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THEY WENT THAT-AWAY

by Joy Jackson

CHARACTERS:

BRITT BRITT PONSETT (SIX SHOOTER)

PAL PALADIN (HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL)

HEYBOY HEYBOY (HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL)

CHES CHESTER (GUNSMOKE)

KITTY KITTY (GUNSMOKE)

MATT MATT DILLON (GUNSMOKE)

WONG MISSY WONG (HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL)

JB JB KENDALL (FRONTIER GENTLEMAN)

SEDG OLD MAN SEDGWICK (RED/GREEN)

ANNCR ANNOUNCER

1 **SHOWCASE 2003 “THEY WENT THAT-AWAYby Joy Jackson**

2 **MUSIC SIX SHOOTER THEME**

3 **ANNCR**

4 James Stewart as “The Six-Shooter”. The man in the
5 saddle is angular and long-legged. His skin is sun-dyed
6 brown. The gun in his holster is steel gray and mother of
7 pearl; its handle unmarked. People call them both “The
8 Six Shooter”.

9 **MUSIC—THEME**

10 **ANNCR**

11 James Stewart as “The Six Shooter”, a transcribed series
12 of radio dramas based on the life of Britt Ponsett, the
13 Texas plainsman who wandered through the western
14 territories, leaving behind a trail of still remembered
15 legends.

16 **LSFX: HOOF BEATS UNDER**

17 **ESFX: CRICKETS**

18

1 BRITT It's about 7 o'clock on a Saturday evening, and I'd been
2 ridin' down the east trail that led from Dodge City to
3 Crown Ranch. Been a real warm day, a little breeze comin'
4 up now. Things were startin' to cool off to a nice
5 comfortable twilight.

6 I hadn't seen any signs of habitation for the last few miles.
7 Soil was pretty thin and sandy; probably wouldn't grow
8 much. But a little further on, the ground turned brown
9 and rich lookin'.

10 But it was gettin' late, and I'd been ridin' a long time. And
11 my stomach was rubbin' up against my backbone.

12 ESFX: STREAM SOUNDS, CRICKETS (under)

13 BRITT Whoa there, Scar. This look like a purty good spot to make
14 camp. Sounds like a nice place to spend the night.

15 LSFX: GETTING DOWN FROM SADDLE

16 BRITT I gathered some dry scrub, and got a good fire goin'. Had
17 me a supper of beans and bacon, with some cornbread I
18 had in my saddlebags. I was just lazin' around the fire
19 when I heard someone give a shout.

20 PAL (off mic) Hello the fire!

1 BRITT Hi there!

2 PAL (off mic) Mind if I join you?

3 BRITT Nope, it'd be a pleasure. Come on ahead.

4 LSFX HOOF BEATS, THEN STOP; DISMOUNT

5 PAL Whoa, there. Whoa. Howdy.

6 BRITT Howdy. Ride far?

7 PAL Yeah. We were real glad to see your fire.

8 BRITT We were? You and your horse?

9 PAL No, no. Hey Boy's pony picked up a stone, so he's walkin'
10 with it. He'll be along. Got any coffee?

11 BRITT Some. You got a cup?

12 PAL I could just hold it in my hands.

13 BRITT You kinda look like you need it.

14 PAL Let me get it out of my saddlebags.

15 LSFX: RUMMAGE IN LEATHER BAG, FOOTSTEPS, POURING

16 COFFEE

17 BRITT Here y'are.

18 PAL Thank you kindly. Let me introduce myself. The name is
19 Paladin.

20 BRITT Ponsett, Britt Ponsett.

1 PAL (thinking) Ponsett...Ponsett...the Six-Shooter?

2 BRITT Well, some folks call me that. Can't rightly see why. You're
3 packin' one too... And it's a mighty nice one.

4 PAL I don't get it. Yours doesn't even have a notch on it.

5 LSFX LIMPING HOOF BEATS AND FOOTSTEPS, THEN STOP

6 PAL That must be Hey Boy now. Hey Boy! Over here!

7 HEYBOY(coming on mic) Oh, Missa Paladin. I not think I find you.

8 BRITT Warm up by the fire, why don'tcha? You look plum
9 tuckered.

10 HEYBOY (with longing) Coffee?

11 BRITT Not much left in this pot. (LSFX: SHAKING POT)

12 HEYBOY (disappointed) Ohhh. I make new pot.

13 PAL Hey Boy, why don't you get my coffee pot out of the saddle
14 bags?

15 HEYBOY (dejectedly) All right.

16 PAL Tell you what. I'll even make the next one.

17 BRITT Stream's just over that-away, Hey Boy.

18 HEYBOY Okay. Be right back with water, if feet hold out.

19 LSFX: FOOTSTEPS

20 BRITT You're not from around here, are ya?

1 PAL No. How could you tell?

2 BRITT Most gents in these parts don't bring along a servant.

3 PAL You mean Hey Boy? He's not my servant. He works in the
4 hotel in San Francisco.

5 BRITT San Francisco—thunder, that's a place. What are you doin'
6 out this-away?

7 PAL We're lookin' for someone.

8 BRITT (embarrassed) Sorry. None of my business.

9 PAL (calling) Hey Boy, where's that water?

10 LSFX WAGON CREAK, HOOFBEATS UNDER

11 HEYBOY (off mic) Coming, Missa Paladin...coming....

12 CHES (off mic) Hey out there, You at the fire!

13 BRITT You expectin' someone else?

14 PAL No, and I didn't see any one else along the way.

15 BRITT For a country without a lot of folks, tarnation, it's
16 crowded.

17 SFX: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL, SLOSHING OF COFFE POT, PUT IT

18 ON ROCKS ON THE FIRE

19 HEYBOY Coffee ready to go, Missa Paladin. Put on fire. Be ready
20 soon.

1 CHES (off mic) You mind if we join you?

2 HEYBOY Some one coming?

3 PAL I've got my gun out, just in case.

4 BRITT (disapproving) I kinda doubt you'll be needin' that around
5 here. (calls) Come ahead—slow.

6 LSFX WAGON CREAKING, HOOF BEATS, THEN STOP

7 CHES (grumbling) Jist let me get myself off this gol-darn contraption.

8 (LSFX: CREAKING OF SPRINGS, FOOTSTEPS) Never
9 did like buckboards. Well, we're here, wherever that is.
10 Miss Kitty? You ready to dis-em-bark?

11 PAL You have a lady with you?

12 KITTY Help me down, Chester. I've got bruises on my bruises.

13 BRITT Let me give you a hand, ma'am.

14 SFX SQUEAK OF WAGON

15 CHES Well, if you hadn't been in such a thunderin' hurry to
16 leave the dance...

17 KITTY I don't understand why Matt insisted on taking me to that
18 dance. He should know that girls in my line of work don't
19 mix much with the other type.

1 CHES Now, Kitty, I tol' you before. Sedgwick was throwin'
2 another one of them Co-till-ions. There's allus been
3 somethin' a mite tetched about ol' Man Sedgwick.

4 KITTY Everybody knows that.

5 CHES Mister Dillon had lots of reports of missin' folks, and he's
6 allus been sure that Sedgwick had somethin' to do with it.
7 So when he got hisself another report, and we heard that
8 Sedgwick was throwin' a dance... he thought...we
9 thought...that it'd look less threatenin' to have a woman
10 along. (Kitty re-action) Like we was really there for the
11 dance.

12 KITTY But he shoulda thought of someone else to take. You got
13 some coffee, mister?

14 BRITT Jist heatin' some up on the fire, now, Ma'am. Hey Boy put
15 it on jist a minute ago.

16 CHES I don't believe a Chinese can make good coffee. Miss Kitty,
17 it won't take a moment for me to make us a pot. Why, I
18 bet he don't even use egg shells to settle the grounds.

19 KITTY I'm sure Hey Boy's'll be just fine.

20 CHES No, I'll make my own pot.

1 PAL How do you do, ma'am. I couldn't help wondering about
2 your line of work?

3 KITTY (attitude: what's it to you) I'll give you three guesses and the
4 first two don't count. I run the Longbranch in Dodge—
5 that's a saloon, mister.

6 PAL Some of the best times of my life were spent in drinking
7 emporiums.

8 CHES Whoee--You sure got a tongue, mister.

9 PAL My card.

10 CHES "HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL. WIRE PALADIN."

11 BRITT Cards, yet. Don't that beat all. I'm Ponsett and Hey Boy's
12 tending the coffee.

13 CHES Glad to meet ya. I'm Chester Proudfoot and this here is
14 Miss Kitty Russell. We're aheadin' back to Dodge.

15 BRITT Ma'am.

16 PAL Glad to have you share the fire.

17 KITTY Chester, are you sure Matt is goin' to be okay back at that
18 dance, without us?

19 CHES You didn't stop to think of that before?

20 KITTY No, I just had to get out of there.

1 HEYBOY Coffee ready!

2 PAL Here you go, ma'am. Freshly made pot of hot coffee.

3 LSFX: POURING COFFEE, SLURPS COFFEE

4 KITTY Oh, my. That's just what I needed. Think I might live.

5 MUSIC

6 LSFX: COYOTE HOWL

7 LSFX: HOOFBEATS

8 CHES That must be the marshal now.

9 HEYBOY You can tell from hoofbeats?

10 CHES No—but I'm sure he's been right behind us.

11 BRITT You have the marshal after you?

12 HEYBOY What do? Rob bank?

13 KITTY (laugh) Nope, nothin' like that. But he might be a trifle put-
14 out with me for leavin'.

15 LSFX HOOFBEATS, STOP, DOWN OFF HORSE.

16 MATT Chester, did you have to drive all the way to Mexico? I told
17 you to stop at Silver Creek crossing.

18 CHES (apologizing) But...Mr. Dillon... Miss Kitty didn't want to stop
19 there. And then we seed this camp fire, so we come on.

1 Here, Marshal, lemme get you some coffee. Wire, pass me
2 that pot, will ya?

3 LSFX CLINK OF METAL CUP AND POT

4 PAL Name's Paladin.

5 CHES It is? But your card said Wire...

6 KITTY Matt, don't blame Chester. It's my fault.

7 MATT Why'd you leave, Kitty? I had to go out back and when I
8 got back to the dance, you were gone.

9 KITTY It wasn't right, my being there. I stood it as long as I
10 could, and then I got Chester to take me away.

11 MATT But Kitty, I needed you there. You were my official reason
12 for bein' there.

13 KITTY Why? You weren't dancin' with me or even talkin' to me.
14 Nobody was.

15 CHES Does ol' man Sedgwick have 'em, Mr. Dillon?

16 MATT Yeah, as far as I can tell.

17 PAL Does he have who, Marshall?

18 MATT I got a report that Sedgwick had a couple of foreigners—
19 locked up in his barn. For years there's been rumors of
20 disappearing folks in the area. I mean to find out this

1 time. And he's definitely got two poor souls locked up the
2 barn.

3 BRITT Would one of them be an Englishman?

4 MATT Could be.

5 PAL And the other from China? A girl?

6 MATT Sounded like it.

7 HEY Missy Wong!

8 MATT You know her?

9 PAL Marshal, I've been given a commission to track down a
10 Mr. J. B. Kendall. It seems that his reports to his paper,
11 the London Times, have been worrisome. His last posting
12 was San Francisco.

13 HEYBOY Missy Wong took care of his room in hotel.

14 PAL I thought it'd be an easy assignment to complete but...

15 HEYBOY Missy Wong—talking, talking, talking, about letter
16 wanting her come to Kansas.

17 BRITT Did her letter say why?

18 HEYBOY Hey Boy not know. Missy Wong get mad.

19 PAL Just as I was going to call on Mr. Kendall, Hey Boy
20 alerted me to Miss Wong's absence. And then I found that

1 Kendall had checked out. So I assumed they were
2 together.

3 BRITT Dog-gone! Here I was, lookin' for this Kendall fella too.
4 Don't that beat all.

5 MATT I got suspicious when an old Chinese gent came jabberin'
6 at me about a girl missing. Ordinarily, the Chinese take
7 care of themselves. But this one swore there was a white
8 man with her. So I came lookin'. I'll need more help than
9 Chester, here, to get them away from ol' man Sedgwick.
10 Can you handle that fancy gun, Paladin?

11 PALL I make my living by it.

12 MATT I'm not interested in a bloodbath. I just want those two
13 people out of that crazy old man's hands. How about you?
14 I didn't catch the name.

15 BRITT Ponsett, Britt Ponsett.

16 MATT Ponsett. I heard you were around in these parts.

17 BRITT I been stayin' at the Crown Ranch. Sedgwick gives 'em a
18 lot to talk about. They were really pleased when his wife
19 got free of him. Emma, her name was. I'm willin' to help
20 out, Marshall. Count me in.

1 MATT (thinking) Emma...Okay. I hereby deputize all of you—not you,
2 Kitty. Put your hand down. I hereby deputize all of you to
3 help rescue these two people. We better get some shut-
4 eye. We need to leave before daybreak.

5 ALL (agrees)

6 MATT Ponsett, would you and Miss Kitty join me for a stroll over
7 to the crick?

8 BRITT Shore, marshal.

9 KITTY Matt, you really need a chaperone?

10

1 ACT II FRONTIER GENTLEMAN MUSIC

2 Ancr Herewith an Englishman's account of life and death in the
3 West. As a reporter for the London Times, he writes his
4 colorful and unusual stories. But as a man with a gun, he
5 lives and becomes a part of the violent years in the new
6 territories. This is the story of JB Kendall, Frontier
7 Gentleman.

8 Kendall has agreed to accompany Miss Wong from San
9 Francisco to Dodge City, to see her uncle. But when they
10 get to Dodge, they were kidnapped by Sedgwick, an old
11 rancher.

12 WONG I so sorry you here, Mistah Kendall.

13 JB Miss Wong, it's been a delightful experience. I'm sure that
14 my newspaper will be very interested in my next article,
15 assuming I can send it to London.

16 WONG When I got letter from uncle, I have to come—lickedity
17 split. Hey Boy pay NO attention. My uncle need my help,
18 so I come.

19 JB And I, as a gentleman, couldn't have you going alone. It
20 wouldn't be proper.

1 SFX: DOOR OPEN/CLOSE, FOOTSTEPS

2 SEDG Here y'are—grub. You sure you don't cook? I thought all
3 furriners cooked. That's why I brung ya here. I want some
4 of them elegant meals my wife used to brag on.

5 JB Mr. Sedgwick, is your wife here?

6 SEDG Nope, done run-off long ago, back to ol' Virginie. I
7 thought if she heard that I had a couple of furriners
8 workin' for me, she might turn up. Spark her interest, like.

9 JB My good man, if you let us go, I'm sure I could arrange for
10 a couple of servants.

11 SEDG Nope. I done got you here, already 't hand. But you gotta
12 do for me!

13 WONG I clean good, wash sheets...

14 SEDG House don't need no tidyin'. I like it fine as it tis. What I
15 need is a cook.

16 JB We weren't employed in our professions to do that. A
17 gentleman doesn't cook his own meals.

18 WONG I not even cook Chinee. San Francisco, got lots people
19 cook. I not bother to learn. Hey Boy know...

1 SEDG Don't that just beat all! I go and get me two furriners and
2 they cain't do nothin'!

3 JB Maybe you could turn us loose. We wouldn't tell any body.

4 SEDG Nope, cain't do that. Emma'll know you're here and come
5 home. That's why I held that dog-gone co-tillion. To let
6 everyone know. Emma allus did like co-tillions.

7 SFX POUNDING ON DOOR

8 MATT (off mic) Sedgwick! Sedgwick, you come on out here.

9 SEDGE Drat! It's that interferin' marshal from Dodge. I'd know
10 the sound of that bellow anywheres. Comin', Marshal.

11 SFX FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPEN AND SHUT

12 JB Miss Wong, that marshal's back and just outside.

13 WONG Maybe he save us.

14 JB Or maybe we can save ourselves. Miss Wong, see if you
15 can loosen my bonds.

16 WONG Bonds?

17 JB These ropes.

18 WONG Oh, yessir.

1 JB Come over here and stand in back of me. Now wiggle the
2 rope this way...a little more...that's...(effort) that's got it.
3 Now, for yours.

4 (pause)

5 SFX FOOTSTEPS

6 SEDG Marshal Dillon, isn't it?

7 MATT Yeah. Sedgwick, you know you can't keep people locked
8 up in your barn.

9 SEDG I ain't got nobody locked up.

10 CHES Mr. Sedgwick, we know you got two furriners locked up
11 there. It ain't human. Them's people, with families
12 dependin' upon 'em.

13 SEDG Them's not people—they're furriners.

14 MATT You can't lock people up like that.

15 CHES Why, you do, Mr. Dillon.

16 MATT Chester, which side are you on?

17 SFX HOOFBEATS, CREAK OF WAGON

18 BRITT (off mic, yelling) Mr. Sedgwick! Look what I brung.

19 CHES (sotto voce, off mic) Why, Mr. Dillon... It looks like Miss
20 Kitty.

1 MATT Shut up, Chester.

2 CHES But it looks like Miss K...

3 MATT Chester!! If you don't shut up, I'll shoot you.

4 CHES (hurt) But Mister Dillon, I was only...

5 BRITT I found her, Mr Sedgwick. Here she is, safe and sound.

6 SEDG Who've you got there, boy?

7 BRITT I heard how you was keepin' a couple of furriners and I
8 thought Emma'd be real interested in seein' them.

9 SEDG You got Emma with you? But she's...

10 BRITT Don't you recognize her, Mr Sedgwick? It's only been a
11 couple of years—she can't have changed all that much.

12 SEDG You brung Emma? You brung her home—to me?

13 KITTY (with Virginia accent?) That's right, Lionel. I came back to
14 have another look at what y'all have done.

15 SEDG Emma. Emma. But Emma, why'd you leave?

16 KITTY You gave me no choice, Lionel, when you started locking
17 up all my friends. I couldn't stand it. I couldn't stand the
18 loneliness.

19 SEDG I did it for you, Emma. I wanted to make life easier for
20 you. You don't need no furriners when you got me.

1 BRITT Did it make it easier on Emma when they died, Mr
2 Sedgwick?
3 CHES Died?
4 SEDG I buried them proper. No one ever knowd.
5 KITTY I won't stay, Lionel, if you've got another batch of them
6 folk locked up in the barn, like before. Let 'em go, Lionel.
7 SEDG Let 'em go? But...they're the reason you cum home,
8 Emma. If I let 'em go, you won't stay neither.
9 SFX DOOR FLUNG OPEN FOOTSTEPS.
10 PAL Come on out of there, Miss Wong. You too, fella.
11 HEYBOY I here, Missy Wong!
12 WONG (breathless, excited)
13 Oh, Hey boy! I so glad to see you!
14 JB Thanks, my good man.
15 PAL Save it for later. Hurry!
16 SFX DOOR SLAMS, NOISE
17 SEDG What's goin' on back there? Why you...you're stealin' my
18 furriners!
19 MATT It's against the law, Sedgwick. I'm here to uphold the law.

1 SEDG My furriners! You cain't take them from me! They're my
2 furriners!

3 MATT Put down that gun, Sedgwick.

4 SEDG (wildly) You cain't take 'em! You cain't!

5 CHESTER Watch out, Mr Dillon—he's gonna shoot!

6 ESFX BANG

7 (pause)

8 BRITT Gol' darn it, Miss Kitty! Did you have to use my gun on
9 him?

10 SEDG (dying) Emma? Emma?

11 SOUND: WAGON CREAK, FOOTSTEPS

12 KITTY I'm here, Lionel.

13 SEDG I'm glad we'll be together now, Emma.

14 KITTY So am I, Lionel. Just rest now, and it'll be fine.

15 SEDG Glad you cum back...(dies)

16 MATT Kitty, why in thunder did you shoot him?

17 KITTY He was gonna kill you, Matt.

18 BRITT Like them other fellas who tried to rescue folks.

19 KITTY Britt told me all about Lionel Sedgwick on the ride in. I
20 wanted to be ready.

1 BRITT I never even felt her lift my gun, Marshal. Sorry. I guess
2 we'll have to track down this here Emma.

3 MATT No, I don't think so. She's behind the house. She's been
4 here all along. She never left.

5 KITTY Oh, Matt.

6 MATT That's what I found, out back of the barn.

7 CHESTER You mean, she's dead?

8 MATT A tombstone that said EMMA.

9 SFX FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL

10 JB Thanks, Marshal, for rescuing us.

11 MATT You Kendall?

12 JB That's right. I'm JB Kendall.

13 MATT Good. And this is Miss Wong?

14 WONG Yessir.

15 MATT Your uncle will be pleased.

16 PAL Just the man I wanted to find. Your office would like to
17 hear from you.

18 JB And have I got something to tell them.

19 BRITT Maybe we could delay all that until we put Lionel next to
20 his Emma?

1 KITTY You goin' to arrest me, Matt?

2 MATT I'll think on it.

3 GUNSMOKE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

4 ANCR You've been listening to an original script written by Joy

5 Jackson.