



The Perfect Bet: How Science and Math Are Taking the Luck Out of Gambling

By Adam Kucharski

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For the past 500 years, gamblers-led by mathematicians and scientists-have been trying to figure out how to pull the rug out from under Lady Luck. In *The Perfect Bet*, mathematician and award-winning writer Adam Kucharski tells the astonishing story of how the experts have succeeded, revolutionizing mathematics and science in the process. The house can seem unbeatable. Kucharski shows us just why it isn't. Even better, he demonstrates how the search for the perfect bet has been crucial for the scientific pursuit of a better world.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *The Perfect Bet*:

“An elegant and amusing account...Anyone planning to enter a casino or place an online bet would be advised to keep this book handy.”

—*Wall Street Journal*

“[*THE PERFECT BET* is] terrific: beautifully written, solidly researched and full of surprises. It's also practical. Even if you don't spend time at Las Vegas you'll be surprised by the clarity it will bring to your day.”

—*New York Times* Numberplay blog

“Kucharski delivers a fascinating read.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“A lucid yet sophisticated look at the mathematics of probability as it's played out on gaming tables, arenas, and fields... gamblers and math buffs alike will enjoy it for its smart approach to real-world problems.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Kucharski does a remarkable job of telling the story of how gambling has influenced science and science has influenced gambling. He manages to make it a good read while providing a scholarly underpinning.”

—**J. Doyne Farmer, Director of the Complexity Economics program at the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School**

From the Back Cover

There is one thing about gambling that everyone knows: the house always wins. Lotteries are set up to guarantee profits, to the state. A craps game is a sure thing, but only if you own the table. Sometimes, however, everyone is wrong. After all, the reason that casinos ban card counters is that counting cards works. Indeed, for the past 500 years, gamblers led by mathematicians and scientists have been trying to figure out how to turn the tables on the house and pull the rug out from under Lady Luck.

In "The Perfect Bet," mathematician and award-winning writer Adam Kucharski tells the astonishing story of how the experts have done it, revolutionizing mathematics and science in the process. From Galileo to Alan Turing, betting has been scientists' playground for ideas: dice games in sixteenth-century bars gave birth to the theory of probability, and poker to game theory (mathematician John von Neumann wanted to improve his game) and to much of artificial intelligence. Kucharski gives us a collection of rogues, geniuses, and mavericks who are equally at home in a casino in Monte Carlo as investigating how to build an atomic bomb for the Manhattan Project. He features the mathematician who flipped a coin 25,000 times to see if it was fair; the college kids who gamed the Massachusetts lottery to yield millions of dollars in profit; and the horse-betting syndicates of Hong Kong's Happy Valley, who turned a wager on ponies into a multi-billion-dollar industry.

With mathematical rigor and narrative flair, Adam Kucharski reveals the tangled history of betting and science. The house can seem unbeatable. In this book, Kucharski shows us just why it isn't. Even better, he

shows us how the search for the perfect bet has been crucial in the pursuit of scientific knowledge and technological innovation."

About the Author

Adam Kucharski is an assistant professor in mathematical modeling at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and an award-winning science writer. He studied at the University of Warwick before completing a PhD in mathematics at the University of Cambridge. The winner of the 2012 Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize, Kucharski lives in London.

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Donald Bonilla:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled *The Perfect Bet: How Science and Math Are Taking the Luck Out of Gambling* can be very good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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