

Winning Big
By Cameron Petti

PAGE 1 - 6 PANELS

Panel 1: The exterior of a generic, familiar gas station, with only a single car that is pulling up into one of the parking spots near the front of the building.

1. STU (FROM INSIDE THE CAR):
Hahaha! Yes!

2. STU (FROM INSIDE THE CAR):
Yes! Yes! Yes!

Panel 2: An interior shot of the station, and of AHMED, the cashier, who is leaning over the front counter, bored out of his mind as he scrolls through social media on his phone. While the counter is next to the cash register, the shot is specifically framed so that we only see the top part of the face of the register that has a sign that says "Lotto Winners! This Could Be You! Play Today!" In later, wider shots, we can see that there are a bunch of different Polaroids tacked onto the register underneath the sign, but we are only ever able to read the sign, not any details of the photos until the last reveal.

Panel 3: STU, a big, boisterous Texan, has suddenly burst through the doorway, beaming, absolutely ecstatic. Ahmed is taken completely by surprise.

1. STU
Hey!

2. STU
You cash lotto tickets, right?

3. AHMED
Uh, sur--

Panel 4: Stu is now at the counter, looking absolutely crazed in his excitement.

1. STU
--Of course you do! Yore a gas station, ain't ya!? What else do ya do BUT cash in lottos!?

2. AHMED:
Uh, well, gas, but--

3. STU:
Well I...

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Panel 5: Stu's hand, slamming a lotto ticket down on the counter.

1. SFX:
SLAM!

Panel 6: Tight in on Stu's face, grinning wildly.

1. STU:
...Have a lotto ticket to cash in.

PAGE 2 - 6 PANELS

Panel 1: Ahmed now has the ticket in his hands, and is looking at it as Stu stares at Ahmed.

1. STU
Take uh look!

2. AHMED:
Oh wow, this is a Maxi-

3. STU:
Yep! A **MaxiMillion** ticket!

Panel 2: Tighter in on Ahmed, looking at the card in moderately impressed.

1. AHMED:
That means, you just won-

Panel 3: Tight in on Stu, who is shouting out to the heavens.

1. STU
SEVENTY FIVE **MILLION DOLLARS!**

2. STU
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

Panel 4: Ahmed is at computer for the lotto system, punching in information from the ticket into the machine as Stu starts looking around the store, lost in thought.

1. AHMED:
Obviously sir, we don't have the seventy five million *here* in the store, but I can put you in the system and-

2. STU
Sure, sure. Of course.

3. STU:
Man, what am I gonna do with all that money?

Panel 5: Ahmed is still working away, and Stu has found himself looking absently at a spinner rack of potato chips.

1. STU
Bitchin' ride, sick house, big ass pool in the back...

2. STU
I could....

3. STU:
....I could do anything I want....

4. STU:
....I could...

Panel 6: Stu has knocked over the spinner rack, spilling the chips everywhere. Ahmed is looking up at him and calling to him, when Stu has his head kicked back in laughter.

1. AHMED:
Hey!

2. STU
Hahahahaha! Don't worry kid!

3. STU:
I'll pay for it!

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Panel 1: Ahmed is handing the ticket back to Stu.

1. AHMED:

Alright, the ticket has been put into the system, and the lottery board has been notifi--

2. STU

Thanks kid! Yore the best!

3. STU:

I'll make sure ya get a big tip!

Panel 2: Stu is staring down at his ticket as Ahmed is pulling out an old Polaroid camera

1. STU

Heck, I might just buy this whole dang place! Make ya the CEO!

2. AHMED:

That's very generous sir, thank you. Um, would you mind if I took a pic--

3. STU:

A picture!? Sure!

Panel 3: Stu has stepped back and is striking a pose, flashing a big, cheesy smile, with one hand on his hip, triumphantly, the other brandishing the ticket to towards the camera. Ahmed is looking through the viewfinder at him.

1. AHMED:

We always like to take a picture of the winners who claim their prizes her--

2. STU

WAIT!

Panel 4: Same as panel 3, but now the hand on Stu's hip has transferred to a "flashing the guns" bicep pose, as Stu kisses his not-so-bulging muscle.

1. STU

Ok. Go ahead.

Panel 5: Same Panel, but with a flash of the camera on Stu.

1. SFX:

FLASH!

2. SFX:

Wrrrrrrr.

Panel 6: Ahmed is holding the camera in one hand, as he looks at the freshly taken Polaroid in the other. Stu has crossed his arms in smugness as he looks down at the picture too.

1. AHMED:

I think that's a good one.

2. STU

Course it is! Ha!

3. STU:

Hey, when did ya say those lotto guys were gonna be here?

4. AHMED:

Uh...

PAGE 4 - PANELS

Panel 1: A police officer in SWAT gear has kicked the door open. Behind him, there are all sorts of different officers and armored vehicles. Ahmed is unaffected, as if this is an everyday occurrence. Stu, however, has jumped back, away from the door, in complete shock and horror.

1. SFX:
WHAM!

2. SWAT MAN:
EVERYBODY FREEZE! DON'T YOU MOVE!

Panel 2: SWAT team have flanked the door as two MEN IN BLACK with sunglasses and ear pieces, the works, have stepped in the doorway. Stu is still in absolute shock. Ahmed watches, still unaffected.

1. MAN IN BLACK:
Stewart Brand?

2. STU
Uh, uh, uh, my friends call me, uh, Stu-

3. MAN IN BLACK:
Stewart Brand, with the purchase and redemption of that lottery ticket, you are in violation of United Temporal Law code 3567 and are hereby charged with the crime of time traveling for personal gain, a direct violation of the 2078 treaty of Guansahloops. Please, come quietly. We don't want to fight you.

Panel 3: In the background, two men in SWAT gear escort a kicking and screaming Stu out of the store as the other MAN IN BLACK stop to talk to Ahmed.

1. STU
I'm innocent! I swear! Ya guys gotta believe me!

2. MAN IN BLACK:
Thank you for the tip. We got here as fast as the 4th dimension could bring us.

2. AHMED:
No problem officer, glad to help.

Panel 4: Top down on the counter as Ahmed is finishing writing "Stu Brand" on the bottom of the Polaroid of Stu with a marker.

1. AHMED:
Hey, quick question? Do you know why they always fall for it? I mean, it's pretty obvious, you know? Like, how do they not see the trap?

Panel 5: Ahmed is now in front of the counter, standing in front of the register, working on something unseen by the audience. THE MAN IN BLACK stands alongside him.

1. MAN IN BLACK:
They never do.

2. AHMED:
But the statistically chance of *actually* winning the lottery? It's so crazy that it'd **have** to be a sting operation, right?

Panel 6: Tight in on the front of the cash register as Ahmed's elbow is leaving the frame, as Ahmed goes back to his post. On the front of the register, Ahmed has added the picture of Stu posing with his ticket in with the rest of the pictures, which now that we can see closely, reveals that it's all sorts of people holding up their tickets, but they're all sorts of different time travelers, all with their various, fantastical names written on the bottom as Stu's is. There's an 80s-future person, a steampunk figure, maybe a robot, like someone from a historical time period, like a samurai or a pirate. Just all sorts of zany figures.

1. AHMED (OP):
You'd think that you'd have to actually be **smart** to be a time traveler.

2. MAN IN BLACK (OP):
Guess not.