

EXT. DESERT - DAY

ACE still standing in the desert. NICKY's car suddenly appears as a reflection in ACE's sunglasses, shaking ACE out of his desert-induced reverie. NICKY's car pulls up by ACE. He gets out and storms up to him.

NICKY

Where the fuck you get off talkin' to people about me behind my back? Goin' over my head?

ACE

What people?

NICKY

What people! What'd you think, I wasn't gonna find out?

ACE

I don't even know what you're talkin' about, Nick.

NICKY

No? You said I'm bringin' heat on you?! I gotta listen to people because of your fuckin' shit?! You're ordering me out?! You better get your own fuckin' army, pal!

ACE

I didn't do anything. I mean, I didn't order you or anybody... I only told Andy Stone that you had a lot of heat on you, and that was a problem.

NICKY

You want me to get out of my own fuckin' town?!

ACE

Yeah, I said I - let the bullshit blow over for a while so I can run the casino. Anything goes wrong with the casino, it's my ass. It's not yours, it's my ass.

NICKY

Oh, I don't know whether you know this or not, but you only have your fuckin' casino because I made that possible!

ACE

I -

NICKY

(Interrupting)

I'm what counts out here! Not your

fuckin' country clubs or your fuckin' TV shows! And what the fuck are you doin' on TV anyhow?!

ACE

What are you -

NICKY

(Interrupting)

You know I get calls from back home every fuckin' day?! They think you went batshit!

ACE

I'm only on TV because I gotta be able to hang around the casino. You understand that. You know that. Come on.

NICKY

Your fuckin' ass! You could have had the food and beverage job without goin' on television! You wanted to go on TV.

ACE

Yeah, I did want to go on TV. That way I have a forum. I can fight back. I'm known. People see me. They know they can't fuck around with me like they could if I was an unknown. That's right.

NICKY

You're makin' a big fuckin' spectacle of yourself.

ACE

Me?! I wouldn't even be in this situation if it wasn't for you. You brought down so much fuckin' heat on me. I mean, every time I meet somebody here, the big question is do I know you.

NICKY

Oh, sure. Now you want to blame your fuckin' license on me, is that it?

ACE

No, it - it - Nicky, when you asked me if you could come out here, what did I tell you? I mean, you asked me, and I knew you were going to come out no matter what I said, but what did I tell you? Do you remember what I told...

NICKY

(Interrupting)
Back -

ACE
...you? Do you remember what I told
you?

NICKY
Back - Back up, back up a fuckin'
minute here. One minute. I asked
you?! When the fuck did I ever ask
you if I could come out here?! Get
this through your head, you -

ACE
(Interrupting)
You never - ?

NICKY
Get this through your head, you Jew
motherfucker, you. You only exist
out here because of me! That's the
only reason! Without me, you,
personally, every fuckin' wiseguy
skell [Skell: the lowest form of
wiseguy - a drunken bum] around'll
take a piece of your fuckin' Jew
ass! Then where you gonna go?! You're
fuckin' warned! Don't ever go over
my fuckin' head again! You
motherfucker, you!

NICKY drives off, leaving an angry and frustrated ACE to
ponder the desert and the holes.