

Fool's Gold

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FADE IN:

1 CAMPFIRE

1

CRACKLE OF BURNING LOGS. HARMONICA
PLAYING THE STOPS.

(1) STUMPY

Why howdy there, stranger! Looks like you been travelin' for quite a while. Pull up a log and warm yourself by the fire. Name's Stumpy. Passin' through? They ain't much out here 'cept the open sky and a coupla jackrabbits, but you welcome to share my camp for the evenin' I reckon. You like stories? I enjoy a good yarn or two myself. I was just about to start tellin' one before you came along. A tale 'bout two gunslingers, Pedro "El Lobo" Sanchez and Jimmy Shade Taylor. Now, Lobo and Shade, they didn't take to each other too well on account of Lobo being a bandit. Why, Shade done chased him all the way from here to Tucumcari! 'Course, most stories 'bout gunslingers end with a big shootout, but this one's a little different. This one starts with the shootout, just as Lobo hits the ground...

CUT TO:

2 GUNFIGHT - OLD WEST TOWN

2

TWO SHOTS, ALMOST IN UNISON

LOBO'S BODY HITS THE GROUND

(2) LOBO

(Mexican)

Felicidades, Shade. Shot me right in the stomach.

(3) SHADE (American Western)

You deserve worse for what you did to Celia and them kids.

(4) LOBO

Yeah, well they had it coming... and so did I.

(*COUGH*COUGH*)

SHADE KNEELS NEXT TO LOBO AND STARTS TO RIFLE THROUGH HIS POCKETS

(5) SHADE

Mind if I help myself to the rest of your bullets? Don't reckon you'll need them anymore.

(6) LOBO

Take them. They are yours.

BULLETS ROLLING IN SHADE'S HAND.

(7) LOBO (cont'd)

Why don't you check my left pocket too while you're at it?

(8) SHADE

Oh yeah? What's there?

(9) LOBO

See for yourself.

SHADE REACHES INTO THE POCKET AND PULLS OUT...

(10) SHADE

A gold coin?

(11) LOBO

Spanish doubloon. Hundreds of years old. Very valuable.

(12) SHADE Why Lobo, I wouldn't think you'd be the type of person to part with a prize like this, even if you're on you're last leg. I'll be holdin' on to this if you don't mind.

LOBO LAUGHS - A LITTLE TOO LONG

(13) SHADE (cont'd) What's so funny?

(14) LOBO I am free at last. Now I can die in peace.

(*COUGH*COUGH*)

(15) SHADE Die in peace? What are you talking about?

(16) LOBO ...that coin is cursed, amigo... I've been carrying it for years, and it has brought me nothing but misfortune. You think I was always a villain? Nombre... I was once a young idealist like you... I fought for my country... then I was in a battle which ended in defeat, and like a frightened schoolboy, I ran away across the desert... three days I walked upon the sand... I ran out of food and water... I was sure I would die lost in the middle of nowhere...

(*COUGH*COUGH*)

(17) SHADE What does that have to do with this coin?

(18) LOBO I shall tell you...

FADE INTO:

3 DESERT - NIGHT

3

WIND. THE HOWLING OF A WOLF IN THE DISTANCE. FOOTSTEPS RUNNING ON SAND.

(19) LOBO

(Narrating)

...on the third night, with the full moon shining bright in the clear midnight sky, I came upon an Oasis... at first I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me, but I ran up and there it was...

FOOTSTEPS TRANSITION FROM SAND TO GRASS

(20) LOBO (cont'd)

...a small patch of green in the middle of the desert. And in the center of that patch was a well... and by that well, a beautiful woman sitting on a wooden chest...

(21) SHADE

You're kidding?

(22) LOBO

I wish I was. I saw her like I am seeing you now. She was dazzling, skin like the finest caramelo, and eyes that sparkled in the moonlight. The woman pointed to the well..

(23) ONAWA

(Ethereal Native)

Welcome. I am Onawa Guyan. Please, quench your thirst. You are safe here.

PULLING UP BUCKETS AND SLURPING DOWN WATER

(24) LOBO

That was all the invitation I required. I must've drank three bucketfuls of agua. Onawa patiently sat on the wooden chest until finally, I had my fill...

(To Onawa)

Gracias.

- (25) ONAWA You are most welcome.
- (26) LOBO So... what's in the chest?
- (27) ONAWA Would you like to see inside?
- (28) LOBO Uh... yeah, sure, if you're offering.
- (29) ONAWA You may look. BUT- you have to make a choice.
- (30) LOBO A choice? What choice?
- (31) ONAWA You may look into the chest and take an item from within... or, if you wish, you may have a single kiss from my lips.
- (32) LOBO A kiss? Seriously?
- (33) ONAWA Oh yes. A kiss, or the chest. Which will it be?
- (34) LOBO (Narrating)

Now, you must understand... Onawa's beauty was beyond anything I had ever seen before. As curious as I was to see the contents of the chest, in my newly renewed vigor, I yearned to feel the softness of her lips against mine... so I chose... a kiss.

WOLF HOWLS IN THE DISTANCE

- (35) LOBO (cont'd) We fell asleep beside the well... and a few of hours later I woke up, just before dawn... Onawa was still sleeping... I saw the chest sitting unguarded... there wasn't even a lock on it or nothing... and my curiosity got the best of me...

METAL LATCH - CREAK OF CHEST OPENING

(36) LOBO (cont'd) ...I opened the chest and reached inside... and pulled out the gold doubloon you are now holding in your hands.

THE COIN TWINKLES IN THE MOONLIGHT.

SUDDENLY, THE WIND HOWLS MENACINGLY,
THUNDER CRACKS, THE SKIES OPEN UP,
AND A DESERT MONSOON POURS DOWN

(37) ONAWA How dare you! You chose to take my kiss! How dare you also look into the chest!

(38) LOBO I'm sorry! I was curious. Here, take the doubloon back.

(39) ONAWA It's too late. Because you took the kiss and the coin, you are now cursed for the rest of your days! You will never experience love again, and wherever you go, people will revile you, spit at you. They'll want to hurt you, and you shall have to do unspeakable things to survive. The only way to remove the curse is to throw your coin into this well. Good luck finding it again. From this day forth, you are a villain until the day you die!

A FINAL CRACK OF THUNDER AND THE
STORM CEASES AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN

(40) LOBO ...and just like that, she was gone, along with the Oasis, and everything in it. I was left alone, holding on to the Gold doubloon...

CUT TO:

4 GUNFIGHT - OLD WEST TOWN

4

LOBO COUGHS VIOLENTLY AS HIS BODY WEAKENS

(41) LOBO

...I've spent my years looking for that Oasis, but I've never found it again... everywhere I went people hated me. Spit at me. Persecuted me... That is why I am a villain... But now... you have the coin... now the curse is yours... and now... at last... I can rest... in peace...

LOBO DIES. SHADE STAND UP AND PLAYS WITH THE COIN IN HIS HAND.

(42) SHADE

A cursed doubloon? Pfft. Yeah, right. Nice try, Lobo. Burn in hell... amigo.

SHADE WALKS AWAY

(43) STUMPY

(Narrating)

Well, young Shade didn't much care for superstition, so he went on his way, not thinkin' too much on Lobo's tale... but wouldn't you know it, almost as soon as he took the coin, strange things started happening. At first, it was small things, like Shade running out of water before he was supposed to, or Shade's horse dropping dead all sudden-like... but then his bad luck started gettin' pretty serious. He tried to stop a robbery but ended up takin' the blame for it instead. He shot at a rabid dog and accidentally killed a child. Where once he was a hero, admired and respected, now he was a villain, reviled and scorned. A bounty was placed upon his head, and left with no alternative, Shade fled across the desert...

5 DESERT - NIGHT

5

WOLF HOWLING IN THE DISTANCESTRUGGLING FOOTSTEPS ACROSS SAND

(44) SHADE So... thirsty... must... have... water... oh god... Lobo was right... I am cursed...

(45) STUMPY At that moment, in the near distance, he spotted a small Oasis, with a woman sitting on a wooden chest, next to a well...

(46) SHADE No way... It can't be... this is the woman Lobo spoke of. This is my chance to reverse the curse!

RUNNING ON SAND

(47) STUMPY Shade raced toward the Oasis, and up to well...

(48) ONAWA Welcome. I am Onawa Guyan. Please, quench your thirst. You are safe here.

(49) SHADE Thank you.

PULLING UP BUCKETS AND SLURPING
DOWN WATER

(50) STUMPY Shade remembered what Lobo said about breaking the curse, so as he drank the water, he quietly dropped the coin into the well, taking care to hide this from Onawa. You see, he was ashamed to admit to her that he was cursed. So, Shade dropped the coin and drank his fill. He must've drunk four bucketfuls of water. Onawa patiently sat on the wooden chest until finally, he was done...

- (51) SHADE Thank you. I would've died without your help.
- (52) ONAWA You are most welcome. I'm glad your spirit is renewed. Please, make yourself comfortable and rest. You are safe here.
- (53) SHADE What's a woman like you doing in a desert like this?
- (54) ONAWA I am here to help weary travelers find their way. And to offer them a choice.
- (55) SHADE A choice? What choice?
- (56) ONAWA You see this chest upon which I sit? You may have a look inside and take one item from within, or, if you wish, you may have a single kiss from my lips.
- (57) SHADE A kiss? Seriously?
- (58) ONAWA Oh yes. A kiss, or the chest. Which will it be?
- (59) STUMPY Shade of course remembered this entire exchange from Lobo's tale. He didn't have to think long and hard to make his choice. There were plenty of beautiful women in this world, he reckoned, but not many things were as valuable as gold. And now that he had lifted his curse...
- (60) SHADE I choose the chest.
- (61) ONAWA Very well. Look inside.

SHE STANDS. SHADE MOVES THE METAL LATCH AND OPENS THE CHEST. IT CREAKS. HE REACHES IN AND FUMBLES, PICKING UP A SOLID METALLIC OBJECT.

(62) SHADE ...it's... a mirror. A very cheap mirror.

(63) STUMPY Shade looked into the mirror, but instead of his own reflection, he saw the face of Lobo looking back...

WOLF HOWLS IN THE DISTANCE

(64) SHADE ...What kind of madness is this?

(65) ONAWA Take it with you, for it is yours to keep.

(66) SHADE But... this isn't even made of gold. It's trash... what about the doubloons? What about the treasure??

(67) ONAWA Only a fool desires gold. A wise man desires reflection.

(68) SHADE Reflection? What do I care about reflection? It's not even showing me who I am it shows me the face of my enemy... this is useless!

(69) ONAWA Wisdom is a worthy prize for a virtuous man.

(70) SHADE No it's not! It's stupid!

SHADE THROWS THE MIRROR AGAINST THE WELL, SMASHING IT TO PIECES.

(71) SHADE (cont'd) My enemy took a gold doubloon from you, a real treasure, and I'm better than him. I deserve the same! I broke his curse! I chose the chest outright! I demand a real prize!

(72) ONAWA Fool! You made your choice. You got your reward. The mirror was enchanted. It would have protected you from harm as long as you possessed it. Now that it is smashed, you have no shield from evil!

(73) SHADE You tease! I'll take what I deserve! Kiss me!

SHADE FORCES HIMSELF ON HER, ONAWA
STRUGGLES

(74) ONAWA No! You mustn't. You don't know what you're doing.
You've already made your choice!

(75) SHADE Is this what you do? Pick on weary travelers for your
own sick fun?? KISS ME!

(76) ONAWA I don't kiss fools!

STRUGGLING CONTINUES

(77) STUMPY They continued to struggle, until finally Shade planted a
single kiss upon Onawa's lips...

THE WIND HOWLS MENACINGLY, THUNDER
CRACKS, THE SKIES OPEN UP, AND A
DESERT MONSOON POURS DOWN

(78) ONAWA How dare you! You chose to look into the chest! How
dare you also take my kiss!

(79) SHADE I'm sorry! I was angry! Please, don't curse me! I'll do
anything!

(80) ONAWA You have cursed yourself!

A FINAL CRACK OF THUNDER AND THE
STORM CEASES AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN

(81) STUMPY ...and just like that, Onawa was gone, along with the
Oasis, and everything in it. Shade was left alone, with

the smashed bits of his broken mirror laying in the sand beside him...

WOLVES HOWL IN THE DARK

(82) SHADE

Oh no... what have I done? Onawa?? Onawa, I'm sorry! Please... forgive me...

THE PACK OF WOLVES CIRCLES HIM,
GROWLING

(83) SHADE (cont'd)

Get back, foul beasts! I've got a pistol! I'll kill you all!

THE WOLVES COME CLOSER, BARING THEIR
TEETH AND SNARLING

(84) SHADE (cont'd)

Onawa! Onawa, please! I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Please help me!

THE WOLVES YAPPING AS THEY READY
THEIR ATTACK

(85) SHADE (cont'd)

Ah! Come at me you dogs! I'm not afraid! Come on! Fight me if you dare! Come!

SHADE FIRES TWO SHOTS INTO THE DARK

THE WOLVES POUNCE ON SHADE

(86) SHADE (cont'd)

Arghrghrghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!

THE WOLVES TEAR SHADE APART AS
SHADE SCREAMS INTO THE NIGHT

CROSSFADE:

6 CAMPFIRE

6

PEACEFUL, CRACKLING AS BEFORE

(87) STUMPY

Hooo weee! Well, that was certainly a tragic demise for Shade. Take it from me, if a magic desert lady gives you the choice between a kiss and a chest... take the kiss and shut up. Anywhoo, I reckon it's about time I hit the hay. Y'all are welcome to stay here for the night of course. Don't worry, I won't make you give me a kiss. That is... unless you want to.

STUMPY CACKLES

(88) STUMPY (cont'd)

Nighty night.

THE FIRE CONTINUES TO CRACKLE

FADE INTO:

END TITLES AND MUSIC

THE END