TALES OF THE GOLD MONKEY

“Shadows and Reflections”

by

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FADE IN:

Key West, Florida. A perfect tropical day. SUPER: KEY WEST 1956. Camera shows the balmy sunset scene as we hear the voice over of JAKE CUTTER. As Jake talks, the camera eventually finds him. We see him at first from the back as he sits on a stool working on some engine part. He’s at the end of a dock facing Cutter’s Goose. He’s dressed the same as he was in the series.

 JAKE (v.o.)

 Another day in paradise. The Florida Keys

 may be a long way from Boragora, but something

 about it still feels the same. If it weren’t for a few

 years and a little war, I could almost swear nothing

 has changed. Small island, balmy weather, a

 nearby bar, and good friends.

The sound of CLACKING SHOES comes along, and we hear SARAH off camera.

 SARAH (O/C)

 Heloooo!

 JAKE (v.o.)

 Well, I guess a few things have changed.

Jake turns around and stands up.

Jake’s P.O.V. – Sarah, wearing a soft white sun dress, floats down the dock toward him. A dog, JACK, is at her feet.

 SARAH

 Hi there! I was looking for my husband. Maybe

 You’ve seen him. Tall, handsome, owns the charter

 business here. I never see him any more.

 JAKE

 Aw, c’mon honey, you know Corky’s on vacation. I

 Have to be my own mechanic for a while. I’m almost

 done.

Jack barks once for “no.”

 JAKE (continuing)

 Honest. Don’t listen to him. He’s worse than his

 father. Let me finish up here and I’ll meet you at the

 Café. Order me something good.

He sets the engine part down, then tries to wipe his greasy hands off on a rag – to no avail. So he bends over to kiss her, keeping his hands safely out to the side.

 SARAH

 Don’t be too long.

Sarah gives him a warm smile and walks back down the dock, Jack in tow. Jake smiles back and allows himself a moment to watch her walk off.

EXT. – CUTTER CHARTER CO.

Sarah walks up to a nice two-story building.

 SARAH

 (to Jack)

 Do you think he’ll make it to the café by dinner?

Jack barks once.

 SARAH

 (laughing)

 Jake’s right, you are your father’s son, aren’t you?

INT. – CUTTER CHARTER CO.

Sarah tidies up a desk, grabs her purse, and leaves, turning the sign hanging in the window to say “closed.” We follow her as she walks across the small street to a little café.

INT. – CAFÉ – DAY

Sarah and Jack walk in, where they are immediately greeted by the owner, DUNCAN. Duncan is a Scot in his mid-to-late fifties, still with quite the accent. He rushes to a table and waits to seat Sarah.

 DUNCAN

 Ah, the lad and lassie.

Jack barks once.

 DUNCAN (continuing)

 (to Jack)

 Now I was referrin’ to Miss Sarah as

 the lassie, my boy. No need to take offense.

 (to Sarah)

 Will Jake be joinin’ ya?

 SARAH

 Eventually. Keeping the Goose up and running

 In Corky’s absence has him busier than usual.

 He’ll be along.

 DUNCAN

 I’ll send Katie over with the usual then.

Duncan’s niece, KATIE, is already there with a tall glass of ice tea with mint sprig and a bowl of water. She’s in her mid-to-late twenties, cute, with an American accent.

 KATIE

 Already here!

 (to Sarah)

 Tea for you.

(to Jack)

 Cool water for you. And…

She reaches into her apron and pulls out a bone.

 KATIE

 Something extra I found in the kitchen.

She puts the bowl of water and bowl down for a very happy Jack.

 DUNCAN

 She knows how to keep the customers

 Happy, now doesn’t she? Maybe it’s about

 Time I let her take over the café. I’m not

 getting any younger.

 KATIE

 Oh, Uncle, you’re not that old.

Duncan returns to the kitchen.

 KATIE (continuing)

 Jake’s still being Corky?

 SARAH

 I’m afraid so. But the busier he is must mean

 business is getting better. And Corky comes

 back in a couple of days.

 KATIE

 So what’s he up to on his big vacation?

 SARAH

 Nothing much, really. We had to force him to take

 time off in the first place. Then he just insisted on

 staying around the islands. I think he’s catching up

 on some sleep.

 KATIE

 Sleep, what’s that? Night business in the bar has

 been getting better too. Seems like I never sleep.

 And now Uncle Duncan’s talking retirement. Sheesh.

 If you get tired of the charter business, feel free to

 Be my co-manager!

The two laugh as Jake comes in. He’s cleaned up, but still seems a bit self-conscious about possible grease on his hands.

 JAKE

 (mostly to Jack)

 See, told you I wouldn’t be long.

He gives Katie a quick hug and peck on the cheek, then the same for Sarah and a pat on the head for Jack as he sits down. He immediately wipes his hands on the napkin.

 KATIE

 (glances at her watch)

 Ah, looks like beer time, huh? I’ll be right back.

 JAKE

 Well, I’m famished. Did you order yet?

 SARAH

 Nope. You got here just in time.

SHERIFF comes in and walks over to Sarah and Jake. They obviously know each other, and Jake stands up and offers his hand.

 JAKE

 Sheriff, how’s it going?

Sheriff smiles quickly, but there’s obviously something on his mind and his face stays serious. Both Jake and Sarah register concern.

 SHERIFF

 (hushed voice)

 Jake, I’m afraid there’s a problem with Corky.

 JAKE

 Corky! What is it? Is he alright?

 SHERIFF

 Yeah, he’s alright. But I’ve got him down at

 the station in lockup.

 SARAH

 Lockup!

 SHERIFF

 He’s under arrest for murder.

Jake’s eyes widen. Sarah drops her fork. Even Jack looks up.

 JAKE

 Murder! Sheriff, you’ve got to be kidding. Corky?

 There must be a mistake.

 SHERIFF

 No mistake. Found him in bed with the dead

 girl. Her blood all over him, his fingerprints on

 the murder weapon. I have to hold him, at least

 Until the judge gets back to town. Then we can

 Talk bail.

 JAKE

 Tom, this is nuts.

 SHERIFF

 I’m sorry, Jake. (beat) Oh, and there’s another

 thing. He was drunk. Or, at least he was getting

 over being drunk.

 JAKE

 Drunk! He hasn’t had a drink in, what, two or

 three years now!

 SHERIFF

 Looks like he had more than one last night. You

 can still smell it on his breath. Jake, you know how

 many times that man has fallen off the wagon.

 JAKE

 (defensive)

 Yeah, but this time it looked like it might stick.

 Besides, you know Corky. Even if he did start

 drinking again, which I doubt, he still wouldn’t kill

 somebody.

 SHERIFF

 I never would have guessed it, but in my line of work,

 I’ve seen men do things I’d never have thought them

 capable of before. Same as back in the war, Jake,

 You should know that. And liquor can do strange

 things to a person. So can love. Maybe Corky just

 had a little too much of one of those things.

 JAKE

 Well it wasn’t love. Far as I know, he wasn’t seeing

 anybody. And he always tells me when he’s even

 interested in a girl.

 SHERIFF

 Maybe there’s a lot more you don’t know about him.

 (beat)

 Anyway, you can see him whenever you want.

 SARAH

 We’ll be right there!

INT. JAIL – NIGHT

Sarah, Jack and Jake walk into the small holding area. CORKY is sitting in a cell, his head hung low. He can hardly bear to look up and avoids eye contact with his friends.

 JAKE

 Corky…

 CORKY

 Hiya, Jake.

 JAKE

 What happened? Tom says you killed a woman.

 I know you didn’t, so what happened?

 CORKY

 Thing is, Jake, I guess I did.

 JAKE

 (shocked)

 Come on, Cork, you couldn’t have. I know you

 Better than that. Tell me what really happened.

 CORKY

 Well, see, I can’t really remember, Jake. It’s all

 Kind of a big blur.

 JAKE

 Try. If you’ve ever had to remember something in

 Your whole life, this is it.

 CORKY

 I am tryin’, Jake. I’ve been digging into the back of

 my brain since I got here, but I’m not finding anything.

 (beat)

 Jake, I know you’ve gotta be pretty sore at me about

 all this.

 JAKE

 Corkey, I’m not sore at you. Really. I’m just

 concerned.

 (hushed)

 Did you start drinking again?

 CORKY

 No! Honest, Jake, I didn’t. I don’t know how I got

 drunk. Last thing I remember was I was out with

 some people last night. I was drinking root beer.

 You can ask them. But I don’t know what happened

 later. I just know I woke up and Sheriff Tom was

 there and some lady was crying, and there was

 blood all over the place. It was horrible. Then they

 said I did it and took me here. Jake, if I can’t

 remember anything, maybe I did kill somebody.

 JAKE

 Corky, you didn’t kill anybody. This has got to be

 some kind of mistake. I don’t know how, but it

 has to be. And I’m going to get to the bottom of it.

INT. SANDY CRAB BAR – NIGHT

Jake is nursing a beer and looking worried as hell. BARTENDER leans into him.

 BARTENDER

 Hey, Jake, sorry to hear about Corky.

 Hope everything works out.

 JAKE

 Yeah, so do I.

 BARTENDER

 He couldn’t have really killed somebody.

 Could he?

 JAKE

 No, of course not. But I’ll be damned if I know

 how he got into this mess. I’ve been wracking my

 brain all day trying to figure out how to help him.

Bartender notices VINNY, Jake’s only competition for charters on the island, as he ENTERS the room

 BARTENDER

 Here comes someone who won’t help your

 spirits any.

Vinny SITS next to Jake, who is obviously not happy to see him.

 VINNY

 So, Cutter, looks like you’ll be down a

 mechanic a lot longer than you thought, huh?

 JAKE

 (annoyed)

 Does everybody know?

 VINNY

 It’s a small island.

 JAKE

 Well he’s innocent, and I’m sure he’ll be

 exonerated soon.

 VINNY

 Ha! Not the way I hear it. Sounds like

 your boy’s on the way to the slammer for

 life.

 (mock concern)

 Gosh, no mechanic. That’ll really kill your

 business, huh? Good thing there’s more

 than one charter company around.

 JAKE

 Vinny, I’m not in the mood for this right now.

 Don’t you have your own planes to fly?

 VINNY

 Sure do. But I have more than one pilot.

 And more than one mechanic. You won’t

 find me slaving over engine parts. But

 enjoy yourself, Cutter. And say hi to

 Corky for me.

Jake looks about ready to take a swing at him but thinks better of it.

JAKE (v.o.)

 Well, Vincent DelGato doesn’t like me and I

don’t like him. Rumor has it he was a smuggler

before going legit with his charter business.

And it’s no secret he’d like to see me go out of

business. But he also knows he’s got a slicker

operation. There’s room for both of us and the

business side of him knows that. I think.