job.

Carly. I see. If I sounded nervous, it's because I was nervous. I mean using the time-travel elevator is not in my job description.

H-dad. Analysis complete!

Carly. H-dad, sorry, that was loud. Let's just turn that down.

(Soundbite of clicking noises as Carly lowers H-dad's volume.)

Amber. H-dad?

Lewis. Handheld, something, something. I'll take you to get one from the technology department.

Amber. What was he saying Carly Q?

Carly. Ah who knows? He's always going on about stuff. Well it was very nice to meet you, Amber. Time for me to get to work!

Amber. Actually I'll be sitting down here with you for a while Carly Q.

Carly. Oh you will?

Lewis. Yes, her office on the tenth floor isn't quite ready yet.

Amber. And I'd like to get right to work.

Carly. Of course! It's important to have your own workspace.

H-dad. Analysis complete!

Carly. Shhh!

H-dad. Sorry, (whispers) analysis complete.

Lewis. I'll just get you settled over at this unused desk.

Amber. Sounds good.

Carly. I wasn't sure how I was going to sneak onto the time-travel elevator, with Amber, the compliance officer sitting right there, but I at least needed to get my results from H-dad. The suspense was making my eyebrows twitch. H-dad, go. But please keep your voice down.

H-dad. Thumbs up emoji. Shushy face emoji. It is with 96.098% accuracy that this time-sealed event refers to the Green Children of Woolpit.

Carly. Green people in an unknown language sounded a lot like aliens. This could be the time travel event I been waiting for. Green children?!

Amber. What'd you say, Carly Q?

Carly. Oh, um... I was just saying to myself how great it would be to have company down here. Since I'm usually just chillin' by myself. Just chillin' all the time, you know? Chillin.

Lewis. Right. I'm going to head back upstairs. Amber let me know if you need anything. Neck pillow, ear plugs.

Carly. Listen, Lewis can I talk to you about something.

Lewis. Bye Carly Q! See you at lunch time!

(Soundbite of Lewis going up the stairs.)

Amber. I really appreciate you sharing your basement with me for a little while Carly. I'm so interested in what you do. Could you maybe show me what you got there?

Carly. Sorry I'm really busy, maybe later. Okay?

Amber. Yeah sure, maybe later.

Carly. "With Amber in between me and the time travel elevator, I was worried I might never find out if aliens are real. I sat there all morning, stewing until,

P.A Voice. Today's corporate phrase of the day is, "Let's circle back." We'll circle back later to tell you what it means. Ooh but for now, lunch timeeee.

(Soundbite of the lunch bell rings.)

Amber. OOO lunch time!

Carly. Yeah, ooo.

(Soundbite of Lewis walking down stairs.)

Lewis. Amber, lunch time! Oh Carly, you should come to lunch with us. Unless you're planning to you know what in the you know what elevator.

Carly. Well, as a matter of fact, I actually do have some other plans, so I'm gonna do those today.

Amber. I heard they're serving chicken fingers for my first day.

Carly in background. Ugh! Everybody knows I love chicken fingers. Even though chickens don't have fingers. Or nuggets, for that matter.

Carly. Oh dang. I actually - uh - brought my own lunch today. Sorry.

Amber. Okay. Well. See ya later I guess.

Carly. See ya later!

(Soundbite of Amber heading up the stairs.)

Lewis. I'll meet you upstairs Amber!

Carly. Lewis.

Lewis. Be careful with using the you-know-what to go you-know-when since you-know-who is will now be you-know where... You know?

Carly. Uhhh. OK?

(Soundbite of Lewis skips up the stairs.)

Lewis. I'll keep her busy but you owe me. Fingers of chicken here we come.

Carly. Nibbles? Nibbles? C'mon! Looks like we've got even less time than usual to solve this one.

(Soundbite of rat squeaks.)

Carly. I know! I mean Amber's probably really nice and everything but why do they have to put her in the basement with meee?

(Soundbite of elevator ding.)

Carly. Odie, my friend! What's new?

Odie. Well, I oiled the joints and the old girl is running like new again.

Carly. Oh great! Im so glad you take such good care of the elevator.

Odie. I was talking about me.

Carly. Hah. Of course you were. Look. I know that normally this is the part where we'd have a small chat, but Nibbles and I have to skedaddle today.

Odie. What's the rush?

Carly. There's a new employee. And Lewis gave her a desk in the corner of the basement.

Odie. Oh, Amber? She seems very nice. You should show her where you keep all the good snacks.

Carly. I would, but if I make things extra nice for her down here, she might not want to leave. And then she'll catch me using the time travel elevator. And then she'll turn me into the higher ups. And then I'm going to have to cancel my podcast. And this is the only thing that brings me joy in basically the whole world. Why would I do that?

Odie. Well that does sound bad. So you've got to hurry back before she returns from lunch.

Carly. Right, Yes! And I need all the time I can get! We're going to investigate the Green Children of Woolpit and... IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ALIENS THIS TIME!

Odie. Hmm. Why do you think that?

Carly. Green skin? An unknown language? What else could it be?

Odie. Okay, okay, let's get you going so you can investigate. But remember, basement companion... (Soundbite of wind chimes.) There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.

Carly. This many adventures and I still can't figure out where that sound is coming from.

Odie. Okay, time to go. You know the rules by now, but I'm required to repeat them. When you go to the past you can't change or stop anything, so don't try. You may observe and ask questions, but do not meddle. Understand?

Carly. I always do!

Odie. When you arrive back in time, a card reader will remain where you came in. Use your keycard and the elevator will reappear. You can also use it to fast forward to other time periods on the file. But you **MUST** be back here before the end of your lunch break. Ready?

Carly. Ready!

(Soundbite of elevator ding and travel noises)

Odie. It's not easy being green.

Carly. Aliens here I comeeee!

(Soundbite of elevator landing and thud.)

Carly. We're in England, Nibbles!

Nibbles. Whoah. Looks different than the last time we came here. Where are all the double-decker buses?

Carly. It's 1150 AD. We traveled back Nine hundred year.s I don't think Big Ben has been built yet. Mostly just grassy fields...

Nibbles. I do see a house over there, though. Maybe that's where we're supposed to go.

Carly. Ooh, and there's two kids sitting in the yard. Come on! Let's run through the field!

(Soundbite of Carly and Nibbles run across the grassy field.)

Carly. Oh yes! I love running! Don't you, Nibbs?

Nibbles. (panting) Ehhh. Not really. I mean I run a lot... But that's just because something always seems to be chasing me. Hashtag ratlife.

Carly. I see two children right over there, could that be --Oh mumble crust, THE KIDS ARE GREEN!!! (to the children) Uhm hi! Hello? What's your names?

(Soundbite of the boy and girl begin speaking excitable words all at once.)

Carly. Whoa, whoa... slow down! I can't understand you. H-dad, translate what they're saying?

H-dad. Analyzing, analyzing. I got nothing, unable to translate. Shoulder shrug emoji.

Carly. That's never happened before!

H-dad. This seems to resemble an older version of the Flemish language spoken in Belgium. It is currently incompatible with my software. Hashtag upgrade time!

Nibbles. Maybe that tall guy over there can help.

Richard de Calne. Excuse me?

Carly. Oh, hello! I'm so happy there's someone here who I can speak with.

Richard De Calne. Could you possibly be the doctor that was sent from Suffolk?

Carly. I... COULD possibly be. Yes.

Richard De Calne. Fantastic! I'm Richard de Calne and I'm so worried about these children.

Carly. What is that they're eating, Richard?

Richard De Calne. Raw broad beans.

Carly. Broad beans? That's like fava beans right? Where did they come from?... The kids. Not the beans.

Richard De Calne. Well, a little while ago, some villagers found these children standing next to a wolf pit at the edge of our village.

Carly. Oh a wolf pit?

Richard De Calne. For trapping wolves.

Carly. Right. When they were found, were they this color?

Richard De Calne. Yes, their skin was green. They wore clothes that no one had seen before and they only spoke in this language. They refused all food for days and I worry they'll fall ill, but then they saw the broad beans in my garden and hungrily ate them raw. It's the only thing they'll eat.

Carly. And where do you think they came from?

Richard De Calne. I can't be sure.

Carly. You must have some theories.

Richard De Calne. Well, my brother believes they are, it's silly, but he thinks they are inhabitants of a fairy otherworld.

Carly. A fairy otherworld sounds like somewhere I'd like to visit!

Richard De Calne. Indeed. But I don't believe that. I think the came out of the wolf pit.

Carly. Are there wolves at the bottom of the pit?

Richard De Calne. If there are, they never got out! But I suppose that is the point, though.

Carly. Where would we find this wolf pit, Richard?

Richard De Calne. Head that direction. You can't miss it.

Carly. Thank you Richard. Goodbye Richard.

(Soundbite of walking steps across grassy field.)

Carly. There could be a portal at the bottom of that pit, Nibbles!

Nibbles. A portal to where?

Carly. To the fairy otherworld or alien planet where the children came from.

Nibbles. Uh huh. You know there could be other reasons their skin is green. Like the whole eatin raw beans thing.

Carly. H-dad, is it possible to turn your skin another color if you only eat foods that are that color?

H-dad. Affirmative. Chlorosis is a deficiency disease which gives the skin a greenish tint. It's sometimes called the "green sickness".

Nibbles. You should see how orange I got after I climbed into a bag of Cheetos.

Carly. Hang on. I'm not letting go of my alien theory until I see what's at the bottom of the Woolpit wolf pit! ... woolpit... wolfpit... waitaminute...

H-dad. H-dad with a fast fact. Woolpit is a village in the English county of Suffolk. It's name has nothing to do wool or fabric of any kind... The village is named after the Old English way of pronouncing "wolf pit". Dog emoji! Shrugging emoji.

Nibbles. Oh this must be it!

(Soundbite of Wind whistles.)

Carly. Hellooo. Any aliens down there?

(Soundbite of Carly's echo.)

Nibbles. You said that already.

Carly. Nibbles, it's an echo. I think it's your turn to participate, so why don't you go down there?

Nibbles. What?! Didn't you just say it might be a portal to an alien planet?

Carly. Yeah, and you didn't believe me. You don't have to go the whole way down, just far enough to see the bottom.

Nibbles. (exhales heavily) Okay. For science.

Carly. Yes! For science!

(Soundbite of Nibbles scurries down into the wolf pit. Carly waits and hums a few seconds of an upbeat tune.)

Carly. See anything?

Nibbles. No, not ye --- Wait! I see something!

Carly. What?! Is it a portal?

(Soundbite of Nibbles scurries out of the pit.)

Nibbles. It was the ground.

Carly. What?

Nibbles. There was nothing down there but dirt and the bottom of the pit. It's what we in the business call a "hole".

Carly. Oh, mumble crust! Okay... maybe the simplest answer is the right answer, Nibbs. Maybe where the kids come from, gourmet food is broad beans and they speak a language that not many people know.

Nibbles. Maybe they were on a trip and got lost or something?

Carly. I am a little sad thinking that they are new here and they can't communicate with anyone.

H-dad. H-dad with another fast fact! The children eventually do learn English.

Carly. They do?!

H-dad. Affirmative. They grow up normally and spend the rest of their lives here in Woolpit, England.

Carly. That makes me feel better. But I still wonder where they came from...

Nibbles. Why don't we just take the time-travel elevator to the future and ask 'em ourselves?

Carly. Nibs! genius idea!

Nibbles. Meh. I have my moments.

Carly. Come one! More running, we love it.

(Soundbite of running to elevator, elevator travel noises.)

Carly. Woolpit, wool jacket..

Nibbles. Just punch in the numbers Carly.

(Soundbite of elevator lands.)

Carly. We're in the same place as before and everything looks the same. Did we actually time travel anywhere?

Woman. May I help you?

Carly. Oh, you startled me! Hello, my name is Carly and I'm trying to find the green children?

Woman. Well, you've found one. But of course we're no longer children.

Carly. And you're no longer Green!

Woman. I haven't been green in quite some time. Once my brother and I began eating something other than raw broad beans, the green tint in our skin started to fade.

Carly. And we can understand each other! You have a lovely voice. May I ask you a very important question?

Woman. Yes, go ahead.

Carly. Where did you come from? Before you arrived in the woolpit?

Woman. I've been asked this question quite a bit. I don't remember much... I know we were feeding our father's flocks in the fields and we heard a great sound, such as we are now accustomed to hear at St. Edmund's, when the bells are chiming. The next thing I remember, we were here.

Carly. Do you miss your home?

Woman. We did at first. But this is our home now. Everyone here has been nothing but wonderful to us.

H-dad. Incoming message from BUTHEAD Headquarters.

P.A Voice. Lunch break is almost over.

Carly. I have to go now, but thank you so much for sharing. Best of luck to you!

Woman. And to you, Carly!

Carly. Come on Nibbles! We run! We run, we run it's fun. It's fun to run. We solved that one, Nibbles. You know, why haven't we tried that before? Just jumping into the future and figuring out what happened.

Nibbles. That's a good question.

(Soundbite of Carly and Nibbles running to the elevator. Ding and travel noises.)

Odie. Welcome back! So... Was it aliens?

Carly. I'm afraid not Odie. Seems the kids were from a place where everyone eats so many raw green beans their skin turns green. We think maybe they got lost and wound up in Woolpit.

Odie. Oh, regular old green people. And no aliens. Again?

Carly. Not this time. But I'm not giving up. The truth is out there.

Odie. It must be difficult, showing up unexpectedly, being new and having no one to talk to.

Carly. Uh we're not just talking about the green children of Woolpit anymore, are we?

Odie. Not entirely. There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

Carly. Yes! I get it now. Amber! The new employee... I know what I have to do now!

Odie. Enjoy the rest of your day, basement companion...

(Soundbite of Carly walks to her desk. Amber walks down the basement steps.)

Carly. Hi, Amber!

Amber. Oh, hello Carly.

Carly. Did you enjoy your lunch?

Amber. Yes, they had four different flavors of chicken fingers!

Carly. Four?! Are there leftovers?

Amber. No, Lewis ate them all.

Carly. Honestly that Lewis... Anyway, I wanted to show you something.

Amber. Oh, yeah?

Carly. Come with me!

(Soundbite of Carly and Amber walk to the fridge. Carly pulls open the door.)

Amber. A refrigerator?

Carly. This, my new friend, is where we keep all the goodies. Bubbly water in every fruity flavor you could want. And,

(Soundbite of Carly rustling around inside the fridge.)

Carly. Here's the pièce de résistance.

Amber. (excited) Pie?

Carly. Pie! This is a rhubarb pie I brought from home. Help yourself!

Amber. Thank you, Carly! Pie is the best!

Carly. I know right? Here here try this piece.

Carly. Today's adventure might not have ended with the discovery of aliens, but it did show me the importance of making sure everyone I come in to contact with feels welcome and part of the team. Everywhere I go on my time travel adventures, I'm new and strange. But in every country and every time period, someone is there to welcome me and answer questions. Being that person for Amber, well, it's the least I can do. More adventures to come, Who, When, Wowzers. Until then, I'm Carly Q, logging off from what I hope is your favorite podcast. You're always welcome here, but remember, you never heard this.

Carly in background. I'm so glad you like pie.

Amber. This is so good, Carly. I can't believe you like pie as much as I do.

Carly. (singing) Couple of gals who like pie. Sorry, I sing sometimes.