

STEAM

Drinking Secrets

Stella Samuel

Setting: The Steambar in the steampunk town of Steam is located in the southwest desert. Everything is dry, dusty, and brown with the exception of the massive Saguaro cactus that pepper the landscape.

PAGE ONE:

Splash Page

With a bit of the desert and afternoon sun peeking in through windows and the door, SHERIFF COLT MCCOY wearing an old western uniform with bronze chains hanging from his belt, steps inside Steambar.

A thick wooden bar back lined with various yellow metals, glass bottles and staged with cage-like lighting is to the right. McCoy steps in that direction.

SALLIE SADCHEEKS leans over the bar top with a brown rag looking away from the door and McCoy.

At a table near the bar, LILY CUSHYBOTTOM, wearing a sweet yet sexy winter white dress almost too bright for the surroundings, leans back in a high back chair with her legs spread outward relaxed, probably tipsy, and seductively looking toward McCoy coming in through the door. Several glasses are lined up in front of her, all with different color liquids at varying heights, and one in her hand.

TOM COLLINS, wearing large boots, brown pants, and around his waist, a half apron, stands behind Lily holding two drinks of different colors with a worried expression on his face.

1 CAPTION: Just another Saturday at Steambar where the desert can't drag in anything worse than the patrons.

2 LILY: I can keep a secret better 'an anyone! But you know, the more I drink, the more I talk.

3 TOM: Lily, I could get into a lot of trouble doing this. They have to be perfect before I present the menu to Sallie.

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PAGE TWO:

Panel 1: Lily, in a wide shot leaning back to see beyond Tom, flashes a smile at McCoy who holds Sallie's attention at the bar.

1 LILY: It'll be fine, Tom. You have nothing to worry about.

2 TOM: I have Sallie to worry about. She said last week we're losing money. If we're gonna save this place, this is the way to do it.

Panel 2: From Sallie's point of view, with her hand holding a cleaning cloth in the foreground, McCoy looks across the bar at Sallie with the same goofy but seductive grin Lily uses for him.

3 LILY: (OFF PANEL) There's only one person who can convince me to spill your secrets.

4 MCCOY: Tom looks nervous tonight, Sallie. I'm gonna get him soon. I just know it. Then maybe you and I can finally celebrate.

Panel 3: McCoy to Sallie eyes close up.

5 MCCOY (THOUGHT): I'm gonna have you one day, Sallie, but I'm gettin' Tom Collins first.

Panel 4: Lily to McCoy eyes close up.

6 LILY (THOUGHT): All you have to do is ask, Sheriff. Just ask. I'm all yours.

Panel 5: Tom to Lily eyes close up.

7 TOM (THOUGHT): You better not give me up, Lily. The whole bar is resting on this new menu.

PAGE THREE

Panel 1: Lily, looking up at Tom next to her but also a tad behind her, beckons him downward with a dainty finger. We only see the bottom half of Tom from the belt down, one arm is visible, but the other arm is not in the shot.

1 LILY (WHISPERS): Your secret is making me feel some kind of way if you know what I mean.

Panel 2: Tom, bending over Lily with a tray in one hand and his other arm outstretched grabbing a glass from the table, looks down at Lily as she touches his shirt opening it up a bit to reveal a bit of his buff, firm, and hairless chest.

2 TOM: I don't care what you're feeling, just keep your mouth shut while I clean this up.

Panel 3: Sallie standing up straight, looks at the table with Tom and Lily with a stern look and anger. Colt's barstool is turned so his profile looks at Tom with clear accusation.

3 SALLIE: Tom Collins! What in Steam are you doing dirtying all my glasses?

Panel 4: Close up on Lily with her hands up in the air as if she hasn't a clue. Tom stands behind her with the tray in one hand and a glass in the other with a look of shock and surprise on his face.

4 TOM: Lily, Miss Sallie. She wants to try everything on the menu today.

5 LILY: Drinkin' sure is fun, Sallie. You know what? I wanna play a drinkin' game!

6 TOM: Lily? No.

7 LILY: Everyone! I need your attention.

Panel 5: Long (page 3 width) panel of Lily near the center and the other characters flanking her in a wide shot.

8 LILY: We're going to play a game to find out which one of you might be in trouble with secrets we all want to know. You all know you got 'em.

PAGE FOUR

Panel 1: Sallie, still at the bar, leans closer to McCoy. The others gather at a table nearby.

1 SALLIE: My past could ruin this bar for good. I can't let any of my secrets get out.

Panel 2: McCoy leans in close with his hand on Sallie's arm.

2 MCCOY: Don't worry about it, Sallie. I won't let that happen. Besides, you have the law on your side. Unlike Collins over there.

3 SALLIE : Thanks, Colt. I appreciate all you do for me.

Panel 3: Sallie looks out at Lily and Tom. McCoy looks at Sallie protectively.

4 MCCOY: You are stronger than you know, Sallie. I'll get ol' Tom Collins out of your hair tonight and into cuffs.

5 SALLIE: I know. I dealt with some angry men before. If Tom is out to get me, I'll find out and handle it Colt.

Panel 4: McCoy with an eyebrow up, glares at Tom as Tom smiles down at Lily from behind her at the table.

6 MCCOY: Out to get you?

7 SALLIE: I think he's planning a takeover!

Panel 5: Lily giggles at the table as Tom leans over her pointing his finger in her face.

8 TOM: I don't know what you are up to, but you better not give me up. The menu isn't ready yet.

9 LILY: Oh, Tom. Don't worry. I am doing what's best for you.

10 TOM: I doubt that. Watch yourself.

PAGE FIVE

Panel 1

The group is gathered at a large table together. Sallie sits next to McCoy. Tom stands behind Sallie looking green, like he's about to be sick. The table is filled with metal trinkets and simple wooden or metal table games and puzzles. There are no drinks on the table.

1 LILY: We're sharing secrets today. We all have at least one!

2 SALLIE: What if we don't want to play?

3 LILY: Then I just start spillin' the beans. Why Tom here --

4 TOM: LILY!

Panel 2: Up close shot, Sallie nervously looks at McCoy who carries a sly know-it-all look.

5 SALLIE: We've been slow, Tom how about I closeup and you head on home. Lily, we don't need you silly game.

6 MCCOY: What a minute, Sallie. Maybe she has a secret that needs getting out. Maybe it's time a certain someone pays for his crimes.

Panel 3: Tom sweats nervously. Lily, confident, leans over the table with Jessica Rabbit eyes at McCoy.

7 LILY: Relax, Colt. I won't tell anyone. That's just between us, right?

Panel 4: Tom stands behind the table holding an empty tray.

8 TOM: Lily, I've got no secrets. I don't need to play, but it's no secret we need some business, so order up!

Panel 5: From the table, Sallie tries to appear busy with her long nails but her eyes glare at Lily. McCoy next to her glares toward Tom behind the bar.

9 SALLIE: Get on with it, Lily. None of us have any secrets you should know about.

PAGE FIVE CONT.

10 TOM: I do. I have one. And I'm not going to let Lily spill it. I know you're in trouble, Sallie. I want in.

PAGES SIX - SEVEN (two-page spread)

If there is room, some panels can spread across the two pages and maybe even be combined. If combined into wider panels, panels 3 & 4 from each page could be combined into two separate panels still in the order below.

PAGE SIX

Panel 1: Mid-shot of Tom standing behind Sallie with his hands on her shoulders in a protective stance.

1 SALLIE: You want in on what? How am I in trouble?

2 TOM: I'm not sure what Lily knows, but if you want to play the game to find out, we can. I'm just here to help you. I can offer to buy into the bar to help save it.

3 SALLIE: What? I knew it! It's a takeover.

Panel 2: Lily, now standing too close for comfort to McCoy, appears to seduce everyone.

4 LILY: Are you both too chicken to play a little game?

5 TOM: I'm no chicken! And no, Sallie. I don't want to takeover.

6 LILY: Good! Let's play. Old fashioned Truth or Dare. No one can ask me Truth.

7 SALLIE (OFF PANEL): Then there is no point. And my bar is not in trouble or for sale!

Panel 3: Sitting at the table together, McCoy looks at Tom with a huge satisfying grin. VERNON STERN, larger than a house, stomps over to the table. The shot is from the bottom of his massive feet up to thick legs and an over the belt belly wrapped in a button popping shirt.

8 VERNON: DARE!

9 LILY: Game on!

Panel 4: Everyone looks at Vernon who appears relaxed and happy. Rolls of fat layer around his chin and face as he smiles.

PAGE SIX CONT.

10 VERNON: I said dare. I want to play dare.

11 LILY: That's not how it works, Vernie dear. You can't just yell out dare.

12 TOM: That's right. You have to dare someone to do something specific. Like McCoy there. I'm sure he'd be happy to act on a dare to get outta here.

PAGES SIX - SEVEN (two-page spread)

PAGE SEVEN

Panel 1: Vernon is standing taking up most of the panel.

1 VERNON: I dare the Sheriff to give old Tom here a piggyback ride.

Panel 2: Close up on Vernon towering over the others, from the bottom of the frame, his face sweating and looking nervous.

2 MCCOY: (OFF PANEL): What?

3 TOM: This has nothing to do with what McCoy is hiding from us taxpayers. Go on, McCoy. Just tell 'em your secret, and we don't have to do this.

Panel 3: McCoy looks at Tom in surprise.

Panel 4: Tom looks back at McCoy, Panels 3 & 4 are side by side, McCoy to the left and Tom on the right, and they look at one another through the panels. These looks are almost a man to man dare, who is braver, more manly.

Panel 5: At the table, Sallie appears relieved and uses her bar rag to wipe her forehead. Lily belly laughs holding her hands across her stomach.

4 SALLIE: It wouldn't hurt you boys to get along for once.

5 LILY: Go on, boys. Let's play the game! You've been dared. Either do it, or spill your deepest, darkest secret.

Panel 6: McCoy stands in front of Tom leaning over slightly as if ready to take McCoy onto his back. His face has a pensive look to it. Lily claps near the background.

6 TOM: Go, Cowboy Sheriff. Let's do this. I got nothing to hide here.

7 MCCOY: Maybe so. But I know about Missouri.

PAGE EIGHT

Panel 1: Tom is on McCoy's back. McCoy's knees are buckled as if he can't handle the weight.

1 TOM: Missouri. I've never even been to Missouri. What the hell are you talkin' 'bout?

2 MCCOY: I know what you're hidin' is all.

3 TOM: Look, I only agreed to this stupid dare because I don't want Lily to tell Sallie my plan.

4 MCCOY: You mean to buy her bar out from under her?

Panel 2: Sallie stands up like a stern mother pointing at McCoy and Tom.

5 SALLIE: STOP THIS RIGHT NOW! No one is buying me out and you two better get on outta here before I lose it.

Panel 3: Close up of Sallie with a look of concern.

6 SALLIE (THOUGHT): I cannot lose my bar. I have changed. I deserve success.

Panel 4: Sallie looks down on Lily who appears as if she's a little girl scolded.

7 SALLIE: Lily, you tell me what Tom has on me, and you tell me now!

8 LILY: They look like they are having a good time. Let 'em be.

9 SALLIE: I will not lose this bar to Tom Collins. Make this stop! I want to know what you have on me.

Panel 5: Lily smiles all knowingly at Sallie. McCoy and Tom gallop in the background with irritated expressions.

10 LILY: Tom doesn't have anything on you. Tom wants the bar.

11 CAPTION: Sallie left a long sordid past behind. To have a floozy like Lily figure it out would devastate her.

PAGE NINE

Panel 1: With motion lines, Tom slides off McCoy's back.

1 MCCOY: Do you see Sallie? If you care about her at all, you'll make this easy.

2 TOM: Fine! I'm ready.

Panel 2: McCoy stands in a wide stance in an old western-like shot from behind with handcuffs in his hand.

3 MCCOY: It's best this way.

Panel 3: McCoy walks toward the bar away from McCoy with McCoy scrambling to catch up.

4 TOM: I don't know what you're talking about, McCoy.

5 MCCOY: We all know everyone wants you out of this town. We all know Sallie only keeps you on because you asked her to give you a chance.

Panel 4: Tom stops short stirring up dust in his tracks on the wooden floor. In a pivot, he faces McCoy with spit flying out of his mouth.

6 TOM: I don't know what your beef is with me, Sheriff, but I ain't never been to Missouri.

7 TOM: Sallie didn't give me a chance to do anything but prove to her I am a worthy partner.

Panel 5: McCoy looks across the room at Sallie who is at the bar deep in conversation with Lily.

8 MCCOY: I don't have a beef with you, but the law does. You can't kill a man and leave him for dead.

9 TOM: WHA- WHAT?

PAGE TEN

Panel 1: Sallie holds her brown rag and kicks up dust as she walks to Tom.

1 SALLIE: What are you doing to my bar?

2 TOM: I'm not doing anything to the bar, Sallie. I love it here.

Panel 2: McCoy joins Sallie and Tom at the bar. Lily flirts with Vernon at the table nearby. Vernon's eyes are as large as saucers starting at Lily's cleavage popping out of her white dress.

3 MCCOY: He won't admit it, Sallie. I say we push Lily to expose his secret. I know it's his. He said he did the dare to keep you from finding out.

4 SALLIE: Tom. I don't know what you've done here. If the Sheriff needs to take you away, I'm gonna let him. If Lily has something on you, it'd be best to tell me now.

Panel 3: Lily stands next to Vernon bent over with her backside up in the air and her first finger under his chin. Her stares at her chest.

5 LILY: It's getting tense in here. I think we could all use a drink.

6 VERNON: That secret of yours, Lily. It's not about the supply closet in my office, is it?

7 LILY: Oh, no, Vernie. That's our little secret.

Panel 4: Lily straightens up standing tall with her bust out and shoulders back.

8 LILY: Everyone! I'd like your attention, please.

Panel 5: Tom, Sallie, and McCoy from the bar all glare at Lily. Sallie looks angry. Tom is worried. McCoy is irritated and looks at Tom with suspicion.

9 LILY: I see my game was a bust, but it got you all talking. Right?

10 TOM: Nobody is talking. McCoy is only accusing.

PAGE ELEVEN

Panel 1: Lily gives McCoy a puppy-eyed look. Vern sits at the table in the background alone with one finger in the air with circular swooshes around it as if to ask for another round.

1 LILY: Oh, Tom. Colt is just a little tense. Vern wants a round of drinks.

2 SALLIE: Vern wants an entire round of drinks? For himself?

3 LILY: No. For everyone else. I'm sure he'll pay, Sallie.

Panel 2: Sallie walks behind the bar with her brown rag slung over her shoulder.

4 SALLIE: I think that's a great idea. Let's all have a drink and clear the air.

Panel 3: Lily leans over the bar causing everyone to look at her curves and tight dress. All eyes are on her.

Panel 4: Lily holds an order pad with a couple words visible.
CLARA VERA, MIZZU

5 LILY: Deadly Brothel, Cowboy's Roost. What was the last drink?

6 TOM: Rainbow Slide.

Panel 5: Sallie looks confused. Tom stands behind the bar mixing drinks.

7 SALLIE: What are you talking about? What the hell is a Rainbow Slide?

PAGE TWELVE

Panel 1: Tom stands behind the bar with five tall glasses lined up on a tray.

1 TOM: Sallie, I know Lily's secret. She got a little tipsy on my new menu earlier.

2 SALLIE: Your new menu? You plan on a new menu when you take my bar from me?

Panel 2: Sallie leans over the bar and looks at the drinks.

3 TOM: I'm not taking your bar. I heard you talking the other day about losing business.

4 SALLIE: I'm not losing business. I can't keep up. Things are good.

5 TOM: Then I hope to make them even better. I've made a menu of new drinks.

Panel 3: Tom holds up two drinks toward McCoy and Lily. Vern stands near the bar on one side of the panel holding out chubby fingers. Lily points to one drink still on the tray.

6 LILY: I want that Mizzu!

7 TOM: Mizzu for you! Coming up!

Panel 4: Wide shot, page width and double height, shows the entire bar and each cast member. Everyone holds a colorful drink. Tom and Sallie are close to one another. Lily is cozy with McCoy who watches Sallie. Vern is alone at the end of the bar alone.

8 TOM: I'd never take your bar from you, Sallie. I'm sorry if I ever made you think that. I love this place.

9 SALLIE: Don't hide ideas like this from me again and you can keep your job.

10 LILY: Sheriff, what did Tom do in Missouri?

11 MCCOY: Don't you worry about Tom Collins. I've got my eye on him.

PAGE TWELVE CONT.

12 VERNON (THOUGHT): And I've got my eye on you, Miss Lily. Until you need your supplies checked again.

13 CAPTION: Lily was never good at keeping secrets or hosting games, but she is always good at getting a group together to tell on one another. Until next time at The Steambar, keep your drinks cold and secrets to yourself.