

COIN TRICK
Season One, Episode One: "Rock On"
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[NATIVE AMERICAN FLUTE MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Would you like to hear a story? It is a story about another time and place, in a land called Tapuat. A magical land of incredible beauty, where an ancient people knew powerful healing medicine and lived in harmony with nature.

These Ancestors were able to travel back and forth to our world through a special doorway, and built great cities into the sandstone cliffs of the American Southwest. They left picture messages on the rocks as a way to share their wisdom. Then many eons ago, an angry Giant cast a spell that closed off the passage.

[OMINOUS MUSIC, EERIE LAUGHTER]

GIANT: No one will travel through this doorway again!

NARRATOR: When he did, the Ancestors were never seen on our planet again, leaving only their cities and rock drawings behind. Now their fate lies in the hands of one girl, a girl from our own world. She doesn't know it yet, but she is the one person who can right the Giant's wrong and restore order to the universe. Her name is Cassidy. Would you like to meet her?

[SOUNDS OF BUSY HOUSEHOLD; SIBLINGS TUSSLING]

CASSIDY: Give it to me, you butt head!

CAMERON: You're the butt head!

CASSIDY: Urgh!

NARRATOR: Right ... I, uhm, forgot to mention Cassidy has a younger brother. They don't always get along.

MOTHER: What is going on up there?!?

CASSIDY: Cameron took my phone!

MOTHER: Cameron, give back your sister's phone.

CAMERON (mimicking): 'Cameron took my phone!'

CASSIDY: Loser.

CAMERON (mimicking): 'Loser.'

MOTHER: Now, both of you get downstairs and have your breakfast.

CASSIDY: Can't. Gotta get to school early to work on a science project. We're studying endangered frogs.

CAMERON: Perfect, 'cause you're a frog face!

CASSIDY: Urgh! Mother!

MOTHER: That's enough ... Cameron, stop annoying your sister. And you ... are you really wearing that sports jersey??

CASSIDY: But the Buffalo Bills are my favorite team!

MOTHER: I know, dear, but football isn't very ... lady-like. Why don't you wear that cute outfit I bought for you the other day? It wouldn't hurt if you tried a little harder, maybe put your hair back--

CASSIDY: Mom!

MOTHER: Fine. Just remember to wear your helmet.

CASSIDY But it doesn't fit right.

MOTHER: Then stop by Joe's this afternoon and have him adjust it. And ride straight to school!

CASSIDY: Okay.

NARRATOR: But Cassidy doesn't ride straight to school. Instead, she takes her favorite route, a dirt path that leads into the hills outside of town. She's fascinated by one particular rock that is covered with drawings etched into the stone. There are handprints, animal stick figures ... and one she hasn't noticed before.

CASSIDY: Huh, that's funny.

NARRATOR: It's a man with long legs and wild hair, playing a flute. Cassidy puts her face next to the rock to examine the figure more closely when ... it appears to turn and look straight at her.

CASSIDY: AHHH!

NARRATOR: Of course, the rock figure didn't really move. But you knew that. Right?

CASSIDY: Hah! It was just my mind playing tricks.

NARRATOR: Cassidy slips in her earbuds and rides on to school.

[NOISY SCHOOLYARD]

NARRATOR: As she locks her bike to the rack, a large silver coin drops out of the sky and hits her smack-dab on top of the head.

[DOINK!]

CASSIDY: Owwww!

NARRATOR: Cassidy picks up a medallion about the size of a half-dollar that's decorated with ... well, huh, will you look at that? It's the same wild-haired character from the rock.

CASSIDY: Whoa--

JONATHAN: Sorry, Cassidy! Are you hurt?

NARRATOR: That's Jonathan, a boy from Cassidy's class. He's small for his age and a little near-sighted.

CASSIDY: I'm fine. Hey, who's that guy on the coin?

JONATHAN: Oh, that's Kokopelli. The Pueblo Elders tell us stories about him. He's the trickster character, pretty cool really. He can change shape and make it rain--

NARRATOR: But Cassidy is distracted by a group of kids passing by. There's Ashley--

ASHLEY (sugar sweetly): Hey there!

NARRATOR: Ashley's the most popular girl in school. And not very nice, if you ask me.

ASHLEY (sharply): Well, who asked ya?

NARRATOR: Uhhh ... She's with her friends Taylor--

TAYLOR: Hiya.

NARRATOR: And Alex. He's the school's quarterback.

ALEX: What's up?

NARRATOR: For some reason, Cassidy keeps trying to be friends with Ashley, but ... well, I'll just let you find out.

CASSIDY (loudly): Hey, guys!

GROUP (half-heartedly): Oh ... hey, Cassidy.

JONATHAN: So, what do you think?

CASSIDY: Huh, Jonathan? Think about what?

JONATHAN: The math assignment. Wanna work on it at your house, or mine? We could do rock-paper-scissors—

CASSIDY: Uhhh ... I'll get back to you later.

JONATHAN: Sure.

NARRATOR: Cassidy races to catch up with the others as Jonathan shakes his head.

JONATHAN: You're fooling yourself, Cassidy.

CASSIDY: Hey, hold up! How's it going? ... Oh, Ashley, I read over that English paper for you.

[DIGGING THROUGH BACKPACK]

CASSIDY: It was good! I just added a few facts here and there, reworded it a little. I wrote a new intro paragraph ... the ending's new, too--

ASHLEY: Cool.

NARRATOR: Ashley shoves the report into her bag without even looking at it.

CASSIDY: So ... Alex, great game yesterday!

ALEX: Thanks.

CASSIDY: 'Course, the Cougars were nailing you on the slant. Why'd Coach keep calling it?

ALEX: I know, right? Hey, who d'ya have for the big game Sunday? Let me guess--

CASSIDY: Gotta go with my Bills!

ALEX: Bah! They're never gonna beat the Broncos.

BOY: C'mon, Alex, let's go!

ALEX: I gotta run.

ASHLEY: We're still on for the movie after school, right?

ALEX: Depends on how long practice goes.

ASHLEY: Fine! Pick football over me. Again.

ALEX: (sigh): Later, Cass.

CASSIDY: Yeah, later! Ashley, I'll see you in class, right?

ASHLEY: Whatever.

NARRATOR: Cassidy slips in her earbuds and heads toward the main school building.

TAYLOR: Why do you even bother with her? She's such a dweeb.

ASHLEY: 'Cause she's smart enough to get 'A's, and dumb enough to get 'em for me.

TAYLOR: Heh.

NARRATOR: Told you she wasn't very nice.

[COMMOTION, KIDS TALKING EXCITEDLY]

NARRATOR: Huh, looks like there's some commotion in the schoolyard. Kids rush past Cassidy, one bumps into her--

CASSIDY: Watch it! What's going on, anyway?

CHILD: A fight!

NARRATOR: Sure enough, a fight has broken out, and it's attracted quite a crowd. Cassidy pokes her head in and sees Lizzie, one of the school bullies.

CASSIDY (to herself): Oh man, who's getting it this time?

NARRATOR: She peers over to get a look at Lizzie's latest victim: It's Jonathan.

LIZZIE: C'mon chief, do the tomahawk dance for us! Here, let me show you. Awwwoooo, Awwwoooo!

[KIDS LAUGHING]

NARRATOR: Lizzie starts to dance around Jonathan as he tries to get away, but the others keep pushing him back toward her. Tsk, tsk ... kids can sure be mean sometimes, can't they? Uh-oh, Lizzie just ripped Jonathan's glasses from his face!

LIZZIE: What, are these supposed to make you look smart?

JONATHAN: Please, I can't see very well.

LIZZIE: Oh, I'm sorry. Here you go--

NARRATOR: She extends the glasses to Jonathan ... but when he reaches out, she tosses them to the ground. Lizzie keeps darting in front of him as he tries to pick them up, his upper lip beginning to quiver as he fights back tears.

CASSIDY: Oh, Jonathan!

NARRATOR: Cassidy looks around--all the other kids are laughing. She her mutters under breath.

CASSIDY: Why don't you just leave him alone, ya bully?

NARRATOR: Actually, she may have said that a bit too loudly--

TAYLOR: Hey, Lizzie! Cassidy here just said you're a bully!

[OOHS AND AAHS]

NARRATOR: Lizzie turns her attention toward Cassidy, allowing Jonathan to quickly grab his glasses.

LIZZIE: What'd you call me?

CASSIDY: I just said--well, look, it's not even a fair fight. You're a giant next to him!

TAYLOR: So what, you scared of giants? Heh.

CASSIDY: Oh, c'mon ... Ashley?? What about the paper I did for you?

ASHLEY: Hah! Are you saying I didn't write my own report?

[OOHS AND AAHS]

CASSIDY: Well, you definitely wrote your name--

[LOUDER OOHS AND AAHS]

ASHLEY: Oh man, you blew it now ... Get her, Lizzie!

LIZZIE: Gladly.

NARRATOR: Hmm ... it seems that Cassidy has gotten herself into quite a pickle. She closes her eyes and braces for impact as Lizzie pulls back her fist--

[SCHOOL BELL RINGING]

NARRATOR: Ah, saved by the bell!

PRINCIPAL: Okay, okay, break it up!

NARRATOR: That, and the school principal.

PRINCIPAL: C'mon! Let's go, people!

LIZZIE: This isn't over between us, Loneman ... Heads are gonna roll!

NARRATOR: Lizzie glares at Cassidy while slicing her finger across her neck.

CASSIDY: Oh, boy--

PRINCIPAL: C'mon! Let's go!

CASSIDY (to herself): Why do I always have to open my big mouth?

PRINCIPAL: I'm surprised to see you involved in this, Ms. Loneman. And frankly, I'm disappointed. I expect more from you.

CASSIDY: Yes, sir.

PRINCIPAL: Consider this your warning.

CASSIDY: Yes, sir.

JONATHAN: Cassidy, hold up!

CASSIDY: Hey, Jonathan--

JONATHAN: Thanks for standing up for me back there. That was a really brave thing to do.

CASSIDY: Or an exceedingly stupid one.

JONATHAN: Here, I want you to have this.

CASSIDY Your medallion. But I can't--

JONATHAN: Keep it. For good luck. Or protection. Whichever you need most.

CASSIDY: Okay. Thanks.

NARRATOR: Cassidy forgets all about Lizzie as she rolls the coin around in her fingers. She's mesmerized as the Kokopelli figure seems to dance. She's still distracted by it later at Joe's bike shop.

JOE: Dude!

NARRATOR: That'd be Joe. He's what you'd call, laidback. Long hair, shaggy beard ... oh, and he's a musician too.

[GUITAR MUSIC]

JOE: So, you really never heard about the Pueblo Ancestors, huh? Didn't study them in school?

CASSIDY: Nope.

JOE: Chaco Canyon? Mesa Verde?

CASSIDY: Nah, ah.

JOE: C'mon ... who are the 'Ancients of the Rock'?

CASSIDY: Uhmm, the Rolling Stones?

JOE: Touché. Hey, you remember that little riff I taught ya? Here, show me--

CASSIDY: Nah, I can't do it.

JOE: 'Course ya can. Just feel it. Let the music work its magic!

NARRATOR: Cassidy slips the coin into her pocket and takes the guitar from Joe. She begins to play--

[GUITAR RIFF]

JOE: Yeah, yeah, see? You got it!

[MISSED GUITAR CHORD]

NARRATOR: --and quickly hands the guitar back.

CASSIDY: I told ya, I can't!

NARRATOR: Cassidy slumps over the counter, dejected. She gazes at a snake in Joe's aquarium.

JOE: You gotta be like that snake, Cass. Shed that old, negative skin of yours.

CASSIDY: Yeah ... well, I better get going. Thanks for fixing my helmet, and the new bike pump too. I get my allowance next week. Can I pay you then?

JOE: No sweat. By the way, how are things going at home? Any better?

CASSIDY: Ah, you know ... My brother's still a pain, Mom's always stressed. And Dad ... well, I see you more than I do him.

JOE: Hey, I enjoy the company.

CASSIDY: Why don't you have any kids?

JOE: Eh, I'm not the kind to settle down. This here's the longest I've stayed in one place.

CASSIDY: Hhmm ... well, see you next week.

JOE: Sure thing. Take one of those ponchos too. Storm's a-comin'.

CASSIDY: Okay. Thanks again.

JOE: And, hey ... You can do it, Cassidy. Just gotta believe.

NARRATOR: Cassidy steps outside and kneels down next to her bicycle, trying to stuff everything into her backpack.

CASSIDY (struggling): Get, in, there ... what is all this stuff? My hoodie ... why is the flashlight in here? Where'd this rope come from? Geez, Mom!

NARRATOR: Cassidy finally gets everything in and reaches for her helmet--

CASSIDY: Man, I'm gonna be so late for dinner!

NARRATOR: Much later than she realizes ... because when Cassidy looks up, she spots Lizzie across the street on her own bike, punching her fist into her other palm.

CASSIDY: Oh, oh--

NARRATOR: Cassidy slips her helmet around her wrist and races off as the bully chases her through the streets of their small town.

[BIKE PEDALING]

NARRATOR: Cassidy's legs have never pedaled so fast! She zigs, she zags, then she takes a quick turn onto the dirt trail. She turns to look; there's nothing but dust behind her.

CASSIDY: Phew, that was close!

NARRATOR: Just then, a rabbit hops across the path.

[BOING]

CASSIDY: Oh!

NARRATOR: Cassidy swerves to avoid the rabbit--and hits a large stone instead.

CASSIDY: Ahhhh!

NARRATOR: Cassidy does a summersault over her handlebars--and sails headfirst into the boulder covered with drawings from before. But she doesn't just hit the rock wall ... She goes all the way through it!

CASSIDY: AHHHHHH!!!

NARRATOR: Cassidy lands with a thud ...

[THUD]

NARRATOR: ... but before she can even gather her wits, a tall, thin guy with wild hair and raggedy clothes comes racing toward her, a group of angry women hot on his trail.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: Stop stealing our things, Koko!

NARRATOR: That's right, it's Kokopelli, the one on Cassidy's coin. Although he goes by Koko here. He's a bit of a troublemaker, as you'll soon come to see. Looks like he took something that didn't belong to him. Tsk, tsk.

CRAGGY-FACED WOMAN: You drive us crazy, Koko! Go find honest work to do!

KOKO: Hah! Making you crazy is my work, you old crows!

NARRATOR: At that moment, Koko comes to a screeching stop. So do the women, who all gasp in unison ...

[GASPS]

NARRATOR: ... as Cassidy lands right at their feet, rubbing her head.

CASSIDY: Owwww!!

KOKO: Now, that has gotta hurt.

NARRATOR: Well, one look at our Cassidy and those women tear out of there in a flash.

[SHRIEKS]

KOKO: Hah! I was wondering how to get rid of those old hens. Thanks, little man.

CASSIDY: Huh? What happened? Who are you?

KOKO: Whoa, first things first. Let me see Hmm, you're gonna have a nice bump and a mean headache, but you'll survive. Here--

NARRATOR: Koko reaches into his knapsack and pulls out a small container of salve. He tries to dab some on Cassidy's head, but she keeps turning to look around. The desert landscape is similar to that back home ... except everything here looks, alive. Even the rocks and bushes seem to be breathing.

CASSIDY: So, where am I exactly?

KOKO: Hold still! There. That should do the trick.

CASSIDY: 'Cause I've got a feeling I'm not in Kansas anymore.

KOKO: Kansas? I don't know this Kansas.

CASSIDY: It was a joke.

KOKO: A joke. Hah! You know, I'm a bit of a jokester myself.

CASSIDY: That's it!

NARRATOR: Cassidy reaches into her pocket and pulls out the medallion while Koko examines the rock wall.

KOKO: I didn't know this thing was open again.

CASSIDY: You're that trickster dude. Kokopelli.

KOKO (orating): Right you are, I am he. Traveled from Peru to Albuquerque. Make the rain, drive women insane. Play a mean flute--

[FLUTE SOUNDS]

KOKO: --and my, aren't I cute?

[TWINKLING SOUNDS]

CASSIDY: But, if you're ... then I'm in....

KOKO: Tapuat.

CASSIDY: But, how'd I get here?

KOKO: Through there.

CASSIDY: A rock? I came through a rock?!?

KOKO: Headfirst, like this--

NARRATOR: Koko backs up against the rock wall, then leaps forward, arms waving wildly. He does a summersault--and hits his head against a large stone.

[BONK!]

KOKO: Ouch!

CASSIDY: Here, I think you need this salve back.

KOKO: Thanks.

CASSIDY: So ... you're saying I came through the rock.

KOKO: Indeed.

CASSIDY: Okay, no problem ... no reason to panic ... I'll just check my phone. I don't suppose I can get any bars here--

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

CASSIDY: You act like you've never seen a phone before.

KOKO: Phone? What's this phone?

[ALARM SOUND, PHONE DROPPING]

KOKO: Bah!

CASSIDY: Careful! Here, give me that ... So, what do I need to do to get back?

KOKO: Back?

CASSIDY: Yeah, to go back through.

KOKO: Through?

CASSIDY: Is it a trap door or something? Do I run at it?

KOKO: Be my guest.

NARRATOR: Cassidy takes a deep breath, then runs at the rock.
[BONK!]

CASSIDY: Owww! That hurt!

KOKO: Well yes, it's a rock. Geez. Coming over must have knocked all the sense out of you.

CASSIDY: But I've gotta get home!

KOKO: Can't help you there, little man. The doorway hasn't been open on our side for a coyote's age. I didn't think it was still open on yours.

CASSIDY: So, what? You mean ... I'm stuck here?!?

KOKO: Think of it more as, a visit. For an indeterminate length of time.

[THEME MUSIC]

NARRATOR Is Cassidy really stuck in Tapuat? Can Koko really make it rain? Find out in the next episode of COIN TRICK. Until then, have you ever been bullied, or do you know someone who has? Asking for help is always the brave thing to do. And of course, remember to listen!