

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE A GAMBLE ON THIS

鞅與停時：賭徒機率概論

In a world where gambling equals resource allocation, the rule-makers hold all the cards, enjoying easy access to everything while those unable to enter the game struggle to make ends meet. Two second-class citizens skilled at gambling join forces to change the playing field, despite the low chance of success...

In this sci-fi story set in the future, a superpowered alien race called the Celestials has conquered humanity and AI. The new alien overlords have enacted a supreme gambling law, which requires all races to resolve everything by gambling. Before long, humans and AI humanoids, inferior to the Celestials in intelligence and physical ability, have become second-class citizens, unable to afford food or daily necessities, much less medical care or body modification.

Seventeen-year-old Fides, a human prodigy with exceptional gambling skills, lives a simple life, gambling in order to repay the slum orphanage that raised him. After he meets the AI humanoid Haller, he develops a grander goal: to overthrow the city's seven Celestial rulers and prevent a Celestial plot to exterminate both humanity and AI.

With the assistance of a Celestial female idol, their plan initially proceeds smoothly, but their enemies quickly discover their intentions and launch a counterattack. The human-AI duo's only choice is to face the challenge head on and take a gamble on fighting back. If they lose, they risk not only their newly won chips and their own lives, but also the lives of those they hold dear...

This book combines the thrill of the Japanese manga *Kakegurui – Compulsive Gambler* with the humanistic concerns of a dystopian



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novel. It also features a single-volume conclusion – a rarity in light novels. This is a lighthearted, entertaining read that also offers serious readers an opportunity to discover new perspectives on the real world.

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Tian Qin holds a degree in Japanese. He is the author of the *I Don't Want to Go to School* series and *Welcome to Join the Death Idol Trial Show Hosted by God*.