

"Dear Cup Week, I love you for the freakish betting wins that you give 'once a year' punters.

My Perth racing friends arrived at Flemington as usual on Melbourne Cup day 2015. This time, my regular guest Alexis brought her sister Rebecca over from WA with her. Amid the crowded and exciting atmosphere, 'Bec' seemed very quiet and certainly didn't appear to be a punter.

Nearing the big race, her attitude suddenly changed when she boldly declared that she would have a 'big Cup bet'. She told me the numbers of two horses that she had selected, insisting that her bet would be a \$40 'Box Quinella'. Immediately sensing her punting inexperience, I suggested that she include more horses, to give herself a slightly better chance of winning. She appeared clueless as to what to do, so I said, *"Look, you've picked two horses out from doing form study. Just add two more, based on your favourite names or colours. The Cup's an open race, so this is as good a method as any"*.

After the Cup was over, I asked Bec how she fared, expecting a typical hard luck story from her random 'throw away' bet. With a calm naivety, she said *"I think I got a winning horse. Can you check my ticket?"*

Stunned, I headed straight to the payout window and soon returned with her dividend of \$5,226.70. I asked her how she had decided on the Cup quinella horses. *"Oh, it was easy"*, she replied. *"I picked out two extra horses based on omens, like you suggested. My father loves live theatre like Pirates of Penzance, so I chose Prince of Penzance, and my dog is named Max, so I picked Max Dynamite"*.

I witnessed 'omen bet' greatness on this amazing day!"