

ANNIE OAKLEY

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BUFFALO BILL

C'mon, Chief – you don't expect me to believe you actually drew that straight. All right, I call. I've got three tens. What've you got?

SITTING BULL

Four eights.

BUFFALO BILL

Four – you mean you just drew the fourth eight?

SITTING BULL

No. Already had four.

BUFFALO BILL

(Exasperated)

Then what'd you draw a card for?

SITTING BULL

To keep Buffalo Bill in the game.

BUFFALO BILL

I thought you said you never played poker before.

SITTING BULL

Buffalo Bill said easy to learn. Buffalo Bill was right.

ANNIE

I'm hungry.

BUFFALO BILL

I'm afraid we've run out of food, Annie – you'll have to wait 'til we land in New York.

ANNIE

(She looks off.)

If that thar's New York, how come we cain't land on it right now?

CHARLIE

We're waitin' 'til midnight so we can sneak ashore without no one seein' us make our triumphant return on a cattle boat.

BUFFALO BILL

I'll give it to you in a nutshell, Annie. Our European tour was a big artistic success, but it costs a heap of money to travel a big troupe like ours.

SITTING BULL

Heap big heap. Sitting Bull lose all his money.

ANNIE

But ya had so much, Papa Bull! What about all that thar oil that was on yer reservation?

SITTING BULL

No more oil. Great White Father take it for himself. He is some big Indian giver.

ANNIE

Oh, Papa Bull, I'm sorry.

BUFFALO BILL

I didn't want to tell you, Annie – I didn't want to distract you while you were shooting at all those crowned heads. But the trouble with kings and queens is they give you medals instead of money. So I'm afraid we're broke. It looks like I'll have to break up the show.

ANNIE

Break it up? But y' cain't do that, Colonel Bill –
(TOMMY runs on, excited.)

TOMMY

There's a launch pulling up alongside and guess who's on it!

CHARLIE

Unless it's John D. Rockefeller, I ain't interested.

TOMMY

Sure looks like Frank Butler.

ANNIE

Now I ain't interested!

TOMMY

Aw, come take a look, Annie – they're lowering the rope ladder for him right now.

ANNIE

I don't wanna see him, Tommy! If'n he sets foot on this boat, I'll go right down t' my – stall!

SITTING BULL

Stay, Annie – stay and talk.

ANNIE

Talk. Yeah, mebbe I will. Shore I'll talk t' him! I'll say, "What d'ya want around here, ya big, swollen headed stiff?" An' he'll say, "I jes' come out t' meet ya, honey." An' I'll say, "Don't 'honey' me! Ya thought I double-crossed ya, that I was tryin' t' show ya up!" An' then I'll add on, 'cuz I ain't through yet. "I only done that trick t' make ya love me more so why didn't ya love me more? Why did ya leave that-a-way? Why didn't ya write?" An' that's when he'll say, "'Cuz I was too 'shamed. 'Sides, not writin' don't mean somebody don't love somebody! I been eatin' my heart out for ya, honey – cain't work, cain't sleep..."

(She starts to soften.)

And then I reckon I'm gonna hafta say, "I ain't been sleepin' a whole lot, neither, Frank."

(She melts even more.)