**Buttercup**

The news reporters voice fills the room. As the steady voice announces the latest horse race winner, Randy’s attention was immediately drawn to the television. ‘Buttercup, the black and white spotted horse has won her fourth race in a row’ says the reporter. ‘Come and place your bets by four o’clock tomorrow before the polls close and the race begins’. Randy rushes from his living room couch and over to the sink to wash his dishes. After his dishes are done, Randy dials his friend and tells her what he heard. ‘Kelly! Kelly! I’ve been watching the horse races for weeks now, if we hurry, we can make it in time to place a bet on the winning horse’. Kelly does not need any more convincing and agreed immediately. ‘I’ll leave work early tomorrow, I can pick you up at 3:30 sharp, not a minute later.’ exclaimed Randy. After they hang up Randy raced to his room to grab a reasonable amount of money. Tomorrow in the afternoon, the old red truck pulled up at Kelly’s house. ‘Kelly! Get in the car.’ yells Randy. As the two drive to the racetrack Randy lists of the many things he’ll be able to buy, ‘A new car, a new phone, maybe even a yacht!’ he says excitably. ‘That’s only if we win this race Randy’ reminds Kelly ‘We don’t even know if we are going to win’ ‘Nonsense Kelly! I’ve been watching these races for weeks, there’s no way we’ll lose!’ says Randy as they pull up to the racetrack. They get out of the truck and head straight to where they place their bets. After they leave the betting table an announcement plays on the speakers, ‘Come and get your popcorn at booth six before the race starts in 30 minutes’. As soon as Kelly hears this announcement, she jumps off her chair to go and buy some popcorn. ‘Randy!’ she yells over the crowd, ‘Do you want any popcorn?’ ‘No thanks Kelly, I am too excited for the race.’ Randy replies, his knee bouncing up and down. Kelly took longer than expected and arrived back at their seats just before the race started. ‘Look Kelly, number four, that’s Buttercup!’ Randy tells Kelly, though she can barely hear him over the cheers of the crowd. The horns start playing and everybody goes quiet, then the sound of the starting pistol fill the air. The gates open and the horse are off. Everybody is cheering for their horse; however, one group of drunken men stand out among the rest, their cheers being the loudest. ‘Go number ten!’ one of them yells, ‘Go Biscuit go!’ cheers another. As the horses come up on their first turn of the track, the groups seem to split in two and the second group is forced to the back. ‘Look at that! Buttercups in the top three, we are going to win this race Kelly!’ yells Randy over the crowd of drunken people. ‘You know what Randy? I never say this, but I think you are right.’ Kelly admits. The two watch the race intensely holding their breath when Buttercup tries to take the lead. ‘And here we are folks, coming up on the final turn of the race, with Buttercup and Ivy in the lead.’ screams the announcer, ‘The finish line is right there, and…’ the announcer hesitates when he sees something on the track, ‘Oh my gosh! Buttercup takes the lead and wins the race!’ the announcer yells into the crowd. ‘This is record breaking stuff right here, nobody thought it to be possible, but Buttercup has done it, she has won her fifth race in a row! Congratulations to Buttercup and her rider’ the announcer says happily. All of this is happening while Kelly and Randy stand in shock, they won, they actually won. Finally, they seem to snap out of their trance. ‘We won! We won! We won!’ Randy yells as they celebrate their win. ‘We did it!’ says Kelly with the same enthusiasm as they ran over to the betting table. ‘We’re here to pick up our winnings for Randy Williams and Kelly Smith’ Randy says happily. The person at the table hands them their money, but somethings not right. ‘Why did we only win this’ asked Randy. ‘Well,’ says the man ‘the more you bet the more you win, and since you did not bet much, you did not win much.’ the man explains to Kelly and Randy. Randy hears this and sulks away from the table and to the truck. ‘Man! This suck, I thought we were going to be rich.’ Randy says sadly. ‘At least we actually won Randy, a bunch of people did not win’ Kelly reminds Randy. They make their way to the truck, and Randy feels discouraged the whole way home. ‘Its okay, we’ll win next time’ Kelly assures as she’s leaving the truck. Randy suddenly comes to a realisation, ‘Oh yeah! There is a next time!’. Randy wishes her a goodnight, and rushes home to find out when the next race is. The next morning Randy wakes up early to watch the morning news. ‘Last night we witnessed history, the spotted horse, Buttercup won her fifth race in a row!’ the reporter informs, ‘You can come and witness history for yourself on May 17, as Buttercup and her rider race again.’. Randy, once again filled with hope, skipped over to the telephone to call Kelly. ‘Kelly! You were right, the next race is May 17.’ Randy tells her, hoping she’ll agree to go with him. ‘Two weeks from now? I think I can go.’ Kelly said to Randy, ‘But just so you know, I am not going to bet money this time, I just want to enjoy the race’ ‘Do not worry, I’ll be betting enough for the both of us.’ Randy announces to her. They hang up and Randy continues his day, thinking about the possibilities if he wins. The morning of the race came sooner than expected and excitement started to fill the air. Randy confidently walks into the bank ready to withdraw an insane amount of money. Randy receives what he wanted and is ready to walk out of the bank when a voice stops him. ‘Not that it’s any of my business,’ a curious voice asks, ‘but that’s an awful lot of money to just be carrying around town, and I just could not help but wonder, what is it you plan on doing?’ Randy turns around and identified that the voice was indeed the bank teller. ‘Well,’ Randy starts of, ‘You know the horse all over the news? I am going to bet on her tonight, there’s no way I’ll lose. Next time you see me, I will be a rich man!’ he finishes confidently, and with that, Randy struts out of the bank too his truck. It is around 3:30 in the afternoon when Kelly hears the familiar rattle of the old red truck outside her house. Quickly, she rushes outside and into the truck. When she sits down, she cannot help but noticed the large duffel bag sitting in between her and Randy. ‘Randy, what’s in the bag?’ Kelly asks, ‘It’s the money I am going to bet tonight.’ Randy replies. Kelly’s mouth hangs open in shock, ‘Are you really sure that’s a good idea? I’ve seen people lose millions betting this way.’. ‘I am sure Kelly, I’ve been studying these races for months now, I am 99% confident that I am going to win.’ Randy says unfazed. ‘What about that one percent Randy?’ Kelly questions, ‘99 to 1? Never going to happen Kelly.’. Kelly looks dejected and continues to look ahead until they reach the racetrack. Randy hops out of the truck with a skip in his step while Kelly slowly steps out of the vehicle. ‘I am going to the betting table; I’ll meet you at the seats in a couple minutes.’ Randy says while making his way to the table already. Kelly sighs as she wandered to their seats. Eventually, Randy arrives at their seats and sits next to Kelly ‘How did it go?’ she asks, ‘The man at the table thinks I have a really good chance.’ Randy replies with a big smile on his face. Anxiously, they sit and wait for the race to start. The crowd quiets down as the announcer takes his place by the microphone. ‘Welcome all! The race will start in five minutes, so settle down.’ the announcer yells into the microphone. ‘Are you ready Kelly? This is the last time you’ll ever see me as a poor man! I am going to be rich!’ Randy reminds Kelly while she rolls her eyes. Kelly goes to say something, but the sound of the starting pistol fills the air. ‘And their off! I can already tell you what an exciting race it is!’ the announcer declares. The horses once again split into two groups with Buttercup in the lead. Randy and Kelly cheer for Buttercup, the only sound they hear are their own screams of joy. ‘Their coming around the second corner with Buttercup in the lead, the others are right on her tail.’ screams the announcer. ‘This is it Kelly!’ Randy yells, but as soon as the words leave his mouth, something happens. ‘Uh oh! What’s that? It looks like Buttercup is limping. That is not good for her at all.’ Says the announcer. As Buttercup starts falling farther and farther behind, Randy begins to panic. ‘This is not good Kelly, not good at all.’ Randy says while shaking. ‘I told you Randy. It’s never good to bet so much on something, and now you might lose it all.’ Kelly tells him as the voice of reason. The end of the race is near, and Buttercup has fallen near the back of the second group. As the horse’s cross over the finish line, Randy starts to sob. ‘Congratulations to Sugar Cube and his rider for winning the race. It was truly an exciting race, a terrible loss for Buttercup indeed. We have vets checking her over now.’ The announcer finishes. Randy rushes over to the betting table, demanding his money back. ‘Sorry son, you placed the bet, now you got to live with the consequences.’ The man says calmly. Randy cries and cries as Kelly drags him back to the truck. ‘It’s your own fault Randy.’ Kelly says to him, ‘You brought this upon yourself.’. Randy does not stop crying the entire way to Kelly’s house. ‘I hope you learned your lesson, Randy.’ Kelly says, ‘Don’t worry, I did.’ Randy assured her. Kelly leaves and as Randy is driving home, he realizes that Kelly was right all along. ‘I’ll be sure to listen to her next time.’ He speaks to himself. He continues his way home, feeling slightly better.