

COIN TRICK  
Season One, Episode Two – "A Giant Dilemma"  
Written by Susan Hanson  
©2021 Coin Trick, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

[NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Welcome back to Coin Trick. The last we saw Cassidy, she's being chased on her bicycle by the school bully ...

[CHASE MUSIC]

NARRATOR ... when an accident sends her flying headfirst into a rock wall covered in ancient drawings.

CASSIDY: AHHHHH!

NARRATOR: But she goes all the way through it and into another world known as Tapuat. There, she lands at the feet of Kokopelli or Koko, as he's better known.

KOKO: That'd be me!

NARRATOR: He tells Cassidy that the doorway no longer works on their side.

CASSIDY: But I've got to get home!

KOKO Can't help you there, little man.

[OMINOUS MUSIC, LIGHTENING BOOMS]

NARRATOR: Just then, the sky turns dark as the ground begins to shake beneath their feet.

CASSIDY: Wha-, what was that?

KOKO: I'm not sure--

[THUNDER CRACKS]

NARRATOR: Suddenly, a huge coal-black figure covers the sky--It's a massive, winged creature with menacing eyes and a wicked grin ... and it's heading straight toward them!

CASSIDY: Duck!

KOKO: Actually, that's Thunderbird!

NARRATOR: The two dive for cover as Thunderbird dips directly over their heads, then turns his hulking frame around and makes another passage. Lightening shoots from his wings as he flies off across the sky.

CASSIDY: Whoa ... that was close!

KOKO: I think we better head back to the village. We'll get all this straightened out there, little man.

CASSIDY: Okay ... but please stop calling me 'little man.' I'm a girl.

KOKO: Really? You don't look like a girl.

CASSIDY: Well, you shouldn't judge people by their looks.

KOKO: Okay.

CASSIDY: I mean, girls can like football too! And we don't have to wear dresses or do our hair all fancy or--

KOKO: Okay, I got it! You are absolutely right. From this moment on, I swear to judge people solely by the content of their character.

CASSIDY (pause): That's never gonna happen, is it?

KOKO: Not in a million years.

CASSIDY: Geez.

NARRATOR: Cassidy follows Koko down the footpath to a pueblo village ...

[VILLAGE SOUNDS]

NARRATOR: ... where it looks like Thunderbird set a few of the structures on fire. The women from earlier catch sight of our two friends.

[SHRIEKS]

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: There she is! She's the one who did this! She brought the monster!

NARRATOR: Soon the entire village has surrounded Koko and Cassidy, who's getting a bit nervous.

CASSIDY Ah, what does she mean, I did it?

KOKO: Don't worry, I got this. (clears throat) Now, hold on right there! You have it all wrong. Look ... (whispers to Cassidy) Straighten your shirt.

CASSIDY: My shirt?

NARRATOR: Do you remember what she was wearing? That's right ... her Buffalo Bills football jersey. And when Cassidy straightens it--

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: Ahh! White Buffalo!

[SHOCKED OOHS AND AHHS]

CASSIDY: It's a buffalo. That's my team's mascot. So what?

KOKO (aside to Cassidy): Not just any buffalo, a white one. The ancient stories tell of a White Buffalo that will return and defeat the Wasichu. (to group) That's right! This is the White Buffalo, come to free us from the Wasichu's tyranny!

VILLAGERS (in unison): Yay! White Buffalo free us from Wasichu!

CASSIDY: Wasichu?

KOKO (aside to Cassidy): The Giant. (to villagers) No more Wasichu, no more Wasichu!

VILLAGERS (in unison): No more Wasichu! No more Wasichu!

CASSIDY: Giant?!?

KOKO: Right. And they think you're gonna save them from it.

CASSIDY: Save them?!?

KOKO: From the Giant! C'mon, keep up.

NARRATOR: Cassidy is now clearly frightened as the group closes in tightly around her and Koko.

CASSIDY: Hey! Hey! What's going on? Whoa--!

NARRATOR: The villagers lift Cassidy above their heads and parade her around while Koko trails behind, looking amused. He pulls out his flute.

[LIVELY FLUTE MUSIC, MERRY CROWD SOUNDS]

NARRATOR: Soon the village women are busy preparing a meal while their little ones play nearby. Cassidy and Koko have joined the village Elders, who sit cross-legged in a large circle.

KOKO: Stop fidgeting!

CASSIDY: But they keep staring at me ... Why'd you tell them I was the White Buffalo?

KOKO: 'Cause they need to believe that you are.

CASSIDY: What does that mean?

KOKO: Shhhh! The Chief's about to speak.

CHIEF ELDER: Welcome, welcome! We give thanks to the Great Mystery, who brings us all things.

[CHORUS OF AGREEMENT]

CHIEF ELDER: Today, he brings the safe return of our dear friend, Kokopelli.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: Sometimes not so dear!

[LAUGHTER]

CHIEF ELDER: Ah, but he makes rain, and music, and laughter. And for these things, we are grateful.

KOKO: Who, me? I'm touched. You like me! You really like me!

CHIEF ELDER: We also give thanks for the arrival of the White Buffalo, who comes over from the other side to free us from the Wasichu!

[CHEERS]

CASSIDY: I'm sorry to interrupt, sir. My name's Cassidy. I'm not this White Buffalo you speak of, and I'm not here to free anyone. I just want to go home!

[MURMURING]

CHIEF ELDER: There is only one person who can tell us why you are here. Tomorrow, you will visit the Great Seer.

[OOHS AND AAHS]

CHIEF ELDER: She will help you find your way ... For now, let us give thanks for this food before us.

KOKO: It's about time! I'm starving!

[PLATES PASSED AROUND]

CASSIDY: So, what did you mean when you said they need to believe I'm the White Buffalo?

KOKO (eating): Look around--

CASSIDY: I see kids and their mothers and the Elders ... wait, where are all the young men?

KOKO: When the Giant closed the doorway, all the Braves set out to find him. They have not returned. Now there's no one to hunt. This corn mush is all there is to eat. You're coming here gives them hope.

CASSIDY: But what happens when they find out I'm no one special? That I'm just a lost kid?

KOKO: Guess we'll find out tomorrow.

CASSIDY (eating): So, why do all the men keep going after the Giant anyway?

KOKO: How would I know? I'm a lover, not a fighter. Oh, my--

NARRATOR: I, uhm, forgot to mention that Koko is a bit of a flirt.

KOKO (flirty voice): Well, hello there!

MAIDEN: Hee hee!

NARRATOR: Yes, well, let's jump ahead a bit, shall we? ... Now, if you recall, Cassidy and Koko were going to see the Great Seer ...

[SPOOKY MUSIC, WHISTLING WIND, CREAKING NOISES]

NARRATOR:

... who lives in a rather spooky-looking hut. The only light inside comes through mismatched wood slats in the walls. Cassidy and Koko sit huddled in a corner eyeing the toothless old woman, who sways back and forth in her rickety rocking chair.

[CREAKY ROCKING CHAIR]

NARRATOR: I confess, with her leathery skin and dark eyes, she scares me a little.

[LOUD, EERIE CACKLE]

NARRATOR/CASSIDY/KOKO: AHHHH!!

CASSIDY(whispering): So, why do they call her the Great Seer if she's--

[ROCKING CHAIR STOPS]

GREAT SEER: Blind?!? Hah! You are the one that is blind. You must close your eyes before you can truly see.

[ROCKING CHAIR STARTS, QUICKLY STOPS]

GREAT SEER (sniffing): Did you change form, Kokopelli? Because I smell a rat! (cackles) You! Come here.

CASSIDY: Me!? I'm actually good right where I am.

KOKO (struggling with Cassidy): Go on--

[FEET SHUFFLING]

GREAT SEER: Well now ... (pause) You have put Tapuat in Koyaanisqatsi.

CASSIDY: Koya-what-now?

KOKO: Koyaanisqatsi. Out of balance.

GREAT SEER: The dark forces have been released and will wreak havoc on our land. You must set things right.

CASSIDY: But I didn't mean to do it. There was a rabbit in the path and ... It was an accident!

GREAT SEER: There are no accidents.

NARRATOR: The old woman roughly feels about Cassidy's face and shoulders.

GREAT SEER: Eh, you're a little one! The Wasichu will have fun with you!

KOKO: Does she really have to go after the Wasichu?

CASSIDY: Look, I'm sorry you're out of balance and all. But I'm not going after any Wasi-ma-call-it. I just wanna go home where I belong!

GREAT SEER: This is where you are. So this must be where you belong.

[FRANTIC ROCKING, CHANTING]

NARRATOR: The Great Seer closes her eyes and begins to rock frantically as she chants ...

[ROCKING AND CHANTING STOPS]

NARRATOR: ... then just as quickly stops and cocks her head, as if listening to something only she can hear.

GREAT SEER: You will make your way home.

CASSIDY: Yes! Finally! Thank you! I knew you'd find a way--

GREAT SEER: There is only one way. You must face the Giant and return with his heart.

CASSIDY: Wait, what?!?

GREAT SEER: For the elixir. So you can get back through the doorway.

CASSIDY: But, I can't do that!

GREAT SEER: You must. Or you will never go home again. And we will have to leave our home, as well.

[FRANTIC ROCKING, STOPS SUDDENLY]

GREAT SEER: There will be many obstacles in your way, but you will overcome them. Just remember two things. Call on Spider Woman when you face trouble.

CASSIDY: Mattie Franklin? Or Jessica Drew?

GREAT SEER: What's this?

KOKO: Oh, oh--

CASSIDY: Spider Woman. From the Marvel Comics Universe.

GREAT SEER (forcefully): She is creator of ALL universe!

KOKO: Okay, okay ... She should call on Spider Woman. What else does she need to remember?

GREAT SEER: Never trust a trickster. Hah!

[CACKLING, FRANTIC ROCKING]

NARRATOR: The old woman frantically rocks back and forth as our heroes slip out of the shack and into the bright sunlight.

KOKO: C'mon, let's get back to the village.

NARRATOR: But Cassidy doesn't move. She just stares ahead, blankly. Until finally--

CASSIDY: The heart of a Giant ... I'm supposed to get the heart, of a Giant?

KOKO: Eh. No big deal.

CASSIDY: No big deal?!? It's a heart! From a Giant! That's a pretty big deal where I come from! Man, I'm gonna be stuck here forever.

KOKO: Don't worry. We'll think of something.

CASSIDY: We?

KOKO: Sure. I mean, someone's gotta show you the way, right? Plus, I'm getting itchy feet. Time to blow this pop stand.

CASSIDY: Yeah, well, the Great Seer told me not to trust you.

KOKO: She also told you to get the Giant's heart, so, you know ... ("crazy" whistle) Loco.

CASSIDY: Oh, great. That makes me feel better.

KOKO: Besides, I've got a few tricks up my sleeve.

NARRATOR: Koko winks as he pulls a pouch out of his pocket marked 'Magic Powder.'

KOKO: Picked up a little somethin' back there. Watch this--



NARRATOR: He pours some powder into his palm and blows ...

[BLOWING WIND]

NARRATOR: ... just as a gust of wind blows it right back in their faces.

CASSIDY: Real nice!

KOKO (coughing): Huh. That didn't go right.

CASSIDY: We're gonna be chopped liver!

KOKO: Not the liver. The heart.

CASSIDY: I am so not amused right now.

KOKO: I don't think this is magic powder at all. Can you believe that?

NARRATOR: Tsk, tsk. Looks like Koko needs to learn not to take things that don't belong to him. But that's a lesson for another time. Let's get back to our story ... It seems Cassidy has resolved herself to make the best of things and settle into village life.

[FLUTE MUSIC]

CASSIDY: Hey Koko, look--I learned how to make paper from birch bark!

KOKO: Uh huh.

CASSIDY: What? I might as well fit in if I'm gonna be stuck here.

KOKO: You don't have to be stuck.

CASSIDY: I told you, I can't go after a Giant. That's insane!

KOKO: You said you wanted to go home.

CASSIDY: I did--I mean, I do! But c'mon, I'm just a kid!

KOKO: Cassidy, you don't seem to understand. When you came through from the other side, you really did upset the balance.

[OMINOUS MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Just then, the sky turns coal black and the wind swirls around them ...

[SWIRLING WIND, COMMOTION]

NARRATOR: ... whipping up sage brush as the villagers frantically search for cover.

CASSIDY: Whoa! I can hardly stand--

[BOOMING THUNDER]

NARRATOR: Suddenly, Thunderbird's monstrous figure appears overhead, sweeping low across the village.

[SHRIEKS]

NARRATOR: The villagers scatter as the massive creature hovers above them, lightning shooting from its wings.

[LIGHTENING STRIKES]

NARRATOR: A few structures catch on fire as the creature makes another pass overhead before flying off.

CASSIDY (shaking): So ... my coming here caused that?

KOKO: By George, I think she's got it!

CASSIDY: And I have to go ... after the Giant ... to save the village, huh?

KOKO: 'Fraid so. It's the only way.

CASSIDY: But I'm, I'm ... scared. I don't think I can do it.

KOKO: Won't know that until you try. Then, just leave the rest to the Great Mystery.

CASSIDY: What is this Great Mystery, anyway?

KOKO: Hello?!? It's a mystery? Geez, now I'm scared. C'mon, better get started.

NARRATOR: And so, Cassidy begins her training in the ways of a Brave.

KOKO: This is the proper way to hold a bow and arrow.

CASSIDY: I thought you said you weren't a fighter?

KOKO: I'm not, but I'm always prepared. Here, like this--

[BOW STRING, ARROW HITTING TARGET]

CASSIDY: It's a bulls-eye!

KOKO: Mais oui, but of course. Now, you try.

CASSIDY: I don't know how.

KOKO: Just, become the arrow.

CASSIDY: Become the arrow?

KOKO: Yes. Be one with it.

NARRATOR: Cassidy aims and slowly pulls the string back. The arrow flies ...

[BOW STRING, ARROW FLYING, WATER POURING]

NARRATOR: ... directly into their water bag hanging in a nearby tree.

KOKO: Eh, not bad.

NARRATOR: Perhaps Cassidy's next lesson will go better. For that, she joins the Chief Elder, who holds a large dowsing rod. Do you know what that is? It's a stick shaped like the letter 'Y' ... people once used them to find water. It's true!

CHIEF ELDER: You will need water in the desert.

CASSIDY: But that's just a stick.

CHIEF ELDER: Bah! This is the blessed divining rod of the Ancients!

CASSIDY: Looks like a stick to me.

[NATIVE CHANTING]

NARRATOR: The Chief Elder starts to chant as he slowly wanders off, guided by the Y-shaped branch.

KOKO: Heh, watch this--

[FLUTE PLAYING]

NARRATOR: Koko pulls out his flute and plays while he dances around in a circle. As he does ...

[FALLING RAIN]

NARRATOR: ... a dark rain cloud appears above their heads and starts to pour.

CASSIDY: That's awesome!

NARRATOR: It certainly is. And after more practice, Cassidy once again stands in front of the archery target.

KOKO: Remember, you and the arrow are one.

CASSIDY: I am one with the arrow. I am one with the arrow--

[BOW STRING, ARROW FLYING, HITTING TARGET]

CASSIDY: I hit it! See?

KOKO: Indeed. Although now, we must see if you can really see. See?

CASSIDY: Huh? My eyesight's fine.

NARRATOR: But Koko is speaking of a different kind of vision. For this test, he takes Cassidy to the village kiva. That's a hut where ceremonies are performed. The Chief Elder is waiting for them inside.

CHIEF ELDER: You must learn to see without your eyes.

NARRATOR: The Elder covers Cassidy's with a bandana, then spins her around and around, until she's dizzy.

CHIEF ELDER: Now, find the eagle's feather--

NARRATOR: The Elder hands a feather to Koko, who dances around Cassidy, waving the plume while she grasps at the air.

CASSIDY: This is crazy! I can't see a thing.

CHIEF ELDER: The eagle flies with Father Sky, the energy that flows through all things. The eagle flies in truth, in freedom, in power. Soar with the eagle! Soar with your power!

NARRATOR: Koko stops dancing and holds the feather still. Cassidy grabs for it--

[TABLE FALLING, POTTERY BREAKING]

KOKO: This, could take a while.

NARRATOR: Well, as the saying goes, practice makes perfect. And soon Cassidy once again takes aim with the bow and arrow, totally zeroed in on the target.

CASSIDY: I am the arrow. I am the arrow--

[BOW STRING, ARROW FLYING, HITS TARGET]

CASSIDY: Hey, look! I hit the bull's-eye!! Koko? Koko?

NARRATOR: Oh my ... looks like Koko is flirting with that girl again.

MAIDEN: Hee hee!

NARRATOR: But no matter, because Cassidy has passed all of her tests, and now it is time to finally set out in search of the Giant.

[EXCITED VILLAGERS, WELL WISHES]

NARRATOR (cont'd): Our two heroes stand at the edge of the village, loaded with supplies. The villagers wish them well as the Chief Elder approaches.

CHIEF ELDER: The Great Mystery has spoken. You shall bring balance and peace back to our people. We await your safe return.

CASSIDY: Not as much as I do. Thanks for everything ... for, well, believing in me.

CHIEF ELDER: What matters most is that you believe in yourself.

NARRATOR: And with that, Cassidy and Koko set off along the dirt path.

KOKO: Guess it's time we get to the heart of the matter.

CASSIDY: Think you're funny, huh?

KOKO: C'mon, have a heart.

CASSIDY: Are you gonna do that all the way?

KOKO: Unless there's a change of heart.

CASSIDY: Oh, geez.

NARRATOR: Will Cassidy really find the Giant? Will Koko make heart jokes all the way there? Find out in the next episode of COIN TRICK. Until then, it seems everything in our own world is out of balance right now, and you might be feeling scared or confused or anxious. And that's okay — in fact, it's perfectly normal. Even the bravest people you know feel frightened sometimes. Being courageous doesn't mean you'll never be afraid — true courage means feeling your fear and acting anyway. So, try expressing your feelings by talking or writing about them ... you can draw or paint or even dance them! And of course, remember to listen!