

A Tale of Two Nuggets (Great Grandfather Wasn't Crazy)

By

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

JEREMY, an undersized ten-year old, and his sister CINDY, a precocious eleven year old, lay in their respective beds. Their father, MARK, sits by their bedsides.

MARK

And that's when your great-grandfather, Jeremiah, saw the stone falling from the sky. He rushed out and found it in a smoking crater.

JEREMY

What did he find, Dad?

CINDY

You know he found the gold nugget, you've heard this story ten thousand times, it always ends the same.

MARK

(reproachful)

Cindy. What have I told you?

CINDY

He can't live in fantasy land forever, he needs to know this story is fake. Gold doesn't fall from the sky.

MARK

Not normally, no. But it did, once.

JEREMY

It did, didn't it, Dad?

Mark smiles and covers Jeremy up.

MARK

Go to sleep, you need your rest for tomorrow.

JEREMY

The festival!

CINDY

Oh, gawd. Do we have to go to that cheesy festival every Halloween?

Jeremy looks up at Mark, heart-broken.

MARK

Of course we're going, we go every year.

Jeremy smiles and rolls over. He looks out his window at the stars.

JEREMY

You think one day another gold meteor might fall from the sky?

MARK

Who knows, maybe.

He gives Jeremy a wink.

MARK

Till then.

He hands Jeremy a video game. Jeremy's eyes grow wide.

JEREMY

It's the new Ghostbusters game, how did you know?

MARK

I pay attention.

CINDY

Dad?

He stops at the door.

MARK

Yes?

CINDY

Seeing as you can afford to splurge on a new video game for Toad, when I am going to get my own room?

He sighs.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mark and his wife, SARAH, sit at the kitchen table. They pour through a stack of bills. Sarah adds up figures on a calculator.

MARK

I wish Jeremiah had really found a gold nugget.

Sarah stops adding.

SARAH

Cindy wanting her own room, again?

MARK

Kids their age need their space.

SARAH

Mark.

She takes his hand.

SARAH

For better or for worse.

He kisses her cheek.

MARK

Sometimes the worse lasts so long.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mark and Sarah's conversation mumbles in the room through a vent. Jeremy listens while Cindy chats on her phone.

MARK (O.S.)

... Sometimes the worse lasts so long.

CINDY

And he got Toad that game he's been wanting all year but refuses to get me a new room. I know, so unfair.

Jeremy sighs and looks out the window.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

A golden streak of fire rushes through the sky.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy watches in wonder as the streak of light blazes across the sky.

JEREMY  
Cindy? Did you see -

CINDY  
(interrupting)  
Visiting hours are over, Toad.

He runs over to the window. He watches as the meteorite strikes right outside of the empty Halloween Festival.

He reaches underneath his bed and pulls out a walkie-talkie.

INT. GEORGIE'S ROOM - SAME

GEORGIE, too skinny, thick black glasses that obscure his face, plays video games. On his dresser a walkie squawks.

JEREMY (V.O.)  
Georgie, are you awake, come in,  
over.

Georgie reluctantly picks up the walkie.

GEORGIE  
This better be good, I'm right  
about to enter the zombie fortress.

JEREMY (V.O.)  
Meet me at the hideout at 0200,  
we've got some gold to find.

EXT. OLD BARN - NIGHT

Jeremy stands in the cold. His breath trails up in streams as he tries to keep himself warm. Georgie huffs and puffs as he gets off his bike.

GEORGIE  
It's freezing, what's this about  
gold?

JEREMY  
I saw it, the meteor my dad told me  
about. It's gold, I swear.

GEORGIE

No way, Jose. That's just a fairy tale.

JEREMY

Fine, I won't have to split it with you.

Jeremy gets on his bike and starts riding out towards the Halloween Festival.

GEORGIE

You were gonna split it with me?

He jumps on his bike and starts peddling after Jeremy.

GEORGIE

Hey, Jeremy - wait up!

EXT. SMOKING CRATER - SAME

A crater billows smoke from the ground. It sits right outside the empty Halloween Festival. Jeremy rolls up to it and gets off his bike. He crawls to the edge of the crater. He tries to peer down, but there is too much smoke.

Georgie stumbles up behind him, deliriously out of breath.

GEORGIE

(gasping)

It...better....be...here...

He stops and looks over Jeremy's shoulder.

GEORGIE

Jeezie-wheezie, you weren't lying.

JEREMY

(determined)

And neither was my dad.

Jeremy starts scooting to the edge.

GEORGIE

Hey, you're not really goin' down there, are ya?

JEREMY

No one else is gonna claim our gold.

GEORGIE  
Doesn't smoke mean fire?

Jeremy is not listening. He climbs deep into the crater.

The smoke begins to clear and he sees a sparkling gold nugget. It sits in a crater, perched like a golden egg.

Jeremy slowly picks it up.

JEREMY  
It's cold.

GEORGIE (O.S.)  
It is real, by golly, Jeremy - you did it, you found gold.

Jeremy turns to see Georgie clamoring down the crater. Georgie stops suddenly and begins trembling.

The nugget in Jeremy's hand has grown eyes. Feet begin to poke out of the sides. It begins to tremble.

JEREMY  
What are you loo -

His words trail off as he realizes the nugget is vibrating in his hand. He turns and screams.

The NUGGET looks at him and opens its tiny mouth. It begins to scream too. Mimicking him. Jeremy drops it. It lands on the ground with a THUMP! It chitters and rubs its backside.

He falls back on the ground and scoots away from it.

GEORGIE  
What is it?

JEREMY  
I don't know. Dad never said anything about this.

The Nugget scoots towards Jeremy, mimicking his movements. Jeremy freezes, completely petrified. Georgie reaches into his pocket and pulls out a NINTENDO DS.

GEORGIE  
Maybe he likes video games.

The Nugget looks at the screen.

ON THE SCREEN

Mario Kart figures races across the screen.

BACK TO SCENE

JEREMY  
Uh, Georgie?

GEORGIE  
Ya?

JEREMY  
Something's happening.

The sound of racing engines fill the air. Mario Kart characters, Yoshi, Toad, and Bowser roar overhead. They jump the crater in their racing carts.

A wheel spins above Georgie's head. He locks eyes with Baby Mario. Baby Mario gives him a wink before racing off towards the Halloween Festival.

GEORGIE  
Oh, no.

JEREMY  
Put it up, put it up!

Georgie crams the DS back into his pocket.

The Nugget skitters and bounces happily as the racers speed past them.

JEREMY  
We've got to stop them!

GEORGIE  
Stop them, how?

JEREMY  
He'll know what to do.

Jeremy scoops up Nugget. They race towards the Festival.

EXT. FESTIVAL - SAME

The booths at the festival are calm and dark. Stuffed animals hang limply, waiting to be won in a ring toss. Ghostly decorations flutter softly in the wind. Two ghoulish terra-cotta gargoyles stand idle at the entrance.

The calm is broken as the Mario Kart racers break through a gate. They speed through the festival grounds.

An out-of-breath Jeremy and Georgie run up to the broken gate.

JEREMY

Oh, man, I can't afford to pay for  
all of this.

The racers knock over booths. Jeremy runs behind them,  
trying to pick up their mess.

GEORGIE

Watch out!

Jeremy ducks as Bowser speeds past him. Bowser spikes glide  
past Jeremy's head - shaving off a lock of his hair.

Georgie runs and helps Jeremy up.

GEORGIE

That was close.

Jeremy gets up and brushes dirt from his clothes.

JEREMY

Too close.

GEORGIE

Uh, Jeremy?

Georgie looks behind Jeremy.

JEREMY

What now?

Georgie points at the decorative ghosts. The GHOSTS pull  
away from their strings. They hover and float in the air.  
They laugh and jitter.

GEORGIE

Don't look now.

The two GARGOYLES at the gate open jump off their posts.  
They sniff the ground and lock eyes with Georgie.

GEORGIE

Run!!!

Jeremy turns around and sees the Gargoyles running towards  
them.

Jeremy and Georgie take off towards a house of mirrors.

INT. HOUSE OF MIRRORS - CONTINUOUS

A spooky and dark hallway lined with all types of fun mirrors. Jeremy and Georgie rush in. They slam the door and fall to the ground.

The Gargoyles hit the door with a THUMP! Outside, one the Gargoyles whines like a dog.

GEORGIE

I am gonna get so grounded for  
this.

Jeremy looks at the hall of mirrors. He sees his reflection in one of the mirrors. His reflection waves at him.

JEREMY

Georgie, we have bigger problems.

He points to the mirrors. Their reflections are watching them. Jeremy's reflection begins to pound on the mirror from the inside out. The grass splinters and cracks.

Jeremy pulls Nugget out of his pocket.

JEREMY

Are you doing this?

Nugget smiles up at him. It chitters and dances happily.

JEREMY

You have to stop, this is not a  
game!

NUGGET

(mimicks him)  
Game, game, game!

It giggles and laughs.

JEREMY

No, it is NOT a game.

A GHOST flits in through the closed door.

GHOST

Whooooo!

It rushes towards Jeremy.

Jeremy and Georgie run down the hall of mirrors. Everywhere they turn their reflections watch them. A very long and skinny hand breaks through a long and skinny mirror.

INT. END OF THE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeremy looks back over his shoulder. Altered versions of himself break free from the mirrors. The ghost is close behind him.

GEORGIE

This is it, we are total goners.

JEREMY

Wait, I have an idea.

They stop at a wall. The ghost swirls through the air towards them. Nugget watches all of this in glee. He jumps and somersaults in Jeremy's hand.

JEREMY

Do you still have the Nintendo DS?

GEORGIE

Now is not the time to play games.

JEREMY

Now is the exact-right time to play games.

Jeremy pulls his new video game, GHOSTBUSTERS, out of his pocket.

The Ghost rushes towards him. It separates Georgie from Jeremy.

JEREMY

Toss it!

GEORGIE

No way.

An army of Jeremy reflections file down the hall towards him. The long and skinny Jeremy reaches towards him.

JEREMY

Now!

Georgie tosses the DS into the air. It lands in Jeremy's hands. He bobbles it for a moment. He gets hold of it and jams Ghostbusters into it.

He flicks the power switch 'on'.

A proton stream pours out of the front.

It strikes the Ghost and pulls it into the video game. Jeremy aims the DS at the reflections and they are sucked into the game.

EXT. HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL - LATER

Jeremy finishes rounding up the ghosts with his video game. He shuts the power off and the proton stream flickers out. He is dirty and disheveled. Georgie is much the same. They survey the wrecked festival.

JEREMY

Oh, I almost forgot.

He pulls Nugget out of his pocket. Nugget smiles up at him.

JEREMY

What am I going to do with you?

Nugget grabs the Nintendo DS from Jeremy. It begins to play the video game.

GEORGIE

That's all he wanted, gosh, he could have just asked for it.

EXT. CRATER - SAME

Jeremy and Georgie stand over the crater. Nugget smiles up at them. It opens a tiny spaceship and gets inside. It waves and blasts off.

GEORGIE

No one is ever going to believe us.

JEREMY

What, that an alien traveled across the vastness of space to steal your Nintendo, why wouldn't they?

Georgie and Jeremy laugh. Jeremy pats him on the back. They turn to leave but Jeremy notices something sparkling in the crater.

He slides down the crater wall. He inspects the landing site.

Georgie stands at the top, waiting for Jeremy.

JEREMY (O.S.)  
Georgie, you're not gonna believe  
this.

GEORGIE  
What, another alien? My heart  
couldn't take it.

Georgie climbs down into the hole.

Jeremy holds up handfuls and handfuls of giant diamonds.  
They are embedded in the ground at the impact site. They  
sparkle and glitter as the morning sun strikes them.

FADE OUT