

COIN TRICK
Season One, Episode Three – "Spidey Sense"
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[NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Welcome back to Coin Trick. The last we saw Cassidy, she and Koko have visited the Great Seer, who tells our young heroine that she will indeed find her way home.

CASSIDY: Yes! Finally! Thank you!

NARRATOR: After taking care of one teensy, tiny, little thing.

GREAT SEER: You must face the Giant and return with his heart.

CASSIDY: What?!?

NARRATOR: Okay, one massive, epic, ginormous thing. But after weeks of preparation, Cassidy and Koko are finally ready to set off on their quest. Let's see how they're doing, shall we?

CASSIDY (exhausted): Are we there yet?

KOKO: We're hardly past the village!

CASSIDY: Can we stop? I'm hungry.

KOKO: Fine.

[RUMMAGING THROUGH KNAPSACK]

KOKO: For a little one, you sure complain big. Here, have some cornbread.

[LIVELY FLUTE MUSIC]

CASSIDY (eating): So, can you really shift-change? You know, change form, like magic? Because I could use a little magic right now.

[FLUTE MUSIC STOPS]

KOKO: There's magic all around you.

CASSIDY: But I thought you could do all kinds of tricks.

KOKO: You mean like this?

NARRATOR: Koko spins around and, POOF! He's turned himself into a coyote!

CASSIDY: Whoa! That is so cool!

[SNIFFS, HIGH-PITCHED BARKS, YIPS]

NARRATOR: The coyote sniffs around, then spots a woodrat in the distance. It takes off after the small critter.

CASSIDY: Hey! Where are you going? Wait!

NARRATOR: Cassidy races after the canine, but it's no contest.

CASSIDY: I don't believe this!

NARRATOR: She plops to the ground, head in hand. Sensing something behind her, she turns to see the animal sitting patiently.

CASSIDY: Koko? Is that you?

NARRATOR: The coyote chases its tail until, POOF! The animal has changed back to Koko.

KOKO: Not bad, eh? That one gets me out of a lot of jams.

CASSIDY (sighing): Yeah, that's great. Really great.

KOKO: What? You said you wanted to see a trick.

CASSIDY: But I didn't want you to trick me!

KOKO: I was just having a little fun. Don't you believe me?

CASSIDY: I don't know what to believe anymore. My mom's too busy for me, my dad's never around. My friends just use me to get good grades. Now I'm in this other world--going after a Giant! Man, life sure hasn't turned out the way I imagined.

KOKO: Had it all planned out, did ya?

CASSIDY: Yeah, I guess.

KOKO: Life's meant to be lived out here--

NARRATOR: Koko sweeps his arm across the desert landscape. Then he taps Cassidy's head.

KOKO: --not in here, little one.

CASSIDY: Would you please stop calling me 'little'? I'm not small for my age, you know.

KOKO: What should I call you then?

CASSIDY: How about my name? Cassidy?

KOKO: 'Cause you're not big. Big-headed, maybe.

CASSIDY: And stop making fun of me!

KOKO: Geez, don't be so sensitive! You'll be all right. Just remember to listen.

CASSIDY: Listen? Listen to what?

KOKO: Shhhh--

NARRATOR: Cassidy begins to protest, but then just soaks in her surroundings.

[JOYFUL, HARMONIOUS MELODY]

NARRATOR: And indeed, the more Cassidy sits quietly, the more magical the desert appears. Everything seems to breathe around her. Colorful birds form artistic shapes as they fly across the clear blue sky. She turns and smiles widely.

CASSIDY: Is this what you meant when you said there's magic everywhere? Koko?

NARRATOR: But Koko is nowhere to be seen. What Cassidy does see is a large hare staring at her, its nose twitching and ears flapping back and forth.

CASSIDY: Koko? Is that you? ... This isn't funny. Change back right now! C'mon, do your 'Poof!' thing.

NARRATOR: But instead, the hare turns and hops off.

CASSIDY: No, don't go! Wait!

NARRATOR: Cassidy grabs her backpack and chases after, but soon loses sight of the creature. Sighing, she stops and picks a few wolfberries. She sits and munches on them as the hare peers at her from beneath the plant.

KOKO (as Hare): Nice trick, huh?

CASSIDY: Humph. Don't you know, silly rabbit? Tricks are for kids.

NARRATOR: The hare hops around in a circle until, POOF! Koko flops down next to Cassidy, reaching out his hand for some berries.

CASSIDY: Forget it!

KOKO: Please, oh please!

CASSIDY: Why should I?

KOKO: Because I'm so hungry ... and so cute

[TWINKLING SOUNDS]

CASSIDY: Fine. But how can I trust you when you keep changing like that? How do I know who you really are?

KOKO (munching): How do you know who you really are?

CASSIDY (pause): So, do you actually think I can do this? I mean, I've only dealt with one giant in my life, and she really wasn't that big. Just a bully.

KOKO: Bully?

CASSIDY: You know, someone who's mean to other people. Pushes them around.

KOKO: You mean like this?

CASSIDY: Yeah, something like that.

KOKO: Or like this?

CASSIDY Stop it! I think I liked you better as a rabbit.

KOKO: Or maybe like this?

NARRATOR: Koko pushes her over and starts tickling her.

KOKO: Wait--hear that?

CASSIDY: Hee hee! Hear what?

KOKO: That noise....

CASSIDY: Oh yeah, scary!

KOKO: Shhhh! Listen!

CASSIDY: You keep telling me to listen, but I don't hear--

[RUMBLING]

NARRATOR: Suddenly, the ground starts to tremble. Rocks tumble down the hillsides, bouncing around our heroes' heads.

[FALLING ROCKS]

KOKO: Oh, oh--Here he comes!

CASSIDY: He??

NARRATOR: Out of nowhere, a massive boulder rolls straight at the two. They dive out of its way--and just in time, too! Phew, that was close. Cassidy turns to see that the boulder is in fact a huge head snarling at her.

[SNEERING, GROWLING]

CASSIDY: Th-, th-, that thing's alive!

KOKO: Yeah, that's Rolling Head. Got a major chip on his shoulder ... if he had a shoulder. Oh, oh--here he comes again!

[GROUND RUMBLING, FALLING ROCKS]

NARRATOR: Rolling Head circles around and lurches toward them.

ROLLING HEAD: Kokopelli, is that you?!?

NARRATOR: Koko peers from behind an itty-bitty rock.

KOKO: Hey, Head. What's shaking? Besides the ground, that is.

ROLLING HEAD: You're a foolish foe, Kokopelli!

KOKO: C'mon, Head! You know you've always been a *roll* model to me. (chortles) Roll model ... sometimes I crack myself up....

ROLLING HEAD: Bah! You're mine—and your little friend there, too! (to Cassidy) I think you first. Fresh meat. I can't wait to hear you squish!

NARRATOR: Rolling Head hurls himself toward Cassidy, leveling everything in his path. Cassidy runs up against a hillside ... there's nowhere to go! She freezes as the rock creature opens its mouth crammed full of razor-sharp teeth. She turns toward Koko, who is now clinging to the top of a small juniper tree.

CASSIDY: Oh, no! Koko, what do I do?!?

KOKO: Ou, ou! Your paper! Get your paper out!

NARRATOR: Cassidy pulls out the bark paper she made earlier.

CASSIDY: This??

KOKO: Remember what the Great Seer told you!

CASSIDY Uhhh ... call on Spider Woman??

NARRATOR: In a flash, a spider falls out of the sky and right onto Cassidy's nose.

CASSIDY: Ahhh!

NARRATOR: She watches as the tiny spider shoots a web that stretches the paper out to a humongous size. Just in time too, as Rolling Head hits it and bounces within inches of Cassidy's face ...

[BOING!]

NARRATOR: ... then back again. Well--will you look at that?? The paper-web is stuck to him. He's trapped!

ROLLING HEAD: Argghh!

[LOUD MUMBLING]

NARRATOR: Rolling Head's eyes pop open, his face filled with rage. He violently shakes from side to side, struggling to get free.

ROLLING HEAD: Hhmmmp!! Hhmmmp!!

[RUMBLING, THEN FADING AWAY]

NARRATOR: Finally, Rolling Head tumbles off, still covered in the paper-web.

CASSIDY: Huh. I guess paper really does cover rock.

NARRATOR: The spider jumps off Cassidy's nose and, through a misty haze...

[ETHEREAL SOUNDS]

NARRATOR: ... transforms into Spider Woman, the one that breathed life into all living things. Let's just say she's large and definitely in charge.

CASSIDY: Whoa!

SPIDER WOMAN: Whoa? Is that some newfangled greeting, dear?

CASSIDY: No, it's just--that was way wicked!

SPIDER WOMAN: Way wicked? Tsk tsk, you kids this millennium.

KOKO: I know, right?

SPIDER WOMAN: Kokopelli! I knew you'd be caught up in this somehow. (to Cassidy) Your words have power, dear. You must watch what you say.

CASSIDY: Oh ... well, thank you. I'm most grateful.

SPIDER WOMAN: And you're most welcome. Happy to help.

KOKO: I had everything under control.

CASSIDY: We're on a mission to find the Giant, you see. It's a relief to know you'll come when I'm, we're in trouble.

SPIDER WOMAN: Oh no, sweetie. You have to start relying on yourself. Look at you ... strong, smart, cute as a bug.

KOKO: Aw, geez. You don't have to butter me up.

SPIDER WOMAN (ignoring Koko): You already have everything you need to face the Giant.

CASSIDY: But ... I don't think I can do it on my own.

SPIDER WOMAN: You accepted the challenge, dear. So somewhere inside, you must know that you can. Call on that place.

CASSIDY: It'd be a lot easier if I could just call on you.

SPIDER WOMAN: Honey, I'm a busy woman! Do you have any idea how much work it is to keep a universe running?? You'll be fine. Just remember, the answer is within you!

[ETHEREAL SOUNDS]

NARRATOR: And just like that, Spider Woman disappears in a hazy mist.

KOKO: There now, see? Nothing to worry about. Like Spider Woman said, you already have the answer.

CASSIDY: There's just one problem.

KOKO: What's that?

CASSIDY: I don't know what the question is.

[THEME MUSIC]

NARRATOR: And so, our adventurers continue through the desert. Cassidy holds her phone out, looking at the compass app. Eventually the two arrive at a fork in the path.

CASSIDY: Wait! The Great Seer said to go north.

KOKO: I know. That's why I'm heading this way.

CASSIDY: But that's east.

KOKO: Look, I've lived here all my life. Don't you think I know which way is north?

CASSIDY: Are you sure??

KOKO: Of course. That range over there runs along the border. Would I steer you wrong?

CASSIDY: Huh ... My battery must be low or something.

NARRATOR: Even though Cassidy feels certain that she's right, she follows Koko in the other direction.

[SPOOKY MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Soon the two are standing in the middle of an eerie forest, surrounded by cactus trees in all shapes and sizes. Except these cacti are actually a gang of menacing bandits. They taunt Koko and Cassidy while jabbing at them with their spiny arms.

KOKO: Hmm, this doesn't look right.

NARRATOR: He and Cassidy grab hold of each other as a large kangaroo rat hops past them ...

[BOING, BOING]

KOKO AND CASSIDY: Ahhh!

NARRATOR: ... then duck as a flying squirrel leaps over their heads from one cactus to another.

[WHOOSH!]

KOKO AND CASSIDY: Eeek!

[LAUGHTER]

NARRATOR: A squat cactus nudges a tall saguaro wearing an eye patch.

STUBS: Hey, Stretch, get a load of these two!

STRETCH: Yeah, I don't think they belong here.

KOKO: Oh, we were just poking around.

STRETCH: Poking around ... You mean, like this?

[POKING SOUND]

CASSIDY: Oww! (to Koko) Be quiet!

KOKO: But I'm just poking fun.

STRETCH: You believe these two, Stubs?? Poking, like this--

[POKING SOUND]

NARRATOR: He jabs at Cassidy again, who turns angrily toward Koko.

CASSIDY: Ouch! (to Koko, sternly) Will you *stop* it?!

KOKO: What? What'd I do?

CASSIDY: Look, we don't want any trouble. We're here on a quest to find the Giant.

STUBS AND STRETCH: Ouuu!!

CASSIDY: So if you would just let us pass, we'd be most obliged.

STUBS: Hey Stretch, you hear that? They'd be most obliged!

[LAUGHTER]

STRETCH: What ya gonna give us for letting you through?

STUBS: Yeah, what's in the bag?

NARRATOR: The cacti grab at Cassidy's backpack, but she pulls it away.

CASSIDY: How rude!

KOKO: You better give it to them or they'll stab us!

STRETCH: Yeah, we're really gonna stick it to you!

[POKING SOUND, CUT SHORT]

CASSIDY: No!! (to Koko) Look, they can't touch us if we keep to the middle of the path.

NARRATOR: She pulls Koko close, so they're lined up directly in the center of the trail. And sure enough, even though the cacti poke their prickly arms, they can't quite reach our heroes. Cassidy digs into her backpack. She hands Koko the poncho and bike helmet.

CASSIDY: Here, put these on.

NARRATOR: Cassidy pulls up the hood on her sweatshirt so she's totally covered, then turns toward Koko. He looks absolutely ridiculous.

CASSIDY: C'mon, let's get outta here.

NARRATOR: The two cautiously step single-file down the center of the path, as the cactus bandits continue to poke at them. Koko dances in pain.

KOKO: Ou ou, ow ow!

CASSIDY: What is it now?

KOKO: My feet!

CASSIDY: Why don't you wear different shoes?

KOKO: Can't. Bunions. Ou, ow!

NARRATOR: Koko continues to jump about in pain as the two make their way out of the cactus forest.

KOKO: Ou, ow, ou, ow!

NARRATOR: Will Cassidy learn to trust herself? Will Koko get his bunions fixed? Find out in the next episode of COIN TRICK. Until then, have you ever had the sense that you just knew something was true, even though you weren't sure why? That's your intuition. And because it speaks to us quietly, our minds--and other people--can often make us doubt ourselves. Try thinking of your intuition as your own inner compass ... when you tune in, it will always lead you to your True North. So, remember to listen!