

Ray's corvette drives back to St. Cloud, the big city.

In the front seat, not talking. RAY is quiet, re-fighting old battles in his head. NIKKI sits in the passenger seat, reading a book - Contract Bridge by Charles S. Gooden. Her bare feet are up on the dashboard.

NIKKI

- so that's when we use the
Dentist Coup or play a canape .
And watch out for the Cuthberts.
I don't think that cough a his
is real. Ray.

Ray doesn't react on her.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

And whatever happens don't let
those Swedes force a trump check
again.
(beat) Babe?

RAY

What?

NIKKI

I'm talking about the Wildcat
Regional on Thursday. Top three
mixed pairs, we qualify for the
Upper Wisconsin Semi-
Professional next month, which -
top three in that and the sport
really opens up for us.

RAY

Now, hon - you know yer not
s'posed ta leave the state.

NIKKI

I know, but couldn't ya - I
mean, as my P.O. - isn't there a
form you could sign?

RAY

(pained)

Well, see - there's a lot a
sticky - with the first bein,
technically, we're not supposed
ta be - you know - datin. I'm
sayin it's mission critical we
keep that a secret - so when it
comes ta signing official forms

(MEHR)

RAY (WEITER)

- I mean, talk about showin yer cards -

NIKKI

What are you sayin?

RAY

No, just - as ta the legalities - parolee, parole officer, etcetera - I mean, we're right on the line here.

NIKKI

There's big money ta be won, babe.

RAY

I know.

NIKKI

I'm not talkin a few regionals. We get ourselves on the map bridge-wise locally in the next few months and I'm talkin sponsorship opportunities borderin on six figures. Indian Casinos, Vegas, Norway. Then we don't need ta borrow money from yer stupid brother or nobody else. Right?

He nods, liking the sound of that, but unsure.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Baby, look at me.

He looks over.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

We're a team.
(he nods) Simpatico, to the point of spooky. Like how I always know when you're gonna lead with a heart or backwards finesse - and you got that putter's instinct for when ta drop the Murray Applebaum Discovery Play.

RAY

It's true.

NIKKI

Yer the hand and I'm the glove.

RAY

Yer the bottle and I'm the beer.

NIKKI

Or the beer and the glass in my
case.

RAY

Right. But it comes in a -

NIKKI

No, I know.

She takes his hand.

RAY

Simpatico.