

The Gambler

Mike Doughty

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 eye
s.
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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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 windo
w,
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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