

COIN TRICK
Season One, Episode Six – "With Friends Like These"
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[NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Welcome back to Coin Trick. The last we saw Cassidy, she has found the Giant--

[LION-LIKE ROAR]

NARRATOR: --and learns that he really is just a lonely, misunderstood boy at heart.

GIANT: I can't help how big I am!

NARRATOR: You see, he's been mean to others because they mocked him for being different.

GIANT: They made fun of me and got mad because I knocked their things over ... They told me I didn't belong in the village.

NARRATOR: When Cassidy befriends him, the Giant agrees to set everyone free and lead them back to the village. In fact, he's unlocking the Braves' cage right now--

[KEY JOSTLING IN LOCK, METAL GATE SQUEAKING]

GIANT: Here ya go--

NARRATOR: But the startled Braves don't budge. In fact, they back away against the wall.

CASSIDY: C'mon out, you're free!

VOICE: No, it's a trick!

[VOICES IN AGREEMENT]

CASSIDY: It's not, I promise!

GIANT: See??? They don't wanna be my friends!

CASSIDY: It's safe, really ... Oh, won't you please come out?

BRAVE: I will go with you.

NARRATOR: The young Brave we met earlier steps forward. And once he does, the others follow.

CASSIDY: Yes, awesome! Now, let's do this thing!

NARRATOR: As our group makes its way back down the dark passageway ...

[WHIMPERING]

NARRATOR: ... they stumble upon Smitey curled up in a ball, still sobbing.

CASSIDY: Smitey?

SMITEY: Pipsqueak?? Oh, is it ever good to see you! Although I can't see my hand in front of my face in this place ... Is someone with you?

CASSIDY: Yeah, the Giant!

SMITEY: What??!?

CASSIDY: Don't worry, he's leading us out. Here--

NARRATOR: Cassidy offers her hand to Smitey, who joins the others as they make their way back to the larger room.

HAPLESS: Cassidy! You made it ... and the rest of ya, too! Well, I do declare!

[EXCITED VOICES]

HAPLESS: So, who's that behind you there? AHHHH!!

[SCREAMS]

GIANT: I told you they wouldn't like me!

CASSIDY: It's okay, guys! He's letting us all out. (to Giant) You are letting us out, right?

GIANT: Yeah, I suppose--

NARRATOR: The men scatter as the Giant lumbers over to an ooze-covered stalactite. He pulls on it ...

[CREAK]

NARRATOR: ... and a massive rope ladder drops down.

SMITEY: Are you kidding me??

HAPLESS: Hah! Ya mean we coulda gotten outta here all this time?! Don't that beat all?

[GROUND RUMBLING]

CASSIDY: Wait, what's happening?

GIANT: I rigged it so if this door ever opened, the whole thing would go.

CASSIDY: You mean, the cave's gonna blow up?!?

GIANT: I'd say any minute now.

[VIOLENT TREMBLING, ROCKS FALLING]

NARRATOR: The cave starts to violently shake and rattle. Everyone struggles to keep their balance as the Giant offers a hand to Cassidy.

CASSIDY: No, Hapless, you first ... Smitey, you're next, go. Go!

NARRATOR: One by one, the men make their way up the ladder.

[LOUDER RUMBLING]

NARRATOR: The walls are shaking so violently now, Cassidy gets knocked off her feet. The Brave helps her up.

CASSIDY: Thanks! Now, go--

NARRATOR: The Brave scales the ladder as the Giant lifts Cassidy up, but she can't reach the next rung.

CASSIDY: (struggling) Ugh! I can't, quite, get it--

GIANT: Here.

NARRATOR: The Giant slings Cassidy over his shoulder ...

CASSIDY: Woo!

NARRATOR: ... and climbs up as the walls shake violently. Outside, rocks rain down over the cave opening.

SMITEY: C'mon, c'mon!

[TORRENT OF CRASHING ROCKS]

NARRATOR: Oh goodness, the entrance is completely closed off—and Cassidy and the Giant are still inside!! But, they have to make it out, right?

[LONG PAUSE]

NARRATOR: Right?!?

[SHORTER PAUSE, THEN LION ROAR]

NARRATOR: Suddenly, the Giant's massive form pushes through the rubble ... and yes, Cassidy's still with him!

HAPLESS: Oh, thank goodness!

[TREMORS, LOUD CRASH]

NARRATOR: The ogre slides beneath the main gate just as it shakes loose and crashes shut behind them. He lowers the drawbridge and the men race across.

[TREMORS, ANOTHER CRASH]

CASSIDY: But, what about the Water Monster?!?

GIANT: Don't worry about him.

NARRATOR: Cassidy cautiously steps onto the bridge, then recoils as two eyes rise to the water's surface.

[LION ROAR, NONSENSICAL INCANTATION]

NARRATOR: Well, will you look at that?!? The Monster stops in mid-air--

[MONSTER SQUEALING]

NARRATOR: --and slips back under the water!

[SPLASHING]

NARRATOR: Just in time, too, because right as our group reaches the other bank ...

[MASSIVE EXPLOSION]

NARRATOR: ... the entire cave explodes into a million pieces!

GROUP: WHOA!!!!

NARRATOR: Whoa, indeed! Quite the spectacle to see, let me tell you. In fact, all this excitement has worn me out. I could really use a nap (sigh, pause) But I suppose you want to hear how this all ends, right? Let's continue then ... Now, where was I? Cassidy convinces the Giant to set everybody free ... the cave explodes, dah dah dah ... right. So, now the sun is setting while our group finishes their supper around a campfire.

[JOVIAL BANTER]

NARRATOR: Cassidy, however, sits off by herself, rolling the Koko medallion through her fingers as Hapless joins her.

HAPLESS: You know, all of us are darn grateful for what you did today.

CASSIDY: Thanks, Hapless.

HAPLESS: It's a fact and I wouldn't lie. You should be right proud of yourself.

CASSIDY: Ah, any of you would have done the same.

HAPLESS: I'm not so sure ... Say, what is that thing, anyway? Been fiddling with it the whole time.

CASSIDY: That's a friend of mine. At least, he used to be.

HAPLESS: Huh. It looks just like this fella I knew ... What's his name again? Kooka-somethin'.

CASSIDY: Koko, short for Kokopelli. The trickster.

HAPLESS: Kokopelli, that's it! Shyster's more like it. Fooled everyone into thinkin' he could make rain, then swindled us out of our money. Wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him!

CASSIDY: That doesn't sound like my friend.

HAPLESS: Well, that's good to know ... Here ya be. C'mon, join us. This here's a celebration!

NARRATOR: And there certainly are plenty of reasons to celebrate. The treasure hunters have been freed ... the Braves are returning to the village ... and Cassidy can finally go home! The next morning, she and the Giant lead our merry band back across the desert.

CASSIDY: It was awesome the way you scared the Water Monster like that.

GIANT: Eh, I just broke the spell.

CASSIDY: Spell? Is that how you closed the doorway, too?

GIANT: Uh huh. I used one of the incantations from my mother's book.

[FAINT VILLAGE SOUNDS]

CASSIDY: Hey look, we're almost there--

GIANT: Wow ... I'm finally, home.

CASSIDY: And I'll finally get to go home, too! Wait ... you used your mother's spell book?

GIANT: Yeah, she's the Seer. I thought you knew that.

CASSIDY: Your mother is the Great Seer?!?

[LOUDER COMMOTION, GASPS]

CHILD: Look everybody, she's back! The White Buffalo is back! And she's brought the Giant with her!

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN Why did you bring *him* here? He's the one who ruined our things!

[ANGRY SHOUTS]

GIANT: You see?? I told you they didn't want me here!

CASSIDY (to villagers): Now, just hold on a sec! He came back to make peace with you ... and he let all of your men go as a sign of good faith!

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: But he locked them up!

[SHOUTS OF AFFIRMATION]

CASSIDY: Only when they came after him! He did say he wanted to be left alone.

[MUMBLING]

CASSIDY: And it was your teasing that drove him out of here in the first place, I might add.

[MORE MUMBLING]

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: Eh, who are you to tell us?

CASSIDY: Who am I? Who am I?! I'm the White Buffalo, that's who I am! And I'm back with the heart of the Giant ... and the rest of him, too!

[ENTHUSIAST AGREEMENT]

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: But, how do we know we can trust him?

CASSIDY: Because he's my friend. And I trust him.

NARRATOR: Cassidy throws her arm around the Giant--or, at least around his massive thigh.

[STORM SOUNDS, THUNDER, LIGHTENING CRACKS]

NARRATOR: Oh, oh ... sounds like Thunderbird is back and heading their way! But wait--

[GIANT'S ROAR, CHANT; ANIMAL SQUEALING]

NARRATOR: Well, will you look at that?!? The Giant just sent that big ol' bird squealing in the other direction. Hah! I doubt we'll see him around here again anytime soon.

[JOYFUL SOUNDS]

NARRATOR: And with that, the villagers are totally won over. They lead the Giant in a parade all the way to the Great Seer's rickety shack, where the old woman is kneeling outside in the garden.

[SNIFFING SOUND]

GREAT SEER: Son? Son, is that you? Is it really you?!?

GIANT: Ma!

GREAT SEER (crying): I never thought I'd see you again!

GIANT (bawling): I'm so sorry!

GREAT SEER: No, I'm sorry! It was all my fault!

GIANT: But I'm to blame!

GREAT SEER: No, I'm to blame!

CASSIDY: Hh, hem ... Sorry to break up the love fest here, but now that your son's home--

GREAT SEER: And you! I knew you'd do it!

CASSIDY: Well, I'd kinda like to get home myself.

GREAT SEER: And so you shall!

[MOOD MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Soon the Great Seer is stirring a large black cauldron of her magic brew.

CASSIDY: Ugh! That smells awful.

GREAT SEER: Back up, will you? Give me room!

CASSIDY: You're sure this is gonna work?

GREAT SEER: Of course, it will work! I just couldn't remember the recipe without my book. There's eye of newt and ... what else goes in here, son? Cliffrose? Creosote?

GIANT: Cayenne.

GREAT SEER: Cayenne! I never would have guessed.

GIANT: It just adds that little somethin'-somethin'. This is the last of it--

CASSIDY: So, how did you know I would be the one to bring your son back?

GREAT SEER: Because you went to help the village. The rest of them fellas just wanted gold.

CASSIDY: But I still don't understand. Why did you tell me the whole story about bringing back his heart?

GREAT SEER: Because he must have lost it, leaving like he did. He sure broke mine.

GIANT (crying): Oh, Ma--I'm so sorry!

GREAT SEER (crying): No, I'm sorry!

GIANT: It's all my fault!

GREAT SEER: No, I'm to blame!

CASSIDY: Geez, get a room, why don't ya?

GREAT SEER: Okay, it's ready!

NARRATOR: The Great Seer removes the kettle from the fire. The others watch anxiously as she fills a small vile and hands it to Cassidy.

GREAT SEER: This will get you home.

CASSIDY: Yes! Thank you!

GIANT: Thank you, Cassidy.

CASSIDY: So now, everything's cool here? The Great Mystery will put everything right again?

GREAT SEER: Great Mystery sets all things right.

NARRATOR: And it's true, all things do end up right in the end. Sometimes it just takes longer than we'd like ... Anyway, the villagers are soon leading Cassidy back to the rock wall where our story first began ... There, you see? It's her bicycle on the other side, just where she left it.

GIANT: Well, here we are.

[MAGPIE CHIRP]

GIANT: And a magpie, too! He's a sacred messenger, you know.

GREAT SEER (questioningly): Or a mischief-maker--

CASSIDY: I can't believe this is it ... I'm actually going home! I just, I just wish Koko was here to share this moment. I wouldn't have been able to make it without him.

[LOUDER MAGPIE CAWS]

KOKO (as magpie): Aw, shucks, little one!

CASSIDY: Koko? Is that you?!?

NARRATOR: Hah! Wouldn't you know it? That ol' magpie hops off the tree branch and, POOF! turns into Koko himself!

CASSIDY: I'm so glad to see you! I thought the Water Monster swallowed you whole!

KOKO: Told ya, that shape-shifting gets me out of some tough spots.

CASSIDY: I did it, Koko, I did it! I brought the Giant back, heart and all!

KOKO: I can see that! Didn't I always say you could? So, uhm, is that the elixir there?

CASSIDY: Uh, huh.

KOKO: Can I see it? Let me see!

CASSIDY: Sure, here ... You know, your believing in me really helped me believe in myself. Thank you, friend.

KOKO: No worries, little one. (sniffing) Whew! This stuff smells worse than a cowpie. Wonder how it's gonna taste?

CASSIDY: I'll find out soon enough. Well, thanks for everything!

[CONGRATULATIONS, ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GROUP]

CASSIDY: It's funny, I'm really gonna miss you guys. And Koko, I'll miss you most of all.

KOKO: Ah, I'll miss you too, little one.

CASSIDY: Okay ... so, let me have the bottle.

KOKO: No, I'm afraid not.

CASSIDY: Quit kidding. Hand it over!

KOKO: Nope, no can do.

CASSIDY: C'mon, stop playing your silly games. Let me have it!

KOKO: Uh, uh.

CASSIDY: Look, I don't want to say goodbye either, but--

KOKO: Always remember, Cassidy.

CASSIDY: Hey, you called me Cassidy! Remember what?

KOKO: To listen!

NARRATOR: And with that, Koko downs the elixir in one gulp and jumps through the portal. The vile rolls in front of Cassidy's feet.

CASSIDY: KOKO!

NARRATOR: She frantically picks up the bottle and turns it over--it's completely empty! She watches helplessly as Koko waves from the other side, pulls out his flute, and dances away.

[MERRY FLUTE SOUNDS]

CASSIDY: NO!!!! No, no, no!

NARRATOR: Tsk, tsk. I was afraid something like this might happen.

CASSIDY: Koko, how could you do this to me?!? I, I trusted you ... Now I'll never get back home.

NARRATOR: Cassidy drops to her knees, head in her hands. My, oh my ... it's sad to see her like this, it truly is. And after all she's been through.

GIANT: I'm sorry, Cassidy. C'mon, let's go--

GREAT SEER: You'll get home, don't worry. I'll make another batch.

GIANT: It'll just take us a while to collect more ingredients.

CASSIDY: I can't believe Koko did this to me.

GREAT SEER: I told you, never trust a trickster.

CASSIDY: But, he wasn't supposed to trick me!

GREAT SEER: Sometimes we end up tricking ourselves. Here--

NARRATOR: The group arrives at one of the village's kivas, and the Great Seer motions for Cassidy to go inside.

GREAT SEER: This is our sacred sweat lodge. It will help purify your negative energy around Koko. Go on, the Chief Elder is waiting for you.

CASSIDY: He's waiting for me? But, how did he know this would happen?

GREAT SEER: Don't think. Just step inside, go on--

NARRATOR: So, with nothing more to lose, Cassidy enters the kiva. The Chief Elder sits cross-legged across from a pile of red-hot stones. He motions for her to sit as he pours water on top of them.

[SIZZLING ROCKS]

CASSIDY: So, what are a bunch of rocks gonna do for me?

CHIEF ELDER: Shhh ... Just close your eyes, quiet your mind, and listen.

CASSIDY: Listen?!? Why does everyone keep telling me to listen? I swear--

CHIEF ELDER: Just listen, and you will hear.

[CHANTING]

NARRATOR: Cassidy watches the Chief sway back and forth as he chants. She stares intently at the stones, hypnotized as they turn fiery red from the heat.

[STONES CRACKLING]

CHIEF ELDER: Just listen.

CASSIDY: Listen ... Listen....

MOTHER: Sshhh! I think she said something.

NARRATOR: Wait a minute--what the heck?!?

CASSIDY: Listen ... Listen....

MOTHER: Cassidy? Cassidy, can you hear me?

NARRATOR: Wha--? Well, huh ... It now seems that Cassidy is lying in a hospital bed, with a huge bandage wrapped around her head.

MOTHER: Can you hear me, honey?

NARRATOR: She slowly opens her eyes to find her mother staring down at her.

CASSIDY: Huh? What?

CAMERON: Look! She's awake!

MOTHER: Oh, thank goodness! Thank goodness, you're all right!

FATHER: We thought we lost you for a while there.

CASSIDY: Dad?? I'm so confused--

NARRATOR: You're not the only one!

CASSIDY: Where, where am I?

MOTHER: You're in the hospital, dear. Look, everyone's here.

CAMERON: Yeah, I wouldn't want anything to happen to my big sis.

JONATHAN: Hey, Cass. I was really worried about you!

CASSIDY Jonathan ... You're a good friend.

JONATHAN: So are you.

FATHER: And I know I haven't been around a lot lately, honey, but the idea of losing you ... well, you'll be seeing a lot more of me from now on, I promise you.

CASSIDY: I'm glad to hear that, Dad. But, what happened anyway?

MOTHER: You had a bike accident and hit your head. You weren't wearing your helmet!

CASSIDY: Oh yeah, I remember now. I went through!

FATHER: Through?

CASSIDY: I went through the rock ... it's a doorway ... to Tapuat, where the Ancestors disappeared to. There were all these creatures and ... it was like, another dimension--

CAMERON: Demented is more like it.

MOTHER: Cameron!

CAMERON: Sorry.

JONATHAN: We were talking about the Pueblo Ancestors before her accident.

MOTHER See, Cassidy? It was just a dream. You hit your head pretty hard there. That awful Lizzie girl is gonna be in serious trouble--

CASSIDY: Go easy on her, Mom. She's had a tough life ... I'm sure she didn't mean for this happen.

MOTHER (taken aback): All right ... well, thank goodness Joe found you.

JOE: Hey, kid!

NARRATOR: Joe steps forward into Cassidy's view. He's clean shaven now, you wouldn't even recognize him. Huh ... I never noticed before, but you know, he looks a lot like--

CASSIDY: Joe, is that really you?

JOE: Sure is, kid. Who'd ya think I was?

CASSIDY: It's just ... without the beard ...

JOE: Look a little different, huh? Gotta change things up now and again.

CASSIDY: ... you look exactly like my friend in Tapuat. Koko.

JOE: Not Ko-Ko. Joe-Joe. (gaffaws) Joe-Joe ... Sometimes I crack myself up.

CASSIDY: That's exactly what he'd say!

JOE: Look, Cassidy. It was all just a dream! I'm right here. I found you, remember?

CASSIDY: Yeah, I guess ... You're sure?

JOE: Of course I'm sure. Would I ever steer you wrong?

[TWINKLING SOUND]

NARRATOR: And with a wink from Joe, our story comes to an end. But, does it really? I wonder ... Now that the doorway has been reopened ... do you think anyone else could come through? Huh. Well, I guess we'll have to leave that for another time and place. For now, I'll just say thanks for listening to COIN TRICK!