

Letter from Dawson City, November 1st, 1903

To my dear friend and fellow prospector, John "Blackjack" McCoy,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits, despite the challenging times we're facing in the Yukon. I'm writing to you from Dawson City, where I've been stationed for the past few months, working as a gold buyer for the local market. My days have been filled with buying and selling gold nuggets and dust, trying to stay on top of the constantly changing market prices and supply chains.

As you know, the rush has been slowing down, and many of the old-timers have either struck out on their own or returned to the Outside. The town has lost some of its luster, but I've managed to make a decent living, and I've even invested in a small stake in the newly opened Gold Nugget Hotel. The proprietor, a friend of mine, has been struggling to keep the place afloat, and I'm hoping to help him turn things around.

However, my primary concern these days is the mysterious case of the missing gold shipments. Several of the local merchants have reported that their gold has gone missing, and the police are stumped. I've been doing some digging of my own, talking to the locals, and gathering information from the various marketplaces and trading posts. I've also been keeping an eye on the activities of the infamous Soapy Smith's gang, who have been known to operate in the area.

I've discovered a few interesting leads, but nothing concrete yet. I've talked to a few of the old-timers who claim to have seen Soapy's men lurking around the area, but when I pressed them for more information, they clammed up. I've also heard rumors that one of the local merchants, a man named Marcus, has been secretly working with Soapy's gang, but I haven't been able to confirm this.

I've been keeping a close eye on Marcus, and I've noticed that he's been making some suspicious transactions with a few of the other merchants. I've also heard that he's been seen arguing with one of the local gold buyers, a man named Joe, who claims that Marcus has been shortchanging him on his gold sales.

I'm planning to investigate further, but I need your help. I was wondering if you could keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in the camps and let me know if you hear anything. I'd also appreciate it if you could do some digging in the Outside and see if you can find any information about Marcus's past or any connections he may have to Soapy's gang.

I know this is a lot to ask, but I'm counting on you to help me get to the bottom of this mystery. Let me know if you have any questions or need more information. I'll be writing to you again soon with any updates.

Best regards,

Edgar "Goldfinger" Thompson

Hotelier, Gold Buyer, and Part-time Detective

Dawson City, Yukon, November 1st, 1903

P.S. I've included a small map of the area with the locations of the missing gold shipments marked. I'd appreciate it if you could take a look and see if you notice anything suspicious.