

Who, When, Wow! Mystery Edition

Missing Mayans

Carly. Why hello there, good people! Welcome to another super-secret episode of your favorite podcast that you can't tell anyone about because those are the rules, I do not make them. Today, we are going in search of a missing civilization .. and hopefully hot chocolate, but more on that later... We're also going to make some good choices for the planet and maybe figure out who's been spying on us in the Time Travel Elevator. No big deal! We got a lot to do! It's a new month and a new episode! I'm Carly Q and this is Who When Wow- Mystery Edition!

(THEME SONG)

Carly. It was the first day of a new month. And you know what that means.

Lewis. Good morning Carly,

Carly. Lewis, you looking for me?

Lewis. Maybeeee have you seen the memo that I left on your desk yester.

Carly. (interrupting) Pinch and a punch for the first day of the month, white rabbit no returns uno flip reverse card safety!

Lewis. Carly! Did you just pinch me?

Carly. Yes! It's the first day of the month Lewis!

Lewis. So you're just free to pinch and punch whoever you like?

Carly. Hey, I don't make the rules Lewis.

Lewis. Well, as I was saying; did you get a chance to read the memo I left on your desk yesterday

Carly. Uh huh sure did. What memo?

Lewis. The one about how this month is officially GREEN MONTH here at BUTTHED HQ!

Carly. Do you have to wear green everyday?

Lewis. Green as in environmentally friendly. Anyway, when I was dropping off the memo I saw that you had a rather large collection of plastic straws on your desk.

Carly. Oh yeah, those straws are my favorite, extra wide. Perfect for hot coco. I had to get them custom made.

Lewis. Yeeeeeeah, well I went ahead and replaced those with some more environmentally friendly paper straws for you.

Carly. You did *what!*?

Lewis. You care about our plant, don't you Carly Q?

Carly. Ofcourse. It's just paper straws disintegrate every time I try to drink my hot cocoa through them!

Lewis. Well, I'm sorry Carly Q but you'll have to find some sort of alternative, because plastic is out!

Carly. Ughhhh, fine.

Lewis. Glad to see you're getting on board. Now, if you could also recycle all those pie boxes under your desk that would be great.

Carly. Those are memories. I was getting to it, Lewis!

Lewis. Sure you were. TATA Carly Q!

(Soundbite of Lewis walking off.)

P.A Voice. Happy Green Month BUTTHED employees! To celebrate head we're serving Matcha Green Tea, Broccoli Smoothies and Key Lime Pie.

(Soundbite of basement door closing.)

Carly. Now, don't get me wrong. I am a card carrying eco-warrior. Seriously, I've got it laminated here in my bio-degradable wallet. See! Eco Warrior! Carly Q! See it's just paper straws don't work for hot cocoa. They turn to mush as soon as I start drinking anything above room temperature. But I was willing to give it a try.

(Soundbite of computer typing.)

Carly. OK, let's get to work! Got my cocoa, so now it's time to catalog some random history!

Audio File. Event-1830 - Ketchup is sold as medicine for indigestion and diarrhea.

Carly. Ughhh, gross.

Audio File. Event -1969 - Buzz Aldrin becomes first man to pee on the moon.

Carly. (straw slurp-bubbles) Really? This straw is already mush! I've barely used it! How am I supposed to drink my hot cocoa now!

(Soundbite of thumb drive coming down vacuum tube.)

Carly. I was half way through a environmentally fueled tantrum when what should arrive on my desk.

Carly in the background. Hello time sealed file!

Carly. But a time sealed event! Alrighty! Let's see what we got here.

Audio File. 550 CE Teotihuacan (BEEP) Mayan Civilization Collapse (BEEP) Vanished.

Carly. A collapsed civilization? I found this very interesting.

Carly. Iiiiiinteresting.

Carly. Hey Nibbles did you know the ancient Mayans pretty much invented hot cocoa? Maybe I could get a quality refill? I set aside my soggy straw and cocoa and patiently waited for the lunch bell to sound.

Carly in the background. This straw is ruining my life.

P.A Voice. Attention employees. It is now LUNCH TIME! Please note that the Key Lime Pie has now sold out in the cafeteria and will be replaced with steamed Brussel sprouts! Happy Green Month!

Carly. Ah, mumblecrust! I was really looking forward to that pie.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

Carly. Nibbles! I was wondering where you were. I need your expert sniffing skills to help me find some hot coco in an ancient Mayan city. And also to help me solve a mystery.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

Carly. I know, just another Tuesday at the Bureau. Alright, into the backpack.

(Soundbite of Nibbles and Carly walking to elevator.)

Carly. Heyyyyyy Odie! Look what I got for ya!

Odie. Another time sealed event? I should have known! Let's see here. Teotihuacan! Oh I love that place!

Carly. Really? I've never heard of it.

Odie. Well it doesn't exist anymore but back in the day it was bustlin'. Like Lima mixed with New York mixed with Guadalajara.

Carly. Sounds super fun!

Odie. Well, it WAS before it all collapsed in the 6th century

Carly. What? What happened?

Odie. Isn't that what you're going there to find out?

Carly. Uh, yeah. That's true. But I'd also love a mug of hot cocoa.

Odie. You know the rules don't alter anything from the past. Be before the end of lunch.

Carly. Got it.

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

Odie. And remember: It's hard to see, or breathe, through a straw.

Carly. Wait. Paper straws or plastic straws?

Odie. Oh, and if you see Aapo tell him that Odie says 'Put those figs back!' . He'll know what it means.

Carly. Uhm. OK. Aapo and the figs and the straaaaaaawwww!

(Soundbite of elevator travel noises then loud thud.)

Carly. Whew! That ride never gets old. Woah! Look at this place, Nibbles!

(Soundbite of backpack opening.)

Nibbles. (coughing) Carly, you really gotta wash this backpack. It smells like you left an old burrito in here.

Carly. Oh no, those are just my gym clothes. I had dodgeball practice this morning.

Nibbles. Charming. (coughs) Does the air here smell funny to you?

Carly. (coughing a little) Yeah, maybe a bit? Although it could still be my gym socks. Sorry about that.

Nibbles. Yuck!

Carly. Anyway, here we are; Teotihuacan! 6th largest city on the planet, completely empty?

Nibbles. Yeah not exactly the Lima mixed with New York mixed with Guadalajara we were promised, huh?

Carly. No. Where is everyone? Hello? Anyone here?

Nibbles. Maybe Odie sent us back to the wrong date?

Carly. Not likely. We must have shown up after everyone vanished. Let's see if H-dad can help.

H-dad. H-dad pooowering up!

Carly. H-dad, what is the date right now?

H-dad. The date is 3rd of August 550 CE.

Carly. That should be right...(light cough) But it's weirdly empty here.

Nibbles. Maybe all the people are down this way, looks like a courtyard over there!

(Soundbite of footsteps.)

Carly. Woah. Get a load of this place! Odie wasn't kidding. This place is massive, the temples, the giant stone walls. The air still smells kind of funny.

Nibbles. And that block looks suspiciously like New York City.

Carly. All it's missing is the people. Hey, looks like something's written here, chiseled into the side of this building. H-dad!

H-dad. H-dad here! Waving hand emoji!

Carly. Translate this text please.

H-dad. Translating! Ixchel's Warm Cacao Elixir. Yummy.

Nibbles. Well, that's a round about way of saying Hot Chocolate if I've ever heard one.

Carly. Hot chocolate? This is perfect!

Nibbles. It is?

Carly. Yes, this is exactly what I came back here for.

Nibbles. A hot chocolate store? I thought we were here to solve a Mayan shaped mystery?

Carly. Oh yeah yeah yeah, that too. Definitely that. Very important. But also, I love hot coco! Too bad Lewis threw away all of my plastic straws.

Nibbles. Not the hot coco paper straw thing again!

Carly. They go all mushy!

Nibbles. And you thought that you could find the answer to your mushy straw dilemma in a 1500 year old ancient South American city?

Carly. Well, they DID invent hot cocoa here!

Nibbles. Whatever. Let's just go inside. Maybe they have pie.

(Soundbite of Carly and Nibble proceeding inside the store.)

Carly. Hello? Anybody in here?

Nibbles. Empty. What a surprise.

Carly. Yeah, but look at all these tables and chairs. I guess this was the little serving counter? This place is the cute! 10/10 would eat here again.

Nibbles. Well, while you take in the ambiance of this place I'm gonna see if there's a little rat's room I can use. I'm bursting.

Carly. (distracted) Have fun. Woah, check this out. I guess this is what they used to drink their hot coco out of. And look! A straw! I knew I wasn't the only one who drinks hot cocoa from a straw! What is this even made out of?

(Sounbite of Carly knocking the straw on the counter and it sounds like hollow wood.)

Carly. Wood! Of course! Sustainable, reliable AND eco friendly. This is just what I need! Soooooo I'm going to take this straw. If anyone has any objections please speak now. Nobody? Okay. Haha! Score!

Nibbles. Uhhhh, Carly? You might want to take a look at this.

Carly. Coming Nibbles!

Nibbles. Carly?

Carly. So, did you go yet or...Woah.

Nibbles. Yeah.

Carly. What is this?

Nibbles. What does it look like? It's a room full of paper!

Carly. I think they called it parchment back in the day. Or maybe papyrus. What does it say? Just looks like a bunch of stick figure drawings.

Nibbles. I believe they're called hieroglyphics.

Carly. Riiight. My ancient Mayan hieroglyph is a little rusty, lemme just get a little help here. H-dad?

H-dad. Hello! Helping hand emoji.

Carly. H-DAD! Would you mind translating this parchment for me?

H-dad. Analyzing. Analyzing. Translation complete.

Carly. Huh, looks like it's a note from the store's owner.

Nibbles. Well, what does it say?

Carly. (clears throat) To whomever this letter finds, I am sorry to inform you that Ixchel's Warm Cacao Elixir will be closing its doors permanently.

Nibbles. That's sad. It aint easy being a small-business owner!

Carly. This is not a decision that we have made lightly but we are unfortunately left with no other option. The last 3 years harvests have been abysmal, and the impact on the city has been catastrophic.

Nibbles. Yikes.

Carly. Yeah. Not good. (Clears throat) Half the city has already left for more fertile grounds and now it is time for me to do so also. Maybe one day I'll be able to start up another Cocoa Elixir store again. Until then, thank you for your loyal patronage all the best, Ixchel.

Nibbles. Wow. Looks like these guys had a couple of bad harvests and decided to call it quits huh?

(Soundbite of someone tripping and falling and a plate crashes to the floor in the other room.)

Carly. (gasp) Is someone there? (yelling) Wait! Don't leave, I just.

(Soundbite of door opening/closing.)

Carly. Want to...ask ...you a few questions! Where did they go?

Nibbles. I dunno, but maybe we should hurry up and try to catch them?

Carly. But which way did they go? And really, I'm not even sure it was a person, maybe it was just the wind or something?

Nibbles. Maybe.

Carly. Besides, I already played dodgeball this morning. I'm all good on cardio. (cough) And this air still smells weird to me.

Nibbles. Me too! Ask your Dad-in-hand computer thingy!

Carly. H-dad, can you run a scan on all detectable particles in the air?

H-dad. Analyzing. Analyzing. Analyzing.

Carly. While we wait, maybe we can find some hot ch-

H-dad. Analysis complete!

Carly. Oo, that was fast.

H-dad. Additional compounds found in surrounding atmosphere. Drum-roll initiated! High levels of carbon dioxide, hydrogen, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide and hydrogen chloride detected!

Nibbles. Huh those are all the chemicals found in volcanic ash! What? I can't know things?

Carly. Yes you *can*! Good work Nibbles. H-dad have there been any volcanic eruptions in this region recently?

H-dad. The rodent is correct. Radiocarbon dating suggests the eruption of the Ilopango volcano in modern day El Salvador occurred in approximately 431 CE.

Carly. (big gasp). Wait a minute. I think I just cracked this mystery wide open.

Nibbles. Didn't we already do that with the whole note left by the store owner explaining the whole situation?

Carly. Kind of, but we were missing the big picture. I think I know WHY this city had so many bad harvests in a row to begin with! I was so focused on hot cocoa and my silly straw that I almost missed it!

Nibbles. Didn't Odie say something about a straw?

Carly. Yes! She said "It's hard to see or breath through a straw". You can't see the big picture!

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

Carly. This volcano erupting must have blocked out the sun for quite some time and dropped the overall temperature. Now, what do plants need to grow and thrive?

Nibbles. I'm guessing you want me to say warm temperatures and sunshine?

Carly. Exactly! And this volcanic eruption would have rid the cities crops of both of those things. Which means that the there would have been no food for the citizens and everyone would have had to leave!

Nibbles. Wow. That's quite the theory.

Carly. You aren't the only one who can know things! Back me up here H-dad.

H-dad. The current temperature is lower than expected for this time of year. Ice emoji. Shivering emoji. Snowman emoji.

Carly. Boo yah! Mystery solved.

Nibbles. One mystery at least.

Carly. What do you mean?

Nibbles. Who was following us? Or do you really think it was “the wind”?

Carly. Yeah, I guess that IS still a mystery. But it will have to wait for another day. Lunch time’s over!

Nibbles. Okay, let’s get out of here. The elevator’s just down this street.

(Soundbite of elevator travel noises.)

Odie. Welcome back basement companion. Soooo, did you love it? The hustle and bustle of the big city?

Carly. Hate to break it to you Odie but there was no hustle and certainly no bustle. There wasn’t a person in sight.

Odie. Really?

Carly. Yup, turns out a volcano blocked the sun which caused a bad harvest which forced everyone to leave the city.

Odie. So there was no one there?

Carly. Well, actually, maybe, Odie, nobody else sneaks into the time elevator but us, right?

Odie. Of course not!

Carly. Could anyone sneak by you during your lunchbreak?

Odie. Nah. I keep an eye out. I mean I like to catch up on my shows and I text my cousin while I reheat my kari-karis. But other than that I watch like a hawk.

Carly. Ah. OK. Good to know. Well, thanks for that. And THANK you for the advice about the straw! It IS hard to see or breathe when your focus is so narrow!

Odie. No problem basement companion.

(Soundbite of Carly walking to desk.)

Carly. And on that note, another mystery is in the bag! The Missing Mayans; victims of a volcanic eruption. I’m still wondering about whether or not someone followed us through the time elevator, but at least I have my straw dilemma solved! Paper? Plastic? Wood?. The answer is: None of the above! I don’t use a straw anymore. I drink my hot chocolate right from the mug (sips hot cocoa) And look! Now I have a mustache! How

cool is that? I'm the moustachioed Carly Q, This is the newly mustachioed Carly Q signing off of another mystery edition of Who, When, Wow!Mystery Edition. And remember you never...Hello? Is someone there?