

Mike Doughty

"The Gambler"

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You got to know when to hold em, know when to fold
em,
Know when to walk away and know when to run.
You never count your money when you're sittin at the
table.
There'll be time enough for countin when the dealins
done.

On a warm summers evenin on a train bound for
nowhere,
I met up with the gambler; we were both too tired to
sleep.
So we took turns a starin out the window at the
darkness
Til boredom overcame us, and he began to speak.

He said, son, I've made a life out of readin peoples
faces,
And knowin what their cards were by the way they held
their eyes.
So if you don't mind my sayin, I can see you're out of
aces.
And if you're gonna play the game, boy, you've got to
learn to play it
Right.

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Know when to walk away and know when to run.
You never count your money when you're sittin at the
table.
There'll be time enough for countin when the dealins
done.

Now evry gambler knows that the secret to survivin
Is knowin what to throw away and knowing what to
keep.
Cause evry hands a winner and evry hands a loser,
And the best that you can hope for is to die in your
sleep.

So when he'd finished speakin, he turned back towards
the window,
Crushed out his cigarette and faded off to sleep.
And somewhere in the darkness the gambler, he broke
even.
But in his final words I found an ace that I could keep.

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