

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

*A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert
Las Vegas, Nevada*

Long Beach Lil had just made Eddie a proposition. She wanted to take Eddie on the road with her...."for a year or so." Shelli had listened to the whole thing patiently. She felt she was forced to take a stand then, after she heard the complete proposal.

Shelli got up and walked, rather quickly, to Lil's side of the table. Lil started to get up, but then sat back down when it appeared that Shelli wasn't going to become a "physical" threat. Shelli stood between Lil and Eddie, and began to let her thoughts in the matter be known. She spoke in a very deliberate and icy voice: "Now, you look into my eyes, Lil -- and listen carefully. There isn't going to be any 'road trip,' or ANY of the trash you've been putting out here! Eddie and I have some things worked out, and they're based on his staying on at the Blue Moonand staying here with ME! His future is here, and we've made a lot of plans. You're not gonna come in here and try to bust 'em up. Do you understand what I'm telling you?"

Lil kept up the eye contact as she replied: "Look, I'm not trying to split you guys up, or anything like that. Hell, if you insisted, we could probably even take you along. You could be part of the hustle."

"You just don't get it, do you?" said Shelli. "I have a good job, and Eddie has a good future here with Bob. We've got things worked out here -- and you can take your 'hustle' and stick it where the sun doesn't shine."

She turned to Eddie then and said: "Look, Champ, I'm going to leave now. You know where I stand on this. If you're interested in any more of the stuff she's putting out, then stay here and take in some more of it. If not, then pick it up and let's go home."

Eddie hesitated for a moment, but then got on his feet. He said to Lil: "Shelli here is a pretty strong-willed gal, and I like that -- but so am I. Let Bob know where you're staying. I'll give this thing some thought in the meantime."

Lil replied: "That sounds good to me, Eddie." Then, with a haughty smile on her face, she looked at Shelli and said: "It was nice to meet you; I hope you'll think this over, too -- in a positive way." You could freeze a live volcano with the stares they gave each other.

Shelli and Eddie left then, without any further conversation. Lil was thinking that she had made a pretty good pitch as she watched them walk out the door. She also knew she had a very strong opponent to overcome in Shelli. Her mind didn't skip a beat as she turned to the

only player who wasn't in the game yet. She placed her hand on his and said: "Bob, I really need to talk to you..."
(Continued next month)

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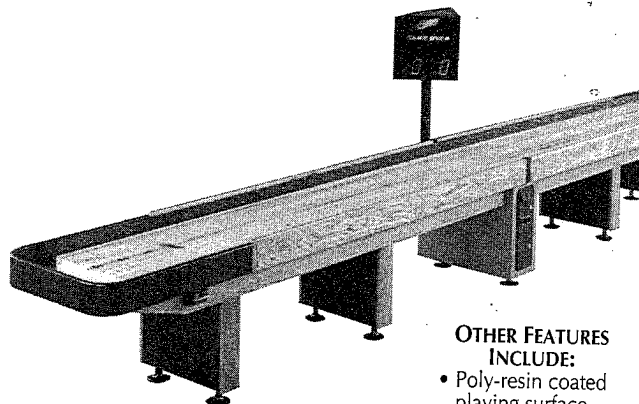
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