

## **Who, When, Wow! Mystery Edition**

### **Easter Island Transcript**

**Carly.** Psst! Hey! It's your favorite secret host here, from your favorite hopefully-still-secret podcast. Today we went to an island in the Pacific to check out a centuries-old mystery. There were dig sites, giant heads, topknots and more. So stick around! I'm Carly Q, and this is Who When Wow, Mystery Edition!

(THEME SONG)

**Carly.** Coming into work today I could barely focus.

**Amber.** Hi Carly Q!

**Carly.** Morning Linda! I mean, Amber! Nice to see you Amber. You are Amber!

**Amber.** Yes I am!

**Carly.** I was having trouble concentrating because I was keeping my eyeballs absolutely PEELED for clues. As you may recall, someone wrote us a letter saying they know we've secretly been using the time elevator, but we don't know who it is. We're short on answers, and even shorter on clues!

**Amber.** Well, have a good day Carly Q!

**Carly.** Right, yes, you too, Amber!

(Soundbite of basement door closing.)

**Carly.** When I got down to the basement, I could feel myself looking every which way for clues, even the smallest detail that might shed some light on who wrote the letters.

**Carly in the background.** You can't hide from me clues. Look, my stapler! It's out of staples! Maybe THAT'S a clue!

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Carly.** My rat friend, Nibbles, politely disagreed.

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Carly in the background.** Wait, you're saying it's only out of staples because I've been stapling all those pieces of trash to the bulletin board thinking those might be clues?

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Carly in the background.** Okay well, that's a fair point.

(Soundbite of Footsteps coming down the metal stairs.)

**Lewis.** Oh Carly Quuuu!

**Carly.** Lewis came down, and I quickly got him up to speed, both about the clue dilemma, and the stapler.

**Lewis.** Okay well Nibbles is definitely right, you've been stapling like it's your job! And it's not your job. Do you ever work your ACTUAL job?

**Carly.** Uh Yeah, Sometimes. But what about our total and complete lack of clues. Who left us that letter?

**Lewis.** I thought you were letting that go.

**Carly.** I was and I tried, but I couldn't so I lied.

**Lewis.** Nice rhyme scheme.

**Carly.** Thank you but someone is still on to us for using the Elevator!

**Lewis.** It's definitely frustrating, but I kinda don't think you're gonna find anything by just randomly fixating on every object in front of you. That's not actually investigating.

**Carly.** What do you mean? There's a leaky faucet in the bathroom, that could be a clue! Or the flickering lightbulb in the kitchen. Clue?

**Lewis.** I mean maybe? Or?

**Carly.** It's all nothing and I'm just grasping at paper straws?

**Lewis.** Yeah, I think it might be that.

**Carly.** Ugh! Clues, I demand you come forward! Make yourselves known!

**Carly in the background.** But instead of a new clue coming forward,

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

**Carly and Lewis.** A new time-sealed file!

**Audio File.** Event: In 1955, <BEEP> Easter Island <BEEP> Moai <BEEP>

**Lewis.** Easter Island? Isn't that where they have those giant head statues?

**Carly.** Either that, or a mythical land where you get to eat candy Easter eggs every day of the year. I pulled out my handheld digital assistance device.

**H-dad.** Online and ready for action!

**Carly.** And plugged in the clues from the file. 1955, Easter Island, Moai.

**H-dad.** This file likely refers to Easter Island, located off the coast of Chile, and its famous stone statues called Moai. Stone head emoji!

**Lewis.** I knew it! The island with the big heads!

**H-dad.** In 1955, an archeological expedition came to study the statues. But many questions remain, including why they were made and how they were moved, given they weigh almost fourteen tons each.

**Lewis.** Yikes, that is heavy!

**Carly.** Hmm maybe the statues are actually the heads of giant robots controlled from the inside by tiny aliens who escaped a catastrophic event on their planet, traveled to earth and crash-landed on Easter Island? OR maybe they're really big keychains!

**Lewis.** Gosh you really are grasping at paper straws today.

**Carly.** This is a brainstorm! We're throwing out ideas without judgment!

**Lewis.** Okay fair, that's fair. I gotta get back to work though. See you back here at lunch!

**Carly.** Lewis went upstairs, I got some work done myself. (singing) Cataloging files, cataloging files, having all the smiles while I'm cataloging files and looking for clues. And a few hours later,

**P.A. Voice.** Attention, Butthead employees: It's stew study lunch day! Have some stew and get some studying done. Bonus points for studying what's in the stew!

(Soundbite of Footsteps coming down the metal steps.)

**Lewis.** Luuunch tiime!

**Carly.** So I grabbed Nibbles and H-dad, and we took off for the elevator.

(Soundbite of elevator ding.)

**Carly.** Hi Odie!

**Odie.** Good afternoon basement companion! Lewis. Do we have a new time-sealed file today? Or any luck with our letter writer mystery?

**Carly.** Not much new on that front. We are out of clues! And turns out the only one suspiciously using all the staples was me!

**Lewis.** We do have a new file though: a little place called Easter Island and it's giant head statues, the Moai!

**Odie. (gasps)** The Moai?!? I LOVE THE MOAI! I've been fascinated with them ever since I first learned about Easter Island in school. I used to fancy myself a bit of an amateur archaeologist, I love digging up old things to discover the stories behind them.

**Carly.** Have you ever been to the island?

**Odie.** Never. But perhaps one of you might be willing to trade places with me today and watch over the elevator, so I can finally see the moai for myself?

**Lewis.** Why are you both looking at me?

**Carly.** Remember when you did this before so Odie could come meet Amelia Earhart? You loved it!

**Lewis.** I did? Oh, I did, didn't I? (laughter) HAHAAHA the power!

**Odie.** Uh?

**Carly.** Why is he like this?

**Odie.** Who knows?

**Lewis.** Okay I'll do it!

**Carly.** Okay great! Odie, it looked like the event on the file was an archaeological expedition in 1955.

**Odie.** Yes, I've read much about it. The time-seal should only cover the end of the expedition, so we should be able to ask some of the archeologists what they've learned about the statues. One of them, William Mulloy, went on to become one of the most preeminent scholars on the moai and the people who built them.

**Carly.** Alright, then let's hop to it!

**Lewis.** Not until we remember our rules, you **MUST** be back by the end of lunch time, and you **CANNOT** change anything in the past!

(Soundbite of rat squeaking.)

**Odie.** The rat is right. Good job Lewis. And Carly, we may also want to jump forward in time to check out some more recent expeditions as well.

**Carly.** Great! Then any last words?

**Lewis.** Remember, The date printed on the milk carton is actually the "sell by" date and not the expiration. The milk is usually good for at least a week after that.

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

**Carly.** Ookaaayyy.

**Lewis.** What? It's TRUE!

**Odie.** Yes it is, Lewis, but maybe we should also consider, you must delve deep to find the answers you seek.

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

**Lewis.** Wow. Your chime is so much better than mine. Unfair.

**Carly.** Delve deep? Wait.

**Lewis.** Okay, now I get to flip the switch! ( laughter again) AHhahah the pooweeeeeer!

**Odie.** Ugh why do I always forget how strange this feeeels?

*(Soundbite of elevator travel noises, then thud.)*

**Carly.** We made it to Easter Island! (gasps) And WHOA! Look at the giant head statues!

**Odie.** They're incredible. Oh, hi Nibbles!

**Nibbles.** Hi there Odie! Wow these things are BIG.

**Carly.** Nibbles and Odie were right. We were facing a whole row of giant faces! They were HUGE heads! Like 15 feet high, taller than a school bus! And made out of stone!

**Odie.** I've always loved the distinctive look of the faces.

**Carly.** They were all the same shape: heavy brows and long noses, lips in a thin pout, long flat ears.

**Nibbles.** I love strong chins. You could slice a brick o' cheese on those jawlines!

**Carly.** There was a group of researchers working nearby. One of them seemed to notice us, so Nibbles hid down in my pack. The researcher was a tall man in a cowboy hat and dark-rimmed glasses. Odie got excited as he approached, so I figured he must be

**Odie.** Mr. Mulloy?

**Bill.** Call me Bill, please. You must be our new crop of research assistants who just arrived.

**Carly.** Uh, yeah! Yes we sure are, that's us. We are really so excited to be here.

**Odie.** SO excited!

**Carly.** I'd never seen Odie like this before. It's like she was star struck!

**Odie.** Sorry, I've just always dreamed about this moment.

**Carly.** Mr. Bill, can you tell us a bit about the statues? What are they made of?

**Bill.** Sure! Most of them are carved out of a material called tuff, which is--

**Odie.** Solidified volcanic ash!

**Bill.** That's exactly correct. Also,

**Odie.** There's about 1,000 of them on the island. It's estimated they were made between 1200 - 1500 CE by the Polynesian people, who likely came here on boats between 600-800 CE. They called the island Rapa Nui, then in 1722, a Dutch explorer arrived on Easter Sunday, and gave it the name Easter Island.

**Bill.** Okay wow! You really know your stuff.

**Odie.** I'm a big big fan.

**Carly.** Bill, do we know why the statues were made?

**Bill.** We do not, not for sure anyway. That's just one of the many mysteries we're here to find out.

**Odie.** Like the mystery of how they were moved, given how heavy they are.

**Bill.** Absolutely. There's a number of theories for that, they may have been rolled on logs to get them here from the quarry site.

**Odie.** Or the heads may have been "walked" by keeping them in an upright position and rocking them back and forth with ropes.

**Bill.** A fascinating theory.

**Odie.** Isn't it just?

**Bill.** It really is.

(Soundbite of Odie and Billy sighing together.)

**Carly.** Okay, well.

**Researcher.** Hey Bill, come gimme a hand with this.

**Bill.** Excuse me a moment.

**Carly.** While Bill went back over to the other researchers, Nibbles popped up out of my bag and suggested we go have a look around the island.

**Carly.** Great idea, let's do it! Uh Odie?

**Odie.** Yes! Sure. Sorry, I'm just.

**Carly.** Distracted by Bill?

**Odie.** Shush! Let's go.

**Carly.** We took off walking to see what we could see. There were statues everywhere.

**Nibbles.** Look at all the head statues along the coast, all facing inland with their backs to the sea.

**Carly.** I wonder if it's almost like the heads were meant to be watching over the people on the island.

**Nibbles.** Or an audience in case the people ever wanted to put on puppet shows at the beach? I love puppet shows.

**Carly.** We walked back inland and saw other heads half-buried in the sloping hillsides.

**Carly.** They couldn't have been built like that on purpose, right?

**Odie.** Probably not. In the hundreds of years since the statues were put up, the land has shifted and eroded, burying these ones under the dirt.

**Nibbles.** Hey look at those!

**Carly.** Nibbles was pointing to a series of statues with cylindrical red stones on their heads.

**Carly.** Cool! They gave some of the heads HATS!

**Nibbles.** I actually wonder if it's supposed to be hair done up in a topknot. The ultimate man bun.

**Carly.** Okay, well, hat, topknot, potato, poTAHto. Circling back to the shore, we saw more of the heads facing inland, but curiously we also found seven statues facing the other way, out to sea. What do you make of that Odie?

**Carly.** But Odie was distracted looking off in the distance, at Bill.

**Nibbles.** Is she crushing on him or what?

**Carly.** I would be too if I finally got to meet the handsome archeologist of my dreams!

**Odie.** He is NOT the, okay you know what? I think for all our sakes, we should fast forward in time to another expedition. I believe there was one in 2014?

**Carly.** Nibbles and I agreed, so we went back to the elevator, and after Odie got one last look at Bill. Odie, I'm just messing with you, but you're getting so upset about it.

**Odie.** Carly.

**Nibbles.** I think they would be cute together.

**Odie.** Well, I thought so too.

(Soundbite of elevator travel sounds then thud.)



**Carly.** Coming back out of the elevator in 2014, the island looked pretty much the same, except now with a new crew of researchers studying the statues. Almost as soon as we arrived, one of them saw us and came over.

**Anna.** Hi hi hi! I'm Anna, you all must be part of that new team of research assistants who just arrived?

**Carly.** Uh, yep! That's us, still research assistants. We were just discussing some of our key research questions. We were wondering, any theories for why the people here made the moai?

**Anna.** Well that IS the question! We believe the statues represent the Rapa Nui people's ancestors, including important chieftains in the community.

**Odie.** I wonder if perhaps there's a way the chieftain statues are identified?

**Anna.** There IS! On some of the statues there's,

**Carly.** Hats! Anna, is it the red hats?

**Anna.** It IS the red hats! Except they're not hats, they're most likely meant to be topknots, since that hairstyle was a sign of the chieftains' power and status.

**Carly.** Wow, so Nibbles was right!

**Anna.** Um "Nibbles"?

**Carly.** Uh, yeah, that's just what I call my, you know, "nibbles" of inspiration? Yes, anyway, most of the heads are facing inland, towards the island. But what about the seven facing out to sea?

**Anna.** An EXCELLENT question. Since the statues represent their ancestors, most of the heads face inland so the spirits of the ancestors would watch over the islanders.

**Carly.** Alright, point for me. I was right!

**Anna.** But the ones that look out to sea are said to relate to an ancient legend, about seven men waiting for their king to arrive from across the sea.

**Odie.** It's very impressive, all the history you've gleaned from these statues.

**Anna.** We really must credit much of the work to a man named William Mulloy.

**Carly.** Oh yeah! We just talked,

**Odie.** Carly.

**Carly.** Read about him. We just read about him in a book, with pages and page numbers and there were words on the pages. You know, all the things you would normally find in a book.

**Anna.** Mhm, okay sure! Well I'm guessing, you'd like to see the newly excavated bodies now, right?

**Carly.** Bodies?!

**Anna.** Step right this way!

**Carly.** We followed Anna twenty yards away to the nearest head, and as we got closer we could see they'd dug out the area beneath the statue. What in the mumblecrust? Revealing that the statue went down in the ground another twenty feet! The statues aren't just heads, they've got Bodies too?!

**Anna and Odie.** Yes!

**Carly.** The "body" didn't have a lot of detail, mostly it was just an arm carved on either side. But the sheer size of it was incredible!

**Anna.** Well many of the statues' torsos became buried as the land on the island shifted over the centuries. But uncovering them has helped us learn more about the statues' purpose, and how they were carved.

**Carly.** This is amazing.

**Anna.** I know, right! I love my job.

**Carly in the background.** Me too! Ok see you girl, keep loving your job!

**Carly.** Anna left us to our own devices for a bit, which gave us the chance to take out H-dad. Nibbles popped out too.

**Nibbles.** How about those topknots, huh? I'm always telling you, rats know fashion!

**Carly.** Very impressive, Nibs! Anyway, listen H-dad, we've learned a lot here but I do still have some questions: what happened to the people who made the moai? Where are they today?

**H-dad.** Unfortunately, the presence of European visitors changed the island and the Rapa Nui people over time. Today the island only has roughly seven thousand full-time inhabitants.

**Carly.** That's sad.

**H-dad.** But the island hosts thousands of visitors each year coming to see the moai, and efforts are underway to honor the indigenous history of the island and the Rapa Nui legacy.

**Odie.** Not that I have any reason to ask other than completely disinterested curiosity, but what happened to that earlier archeologist "Bill" Mulloy?

**H-dad.** Mulloy made more than twenty trips to Easter Island to help study and preserve the statues. After his death in 1978, his ashes were interred here on Easter Island, with an inscription in the local language reading "By studying and raising up the living faces, he showed us his great love for Rapa Nui." Heart emoji!

**Carly.** Aww, I love that! He was buried with the statues he loved so much. How cool!

**H-dad.** I'm not crying, you're crying. Incoming message from BUTTHED HQ.

**P.A. Voice.** Attention Butthead employees: five minutes til the end of stew study lunch break! Stop studying your stew, and get back to work!

**Odie.** Okay, time to go!

**Carly.** We made our way back to the elevator, and,

(Soundbite of elevator travel noises.)

**Lewis.** Hey, welcome back!

**Carly.** Hi Lewis, why are there bowls of stew everywhere?

**Lewis.** Uh, cause I was studying them, duh? How was Easter Island?

**Carly.** We learned soooo much. For one thing, the Rapa Nui people likely built the moai to honor their ancestors and important chieftains. But also, the statues aren't just heads, some of them have bodies, too!

**Lewis.** Wow! Really? They had, I mean. Duh. Of course they did. Obvi.

**Carly.** For real! We were really impressed with all the work the archeologists have done, they sure did a lot of digging (gasps). Wait, Odie, your riddle!

(Soundbite of wind chimes.)

**Odie.** You must delve deep to find the answers you seek.

**Carly.** “Delve” is just another word for dig, which is exactly what those archeologists did! They discovered more about the moai by literally digging deeper.

**Lewis.** Which kind of seems like something we could do with the letter mystery! I mean not literally, but ya know.

**Carly.** Yeah! It’s like, enough with staplers and light bulbs and bits of trash thinking they all might be clues. We have to look closer at what we have.

**Odie.** Exactly right.

**Carly.** Brilliant advice Odie, that is exactly what we’re gonna do. Thank you! And thanks for coming to Easter Island. How fun was that? Doing it together.

**Odie.** Are you kidding? It was my pleasure! And thank YOU Lewis, for covering for me! Come here, even you Lewis.

**Carly.** Odie grabbed us all in a big group hug.

**Lewis.** OK. This is awkward.

**Carly.** It was great. What a successful adventure, and with such a great piece of wisdom from Odie.

**Odie.** You know what. You’re right. This is awkward.

**Carly.** The letter writer’s still out there, but I’m thinking we’re gonna have to focus more on the one clue we really have, the letter itself! I’m not sure exactly how, but I’m excited to “dig deeper” and see what else our key piece of evidence might have to tell us. Until then, this is Carly Q, signing off. And remember, you never heard this!