

## **STEAM BAR**

### **"Gold Rush"**

By: Amanda Zimmermann

When a dusty stranger stumbles into town and falls down dead in the saloon a search of his body reveals that he carried nothing but a vague map and a sizeable nugget of gold. The townsfolk get excited and declare a treasure hunt! While everyone else scampers off to prepare, Vernon steals the map and heads out on his own bent on finding the rest of the gold and paying off his debt to Tom. Things don't go as planned when Lily reveals that she's been following Vernon through the desert. Little do they know someone else is following both of them, known outlaw Sid Granger is also out for the gold and he'll stop anyone that gets in his way.

### **Story Beats**

1. End of the day, Tom asks Vernon for a payment towards his debt. Old Man stumbles into the bar and dies on the floor.
2. Colt searches the man for ID, find a map and gold nugget. Steam gets "gold fever".
3. Vernon seizes opportunity, steals the map and sets out to find the gold and pay his debt.
4. Lily sees him leave, innocently follows to help.
5. Lily confronts him when she realizes what he's doing. Wants some of the gold to make her more eligible for husbands. Vernon begrudgingly agrees to let her help as he's not as young as he used to be.
6. They wander around for hours, Vernon can't read map. Lily deciphers it, no problem. Leads them to an old mine.
7. They're being follow by outlaw Sid Granger who was tracking the Old Man.
8. Lily and Vernon find the gold, Sid ambushes them and ties them up. Plans to trap them in a cave in and make off with the gold.
9. Lily gets out of her bonds, they try to steal the gold back.
10. Sid stops them, cave in backfires and he gets caught on the wrong side, with gold.
11. Lily and Vernon go back alive, but empty handed.

### **Story Outline**

#### ACT 1

Sunset. The citizens of Steam gather at the Saloon after a long day. An OLD MAN shambles into town, weak and dirty. In the saloon, TOM and VERNON discuss a payment on Vernon's debt. He claims to not have the money while Sallie joking asks him where he has all his money ferreted away.

The doors burst open and the Old Man tumbles in and hits the floor, hard. COLT rushes over but it's too late, he's dead. A search of his pockets yields a piece of paper and a sizeable nugget of gold. After some deliberation, Vernon (being the oldest and obviously most knowledgeable) declares the paper to be a crudely drawn treasure map. A shadowy figure

watches from the window before slipping away into the darkness. The town goes nuts, there's a blowout gold mining supplies at the general store, everyone gears up for a treasure hunt.

### ACT 2

Vernon seizes the opportunity. Colt locked the map up in the sheriff's office for safekeeping until they could gather up a posse to go hunting. Vernon breaks in but can't open the safe. LILY comes by looking for Colt, catches Vernon and offers to help him *if* he splits the gold with her. To prove that she's useful and not as dumb as everyone thinks she is she helps him get the map, which is not in the safe but hidden under the desk under a loose floorboard. She spends a lot of time watching (stalking) Colt.

The two set out and wander the surrounding wilderness for hours. Vernon can't make heads of tails of the squiggles on the map. In a last ditch effort, he gives the map to Lily who deciphers it easily and leads them through a series of landmarks to an old mine. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to them, they're being tailed by notorious outlaw SID GRANGER, who tracked the Old Man to Steam and saw them steal the map from the sheriff.

### ACT 3

They find a chest full of gold nuggets deep in the mine before Sid ambushes them and ties them up. He tells them off his plan to trap them in the mine with a cave in and make off with the gold, by the time anyone finds them it will be too late. He wires up a few sticks of dynamite into the walls while Lily quietly frees herself and she and Vernon try and make off with the gold.

Sid stops them, there is a scuffle between the three and Lily manages to hit Sid on the head, knocking him back into the mine. The fuse is running out and there's no time for them to grab the gold. Lily drags Vernon out of the mine, trapping Sid and the gold behind the cave in.

Alive, but empty handed, Lily and Vernon go back to town. They decide not to tell anyone and when asked how she knows all these skills Lily just smiles and walks away, resuming her absentminded act. Vernon has a newfound respect for Lily.