

HANDICAP: SPONTANEOUS

You spend your life looking for signs. You're the kind of guy that throws a rock at a tree and says he'll turn his life around if he hits the trunk. Then you miss and tell yourself that the first throw was just a test, that it didn't really count... It's foolish of you, but you can't help it.

You just can't believe in superstitions: The idea that keeping a mirror intact is all that's warding you from seven years of bad luck perplexes you, and there's never been any rhyme or reason to your wagers, though you're fascinated by people who can come up with their own system.

All you have are gut feelings, and you follow them blindly. This bet was no exception, even though you know there will be no next throw.

Quirks

You swing constantly back and forth between curiosity and worry, your movements are as sudden as your choices. You look out of place in your own skin, behaving as if you took up much less or much more space than you actually need.

Narrative task

Before the start of the *Payout*, flip a coin and tell everyone the *Mood* hanging over the room after the end of the race.

Now that systems and superstitions have no power to change the outcome, it's up to you to tip the scales.

The Jockey

Heads: Tragedy - Tails: Deception

The Commentator

Heads: Derision - Tails: Confusion

The Criminal

Heads: Denial - Tails: Danger



HANDICAP: SYSTEMATIC

Some mathematicians are positive that their discipline is not a product of human ingenuity, but a discovery of how the world has always worked. They're the superstitious ones.

You, on the other hand, have no issue calling yourself an inventor. Through study and careful observation of fact, you have compiled a series of objective evaluations that now underlie your every wager. Your system minimises risk by analysing every new performance and track record on a constant basis, instead of looking at horses and jockeys like whimsical creatures of fancy.

You play to win and nothing irritates you more than unwitting, spontaneous players blundering about in search of a stroke of luck. To you, gambling stopped being a game a long time ago.

Quirks

You never share the details of your system, but you're always eager to dissect any individual race. Now all bets are off, and the only thing on your mind is the prize. Though the odds lie heavily in your favour, there can be no absolute certainty.

You make an effort to be as lucid as possible, and you control your words and gestures when you discuss the bet, like any good poker player. Your movements are measured, sometimes rigid, as if you were waiting for a signal to pounce. In truth, you're completely focused on your musings, on your system, and you pay little attention to what the others are doing. Unless they're touching the money.

You're not here to joke around.

HANDICAP: SUPERSTITIOUS

God is a wager, so they say. You're not sure it's the only wager one can always win, but you agree with the sentiment: To you, gambling is the essence of life itself. The trick is finding the sweet spot between being bold enough to challenge Lady Luck and wise enough to appease her, by following her many mysterious laws.

Only losers are helpless before the whims of fate, and anyone who dares step foot into a betting shop should be keenly aware of that. A foolish, spontaneous gambler can be amusing to watch, or even become a kind of lucky charm, but people who think they've got some sort of system are the worst. You pity these know-it-alls: They don't get the true meaning, the true poetry of gambling. You may happen to win from time to time, but if you do it with no style or charm, what is even the point?

Quirks

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched. If anyone says you'll win, or worse, congratulates you too soon, rub your lucky charm. Talking money is downright rude, you're more interested in discussing horses and jockeys.

You have a habit of gesturing as you speak and often mutter under your breath, like a witchdoctor chanting incantations. You keep coming up with new rules and fixations and enjoy sharing them, no matter how weird they sound. You pay attention to other people's mannerisms, which makes you stare at them, often making them rather uneasy.