

COIN TRICK  
Season One, Episode Four "Herding Frogs"  
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[NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Welcome back to Coin Trick. The last we saw our heroes, they had stumbled into an eerie forest full of cactus bandits ...

[SPOOKY MUSIC]

KOKO: Oh, we were just poking around.

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

[POKING SOUND]

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

[LAUGHTER, POKING SOUNDS]

NARRATOR: ... and Cassidy devises a clever way out of the rather, sticky situation.

CASSIDY: Look, they can't touch us if we keep to the middle of the path! Here, put on the poncho and bike helmet.

NARRATOR: The two manage to escape the forest unharmed.

KOKO: Ou ou, ow ow!

NARRATOR: That is, except for Koko's, uhm, bunions.

KOKO: Ou ou, ow ow!

NARRATOR: We join them now as they wander through a field of unripened corn. Cassidy is once again glued to her phone's compass app, while Koko chomps on pinyon nuts, dropping half of them along the way.

CASSIDY: Okay, we're definitely heading north now. You can take that helmet off, you know.

KOKO (munching): I like it. Makes me look dignified.

CASSIDY: Dumb's more like it. I don't know why I even bother with you.

KOKO: 'Cause I can sing, and I can dance. And I have ... giant ants down my pants.

CASSIDY (laughing): Okay, fine.

KOKO: No, really. Look--

NARRATOR: Indeed, as Koko shakes his leg ...

[SCURRYING ANTS]

NARRATOR: ... a row of large red ants march down his pant leg. Koko shakes again...

[PLOP!]

NARRATOR: ... and one last straggler falls out, then races to catch up with the rest of his army.

KOKO: Huh. Guess they wanted out of that forest as much as we did.

[CHOMPING ON NUTS]

CASSIDY: The Giant's cave must be just past this field.

KOKO: I wish this corn was ripe. (munching) I'm tired of eating these nuts.

CASSIDY: Then stop. You're wasting half of 'em anyway.

KOKO (mimicking her): 'You're wasting half of them anyway.' (pause) Hey, what's that sound?

[FAINT ETHEREAL MUSIC]

CASSIDY: What? I don't hear anything.

KOKO: Shhh--

[GROWING CHORUS OF CELESTIAL-LIKE VOICES]

CASSIDY (struggling): This corn seems to be growing--

NARRATOR: She's right: The corn stalks are getting taller and thicker as the pathway twists and turns, again and again. Cassidy glances at her compass.

CASSIDY: The needle is spinning out of the control ... We're going in circ--whoa!!

NARRATOR: Whoa, indeed! The corn stalks have taken on human-like forms, with cob-shaped bodies and golden tassels blowing in the breeze. They reach out to Cassidy and Koko with their husk arms.

CASSIDY: Wha--, what is this place?

[SEDUCTIVE SIREN SONG]

KOKO: It must be the labyrinth of the Corn Maidens. Well, hello there! Aren't you a cute little thing?

CASSIDY: So, a maze of ... maize maidens?

KOKO: Amazing, isn't it? I do love blondes.

CORN MAIDEN: Hi, handsome.

CORN MAIDEN2: Nice helmet.

KOKO: Hello--

CORN MAIDEN: And you're so cute!

CORN MAIDEN2: Just the cutest little thing ....

CORN MAIDEN3: So cute!

CASSIDY (giggling): Tee hee!

CORN MAIDEN: Wanna nibble my ear?

CORN MAIDEN2: It's sweet!

CASSIDY: Hee hee ... (gathering herself) No. No!

CORN MAIDEN: Why don't we start a fire ...

CORN MAIDEN2: Pop a few kernels ....

KOKO (purring like a cat): Hhmmm, your skin feels just like silk.

CASSIDY: Leave her alone, Koko ... we've gotta get outta here!

KOKO: But I'm in love!

CASSIDY: We'll go out the way we came--

KOKO (ignoring Cassidy): Look, we're perfect for each other. I really love cornbread ... and we've both have this hair thing going on--

CASSIDY: We can follow the nuts you dropped. C'mon!

CORN MAIDEN: Stay with us!

CORN MAIDENS (together): Stay with us! Stay ....

KOKO: Oh, let's stay and—

CASSIDY: Don't listen to them! We've got to find the Giant. Here--

[DIGGING IN BACKPACK]

CASSIDY: Put my earbuds in, you won't hear their voices.

CORN MAIDEN: We can get married at the Corn Palace.

CORN MAIDEN2: Married ...

CORN MAIDEN3: And honeymoon in the barn.

KOKO: Ah, I've always wanted to see the Corn Palace!

CASSIDY: Put them in!!

NARRATOR: Cassidy grabs some husk off one of the Corn Maidens.

CORN MAIDEN: Ooh! That tickles!

NARRATOR: Cassidy stuffs the pieces in her ears, then grabs hold of Koko's hand as she follows the trail of nuts back out through the maze.

KOKO: Wait--

NARRATOR: Koko pulls off the maiden's cob hands.

CORN MAIDEN: Ouch!

KOKO: You always hurt the one you love.

NARRATOR: And once again, Cassidy safely leads them away from danger.

CORN MAIDEN: Wait, come back!

CORN MAIDEN2: Don't you want to stay?

CORN MAIDEN3: Stay with us forever ....

CORN MAIDEN: Stay.

CASSIDY: That was close! They almost had us trapped.

KOKO: Yeah. Good thing I left that trail of nuts.

CASSIDY: Seriously?!? ... C'mon, let's go around this field.

[KOKO EATING, THEN SPITTING, SIGHING]

CASSIDY: Now what?

KOKO: These aren't ripe. Guess she was too young for me after all.

CASSIDY: Ah, man.

NARRATOR: The two continue on their way as Koko pulls out his flute.

[LIVELY FLUTE MUSIC]

CASSIDY: We've gotta find some water.

KOKO: Use the Elder's divining rod.

CASSIDY: Why can't you just do your rain dance?

KOKO: It doesn't work here. See--

NARRATOR: Koko does a little shuffle like before ...

[FEET SHUFFLING]

NARRATOR: ... but this time, only a tiny cloud appears overhead, spitting out one measly drop of rain.

[SINGLE DROP OF WATER]

NARRATOR: Just then, the dowsing rod starts shaking erratically. Cassidy can hardly hold onto it.

CASSIDY: You must have done something, because this thing is going crazy. Hey--!

NARRATOR: The rod pulls Cassidy off her feet, carrying her at breakneck speed.

CASSIDY: Ahhhh!

NARRATOR: Koko races to keep up when, just as suddenly, the rod stops moving and Cassidy drops to the ground.

[PLOP, THEN FOREBODING MUSIC]

KOKO AND CASSIDY: Whoa!!

NARRATOR: The two gaze upon a massive chasm, grander than the Grand Canyon. Far below, a river courses through the gorge.

KOKO: There it is. The Giant's cave.

NARRATOR: Cassidy peers across at a massive opening in the sheer canyon wall that's shaped like a hideous face. Even though it's a sunny day, the sky above the cave is dark and threatening.

[STORM SOUNDS]

CASSIDY: So, that's where the Giant lives?

KOKO: Yep.

CASSIDY: And that's where we have to go, to get his heart.

KOKO: Yep.

CASSIDY: So that we can put everything back in balance.

KOKO: Uh huh.

CASSIDY: And I can get back home.

KOKO: You got it.

CASSIDY: I think I'm gonna be sick.

KOKO: Ah, nothing to it but to do it. I just see one little problem--

CASSIDY: Yeah, the drawbridge is up ... and the river looks pretty fast, but I'm a good swimmer. You?

KOKO: Doesn't matter much. We're not swimming across that.

NARRATOR: Koko nods toward the river as a huge hawk flies over ...

[SWOOSH! HAWK CRY]

NARRATOR: ... and in a flash, the water rises up in the form of an immense mouth, devouring the bird in mid-air.

CASSIDY: Wha--, wha--?

KOKO: Wa-ter. Wa-ter Mon-ster. I don't think we're crossing that any time soon.

CASSIDY: But, how are we gonna get to the cave?!?

NARRATOR: How, indeed? This is certainly a perplexing problem, and one that will take serious contemplation. Our two heroes drop to the ground and think ... and think ... and think some more, until the sun has set and they are in pitch blackness.

[LIGHTENING STRIKES]

CASSIDY: The Giant's cave looks even scarier at night. I better get the flashlight out--

KOKO: Oh, oh, what's that? Let me see, let me see!

CASSIDY: So, do you really think I'm this White Buffalo person?

KOKO: The villagers do. They've been hoping you'd find your way here. Sure left you enough clues.

CASSIDY: Clues?

KOKO: You know, the drawings. On the rocks.

NARRATOR: Koko puts the flashlight under his chin.

KOKO: BOOOO!

CASSIDY: Hey! Don't wear out the batteries! My phone's already dead.

KOKO: Geez, you're no fun at all.

CASSIDY: What about 'em? The drawings, I mean.

KOKO: They're coded messages. They tell you everything you need to know.

CASSIDY: So the villagers ... they're the Pueblo Ancestors, right? My friend told me about them. They lived all over the Southwest.

KOKO: Yeah, we all used to go back and forth whenever we pleased. Then the Giant closed the doorway and, well, that was that.

CASSIDY: Which explains why the Ancestors just disappeared from our world. But that was, like, a thousand years ago--

KOKO: There is no time in Tapuat. Just now.

CASSIDY: And now he holds the villagers captive.

KOKO: Exactly. But they've held out hope that the White Buffalo would return.

CASSIDY: So, do you think I'm her?

KOKO: The real question is, do you?

NARRATOR: The two sit silently in the same spot until the sun once again rises above the canyon.

CASSIDY: Man, I sure could go for a chocolate éclair.

KOKO: You're not French, by any chance, are you?

CASSIDY: No, why?

KOKO: 'Cause they don't like the French very much.

CASSIDY: What? Who doesn't?

KOKO: The whole 'cuisses de grenouille' thing.

CASSIDY: What are you babbling about?

KOKO: You know. Frog legs.

CASSIDY: I swear, Koko, sometimes you don't make any sense at all.

KOKO: Look, over there--

NARRATOR: Koko points toward the distance. It's the Frog Clan, an army of biped creatures all leap-marching in formation.

KOKO: And there--

NARRATOR: Koko points to the opposite side of the canyon at the Snake Clan, an equally large army of slithery serpent-beings.

CASSIDY: Oh, no! What are we supposed to do now?!?

KOKO: Just be polite. And don't make fun of their eyes.

CASSIDY: But--

NARRATOR: Cassidy stops mid-sentence as a Frog Solider leaps next to her.

CASSIDY: Ahh!

NARRATOR: Another jumps alongside Koko.

KOKO: Ahh!

NARRATOR: The creatures' bulging eyes roll wildly around in their sockets as they prod Cassidy and Koko to their feet.

FROG SOLDIER: You will come with us!

[DRAMATIC MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Soon, our heroes sit captive in front of General Frog at the clan's command center. The General squats on a large rock draped in purple cloth. He adjusts the medals on his golden sash as his huge eyes roll toward a bowlful of dragonflies.

[SLURP]

GENERAL FROG (with a lisp, spraying his words): So, we see you again, Kokopelli.

KOKO: My dear General! It's been far too long. How's the wife? The little tadpoles?

GENERAL FROG: Always the silly one, eh? Do you suppose I'd forget what you did to my Sissy?

KOKO: She's a sweet girl--

GENERAL FROG: My sweet, innocent Sissy.

KOKO: We were just two crazy kids in love.

CASSIDY (whispering): You dated his daughter?

KOKO: Hey, besides the eye thing, she's hot.

GENERAL FROG: Silence! Who's your sidekick?

[LONG PAUSE]

GENERAL FROG: What's the matter? Why don't you speak?

KOKO: You said silence--

GENERAL FROG: Oh, you make me so mad!

CASSIDY: If I may, General ... My name is Cassidy. I came here, to your world, through the doorway--

GENERAL FROG: So, you're not spies?

CASSIDY: What? Spies? No!

GENERAL FROG: You weren't sent by the Snakes to steal our secrets? What about this bow and arrow, eh? You come armed!

CASSIDY: Oh, no! Look, we were sent here by the Great Seer ... on a mission ... to get the Giant's heart.

GENERAL FROG: Silence! No more of your nonsense. Although the Giant will be very interested to hear about your little scheme. Guard!

FROG SOLDIER: Yes, General!

[PEN ON PAPER]

GENERAL FROG: Deliver this message to the Giant.

FROG SOLDIER: Yes, General.

CASSIDY: So ... what do you plan to do with us?

GENERAL FROG: I ask the questions! But if you must know, I plan to boil you both and serve you up for supper. You're skinny, but you look tasty.

KOKO: Oh man, I knew Frog Girl wasn't worth it.

CASSIDY: Wait! Wait. Can't we settle this like friends? Maybe over, say, a peace pipe?

GENERAL FROG: What are you babbling about?

KOKO: Just a moment, bug-eye ... I mean frog-face ... Urgh, General. (to Cassidy) What are you babbling about?

CASSIDY (ignoring Koko): Look, I have one in my bag. May I?

GENERAL FROG: Slowly, very slowly--

[RUSTLING THROUGH BACKPACK]

NARRATOR: Cassidy pulls out the bicycle pump.

CASSIDY: Here, see?

GENERAL FROG: That doesn't look like any peace pipe to me.

KOKO: Me, neither.

CASSIDY: Well, it is where I come from. General, you first. As a sign of good will.

GENERAL FROG: That's very decent of you, considering you're about to be boiled alive.

NARRATOR: The General reaches for the pump and sucks on the tube while Cassidy pumps as hard as she can.

[SUCKING NOISES, SOUND OF A TIRE PUMP]

GENERAL FROG: What are you doing?

CASSIDY: You have to suck really, really hard. Just keep your lips around it good and tight.

GENERAL FROG: Humph! You're a strange one.

[LOUDER SUCKING NOISES]

NARRATOR: The General sucks so hard, his face turns blue. Cassidy's arms pump with a fury ... and, wouldn't you know? The General's head begins to blow up, larger and larger, until it becomes a massive balloon!

GENERAL FROG (with helium-effect): I suddenly feel light-headed....

NARRATOR: The General drops the hose and starts to float off. The frightened Frog Guards run away as their leader rises higher and higher above the ground.

CASSIDY: Koko! Now!

NARRATOR: Cassidy grabs hold of the inflated General's waist.

CASSIDY: Grab his feet!

NARRATOR: Koko jumps for the General's feet as they drift away. Below them, the Frog Guards bounce around in a panic as our heroes float above the landscape ... over the two awe-struck armies ... and toward the mouth of the cave.

KOKO: Why Cassidy, you're brilliant!

CASSIDY: I'm getting that Giant's heart, one way or the other!

KOKO: I'm afraid it might have to be the other.

CASSIDY: What do you mean?

KOKO: I'm weighing Froggy Boy down. We'll never make it.

NARRATOR: Cassidy looks up--the General's head is starting to deflate. She looks down--the Water Monster's menacing eyes stare at them through the river's surface.

KOKO: You've gotta do it alone. It's the only way.

CASSIDY: Just hang on! We're almost there!

KOKO: You can do this, Cassidy.

CASSIDY: Hold on, Koko! Hold on!

KOKO: Just remember ... (voice fading away) to listen!

CASSIDY: NO!!!!

NARRATOR: Cassidy turns her head away so she doesn't see Koko fall ... Wait, did he just fly off as a bird?? I must be imagining things. Oh!

[SWOOSH]

NARRATOR: The Water Monster sweeps up within inches of Cassidy's feet! Reaching the other bank, she drops to the ground as the General continues to float away.

CASSIDY: Koko!!

NARRATOR: Cassidy peers into the water at a pair of eyes staring back at her.

CASSIDY: Koko?

NARRATOR: The eyes grow huge--It's the Water Monster!

CASSIDY: AHHHH!!!!

NARRATOR: Cassidy jumps back from the edge just before the creature's gaping mouth swallows her whole.

CASSIDY: Phew, that was close!

NARRATOR: She catches her breath, then slowly turns toward the Giant's massive cave. It looks even scarier close up.

[OMINOUS MUSIC]

CASSIDY (sighing): I guess this is it. I'll never forget you, Koko.

NARRATOR: And with that, Cassidy turns on her flashlight and steps inside the cave's mouth-like entrance, which slowly closes behind her. Will Cassidy finally reach the Giant? Did General Frog's head ever deflate? Find out in the next episode of COIN TRICK. Until then, have you ever felt like a certain friendship was weighing you down? Maybe the person is super-critical, or pressures you to do things you don't want to do. It's okay to speak up and say 'No' when some behavior doesn't feel right to you. A good friend will always be loyal and support your decisions. And of course, always remember to listen!

