

DEAN

I can't believe you're actually considering this as a serious proposition. I thought it was just a one night drunken experiment.

ADAM

Come on, mate, I've got to do something! Look at me - I'm an Administrative Assistant at a medium sized paper merchants. At least at your place you've graduated to Accounts Assistant whereas I'm forever going to be known as 'Admin Adam'. Yes, I know that fifty pounds-worth of winnings is not the whole world and would probably only amount to me taking Tanya out for a nice meal before retiring to the flat to make that baby she's wanting. But if it works once, it can work again. In nineteen and a half years I'll be forty - I somehow need to make some serious money before then!

Dean stares hard at Adam for a few seconds, looking as though he's calculating various things in his brain.

THE SPARE / OLD MAN

(to both of them)

I once knew a chap who thought he'd cracked a sure-fire strategy for playing on the roulette wheel.

DEAN

(not really interested)

Oh yeah? And did he?

THE SPARE / OLD MAN

(serious, points finger at Dean)

He figured that he would only ever bet on red because sooner or later red would come up on a spin.

DEAN

Which it will, though you might lose some or all your money waiting for it come up.

THE SPARE / OLD MAN

(shakes finger aggressively)

But it didn't. Not once.

ADAM

How long did he play for?

THE SPARE / OLD MAN

His whole life.

ADAM

(disbelieving)

Shut up!

THE SPARE / OLD MAN

Well, I mean he didn't play every single minute of his life, he took breaks from the table, sometimes long ones, sometimes years, and he came back when he had some more money and was ready to take another crack. But he never saw red, not on any spin. And that's what you need to remember - it can happen that way.

(sits back, triumphant at
having made his point)

ADAM

I don't believe it - every time he played roulette he always bet red and black only ever came up and then he died?

Old man nods solemnly.

ADAM

But by that rationale there must be someone who only ever bet black, and black only ever came up, and therefore made a tonne of money, right?

Old man looks to the ceiling,
considering it.

THE SPARE / OLD MAN

That's a rather unlikely turn of events.

ADAM

I see, so it's realistic for someone to lose every time, but not for someone to win continuously? Why is that? Why does the bad version always have to be the real version?

DEAN

(to Old Man)

What happened to this chum of yours?

The old man shrugs.

DEAN

I suggest he died frustrated and in poverty, possibly screaming the words "bastard red" with his dying breath.