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## 54 Excuses

by D.R. Smith

“...Hope so, but it’s only her second start. She should have won her debut, but she stumbled out the gate. She went to her knees and had too many lengths to make up, but I like her chances this time.”

...I spotted a framed parchment, its alluring title, **54 EXCUSES** drew me closer. I couldn’t hide my guilt-ridden grin when reading the zany document.

“...Charlie glanced at his crestfallen owners. ‘As I see things right *now*? Uh, I guess you could say [54] he just didn’t run his race today.’

“... my producer would probably like to make a movie out of that one, but the Marx Brothers are dead... you’ve just proved my point:”