



the bank?"

"Don't you balance your checkbook?"

"I didn't even know we had a checkbook," I honestly reply.

They say in poker it's good to have a healthy disrespect for money, but maybe being oblivious to its existence is not such a good thing. I flash back to when the investors had cut checks a few months before. Their biggest concern was I would not put the money into play. Apparently I did what I was supposed to do a bit too well. I had traveled extensively to assemble a team, developed a kick-@\$\$ script and made solid connections with folks equally committed to seeing this film succeed. Their money was hard at work, however, and now I found myself without adequate funding to take the project to the next level.

I have our business manager set up a meeting with the investors to discuss a

cash infusion to keep us moving forward. Fortunately, they are receptive and we meet at a local diner to discuss the deal terms, use of funds, etc. At the end of the meeting they ask us to have the lawyers draft the paperwork so we can make it happen. Good news! Then the waitress brings the bill...\$43.44. We are officially felted.

After a week of seemingly nonstop legal reviews, negotiations and revisions, the paperwork is signed and we're back in the chips. I settle up a few bills for the company and we're ready to move forward. Job 1 is to make the final round of edits to the script. Our executive producer, Shannon Elizabeth, and I opt to finish this together and, three rewrites later, we are ready.

#### VEGAS BOUND!

A quick check of the calendar, along with a dull ache in my stomach, tells me it's time to make the annual trek to Mecca...the

## 'WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE ONLY HAVE \$44 LEFT IN THE BANK?'

World Series of Poker! I set up some meetings, find a couple of events to play in and book my trip. I decide I'll try a fixed-limit WSOP event, so I play a warm-up tournament on PokerStars and come in first out of a few hundred. Bring on the championship, baby! I'm also looking forward to playing the celebrity-filled charity event Ante Up for Africa again this year. It's a fun event for a great cause...another great example of philanthropy in poker in action. Hopefully this year the after-party won't feature an ill-advised Michael Jackson tribute by Charles Barkley.

The Ukrainian hottie who is fulfilling the "+1" in my life at the moment doesn't quite get poker or why I need to travel to a desert for 12 days.

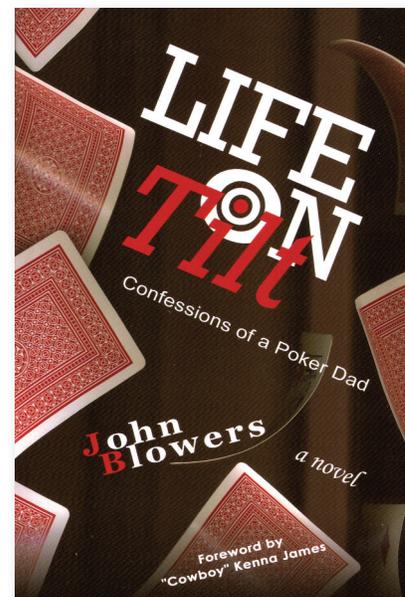
"Are you going out there for business or pleasure?" she asks.

"Yes," I reply. ♠

PHOTO: ERIC SCOT



Actress and poker player Shannon Elizabeth is executive producer of the project.



Next issue...the 2010 World Series of Poker and a hot tip while north of the border.

