

**PARLAY**

Written by

Don Bastida

92 Vintage  
Irvine, CA 92620  
714.309.8722  
donbastida@gmail.com

A PARLAY IS A SINGLE BET THAT LINKS TOGETHER TWO OR MORE WAGERS AND IS DEPENDENT ON ALL OF THOSE WAGERS WINNING. THE BENEFIT OF THE PARLAY IS THAT THERE ARE MUCH HIGHER PAYOFFS THAN PLACING EACH INDIVIDUAL BET SEPARATELY SINCE THE DIFFICULTY OF HITTING IT IS MUCH HIGHER.

IF ANY OF THE BETS IN THE PARLAY LOSES, THE ENTIRE PARLAY  
LOSES.

- WIKIPEDIA

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT

A man's face, PERSPIRING heavily.

A black gloved hand CRASHES across his face.

Pull back to reveal, he's handcuffed to a bar that hangs from the ceiling.

A man appears from the shadows, a thug. Then another.

The handcuffed man takes another blow to the face, SPINNING him around. Helpless.

THUG

Where's the money?

HANDCUFFED MAN

(straining)

I don't have it.

Another PUNCH. This one to the stomach.

HANDCUFFED MAN (CONT'D)

Ooooooof.

(he coughs to the point of spitting)

THUG

I'm not going to ask you again. We know you have the money, but that's not why we're here. Just tell us how you did it.

THUG 2

Yeah, tell us how you did it and we'll let you go.

HANDCUFFED MAN

I just got ... lucky.

(he takes another blow to the face)

I just ...

THUG

I'm gettin' tired of slapping you around, pal. HOW DID YOU DO IT?

The Thug hits him again.

HANDCUFFED MAN

It was ...

(he exhales deep, he knows that he's defeated)

(MORE)

HANDCUFFED MAN (CONT'D)  
I ... I used a computer program to  
beat the system.

THUG  
A computer system? No system can  
do that?

HANDCUFFED MAN  
(hurt and frightened)  
Look, I swear. It was a computer  
program, it's on my computer at  
work. I can get it for you.

THUG 2  
(approaching the  
handcuffed man and  
pulling out a gun)  
Oh, you don't have to do that for  
us, we'll get it ourselves.

BLAM! A gunshot rings out as we --

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Terra Linda High School, SPARKLING new buildings, an art  
gallery, a stadium-seating theatre. High-end cars fill the  
school parking lot, the football field is immaculate.

This is a school with lots of money.

TEACHER (O.C.)  
The law of cosines states that C  
squared is equal to A squared plus  
B squared minus 2 A B cosine Y

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

We enter a cavernous amphitheater-style classroom.

A multiple-panel, wall-to-wall, floor to ceiling, chalkboard  
is covered with mathematical equations.

The Teacher, MR. RINALDI 40's, short in a badly fitting suit,  
with salt and pepper, slicked-back hair and a pencil-thin  
Clark Gable mustache SCRAPES chalk on the board as he  
continues.

MR. RINALDI  
 Whereas  $Y$  denotes the angle  
 contained between sides and lengths  
 of  $A$  and  $B$  ...

The classroom is full of high school students, some pay attention and take notes, some pass notes, boys and girls flirting.

MR. RINALDI (CONT'D)  
 ... and opposite the side of length  
 $C$ . By changing which legs of the  
 triangles play the roles of  $A$ ,  $B$   
 and  $C$  in the original formula ...

Mr. Rinaldi stops talking and looks around at the class.

The look of fear comes over the faces of most of the students, at least the ones who are paying attention.

MR. RINALDI (CONT'D)  
 ... what formula's will also state  
 the law of cosines? Miss Jones?

Silence fills the room.

MISS JONES  
 (shaking)  
 $A$  plus  $B$  equals...

MR. RINALDI  
 (interrupting)  
 WRONG! Mr. Peterson?

MR. PERTERSON  
 $A$  equals  $B$  squared...

MR. RINALDI  
 (interrupting)  
 WRONG! Tell us Mr. Brando.

Silence.

CAL BRANDO (18) gawky and slim with tussled hair, and good looking in a geeky sort of way, sits at his desk, math book open but it's hiding his iPad, which we see is scrolling through the ESPN app.

MR. RINALDI (CONT'D)  
 MR. BRANDO!

Cal looks up STARTLED. Quickly glancing at the board he BLURTS out.

CAL

A squared equals B squared plus C squared minus 2 B C cosine A, or B squared equals A squared plus B Squ...

MR. RINALDI

That's enough Mr. Brando.

Mr. Rinaldi turns back to the board, Cal goes back to his iPad.

MR. RINALDI (CONT'D)

Consider a triangle with the sides of length A, B and C ...

The pretty young girl sitting next to Cal leans into him.

STUDENT

(whispering)

How did you know that?

CAL

I don't know, I guess one person's constant is another person's variable.

Cal laughs nervously, the girl laughs too, but more at him than with him.

BRRRRRRRRRRRING! The bell RINGS and students NOISILY rush out.

MR. RINALDI

Remember, your team statistical hypothesis testing study's are due next week. Your final grade depends on it.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Cal walks through the quad, occasionally being SLAPPED on the back or PLUNKED on the head by the "cool" dumb jocks with taunts of "Geek" or "dork."

Cal approaches two students, WALLY and STEPHEN. Both are wearing Geek Squad shirts, complete with name badges and are talking on their blue-tooth devices.

CAL

Do you have to advertise your geekdom?

WALLY  
 (sarcastically laughs)  
 Ha, ha. We have to go to work  
 after school.

STEPHEN  
 (into his blue-tooth)  
 I'll call you back.  
 (to Cal)  
 Yeah, where's your shirt, you're  
 working this afternoon, too.

WALLY  
 HEY! LOOK OUT!

Cal is almost run over by a goth-looking girl on a beaten-up  
 Vespa. This is SELENE (18).

CAL  
 Hi Selene! Pimp ride.

WALLY  
 That's not co ...

Wally is cut off by the revving of Selene's engine.

SELENE  
 This'll be quick, I don't want  
 anyone to see me hanging around in  
 the geek zone. We have to finish  
 our statistical analysis project  
 for Rinaldi. How far along are  
 you?

CAL  
 I'm close to done, there's still  
 one part I'm having trouble with.

SELENE  
 E-mail me what you have and I'll  
 merge it with mine. Gotta fly.

Selene speeds off

CAL  
 Bye Selene ...

WALLY  
 (mocking)  
 Bye Seleeeeeene.

CAL  
 She's hot.



STEPHEN

Yeah? What is she doing talking to you then?

CAL

Rinaldi assigned us partners for our final project. I got Selene.

WALLY

Well, that explains why she'd talk to you.

Cal flips open his iPad and emails Selene the project.

STEPHEN

What'd you two come up with?

CAL

It's a statistical analysis of football. Tangibles, offense, defense, tendencies, stuff like that.

WALLY

Selene likes football?

CAL

Yeah. Turns out, she's a Raiders fan.

WALLY

F'n Raiders. The way she dresses though, I can see it.

CUT TO:

INT. BEST BUY - DAY

Cal, Stephen and Wally in their geek squad shirts are at work. Cal has a computer open with its guts all over the place, Stephen and Wally stand around, doing nothing, talking.

STEPHEN

So it analyzes football stats?

CAL

Hand me that power supply, will you? Thanks. Yeah, but it can pick games. Like the actual score of a game that hasn't been played yet. I can show you.

WALLY

Going into the casino business?

CAL

It's just a school project.

Selene stands at the counter watching the trio.

SELENE

Wow, you even have your own geek playpen.

CAL

Hi Sel...

SELENE

Look, I tried to run the program and it's not working right.

CAL

I know, that's the problem I was having. There's something missing.

SELENE

Oooo, is that a Slim Jim?

WALLY

No, he's just happy to see you.

Selene RIPS it out of Stephen's hand and takes a bite.

SELENE

Broma theon. We need to work on this tonight. What time are you off work?

CAL

You're Greek?

SELENE

So.

CAL

So, then you're named after Selene the Goddess of the Moon?

SELENE

That's pretty good. Most people don't get that. They think I'm named after the singer.

CAL

Which one? Amor Prohibido or the ship sunk?

SELENE

The ship sunk, the other one is  
Selen-UH.

CAL

Right. After I finish this, I have  
a home repair, then I'm done.

EXT. MR. RINALDI'S HOUSE - DAY

Cal, in Geek Squad uniform, white short sleeve button-up  
shirt, clip on black tie, black highwater pants, black shoes  
with white socks, RINGS the door bell.

Mr. Rinaldi opens the door.

MR. RINALDI

Mr. Brando. I didn't know you  
worked for Geek Squad? But ... it  
makes sense, come on in.

INT. MR. RINALDI'S HOUSE - DAY

Cal looks at the boxes and equipment scattered around the  
living room.

MR. RINALDI

I've got most of it set up, but I  
can't get the surround sound to  
work properly.

CAL

OK, let me take a look at the  
wiring. What are you setting it  
for, movies?

MR. RINALDI

No, football. I like having the  
ambient stadium sound while I'm  
watching football on the weekends.

CAL

Are you a football fan, Mr.  
Rinaldi? I didn't know that.

MR. RINALDI

Oh yeah. Been a 49er fan since  
Brodie was the quarterback. How's  
your statistical hypothesis study  
coming along?

CAL

We're almost done, I think. Selene and I are getting together tonight, we still have one bug, but we'll get it figured out. Want to see it?

MR. RINALDI

I can wait until Monday. What is it about?

CAL

It's about football. We created a probability for picking the winners of NFL games.

MR. RINALDI

Really?

CAL

Last weekend it picked 7 out of 13 correctly.

MR. RINALDI

You know what Cal, I am interested. Why don't you show me?

Cal pulls out his iPad and fires up the program.

CAL

It's an observational study using the Bayesian approach

MR. RINALDI

(studying closely)  
Uh-huh.

CAL

Then a base rejection on the posterior probability.

MR. RINALDI

And what went wrong?

CAL

I don't know. We think it's the weather.

MR. RINALDI

Like the Denver game with all the snow?