

The Rise of a Master: It Starts With Rejection

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Xena couldn't believe her eyes. Ivan had gone out to welcome the miracle doctor, and there was no way the Cameron family would get something so important wrong. Didn't this mean that Felix was the miracle doctor?

How could that be? Felix was so young, and the legends about the miracle doctor had already been around for decades. The timeline didn't match up.

Winston was similarly confused. Who the hell was this guy that Ivan had brought in? Based on his looks alone, he couldn't be the miracle doctor.

Felix didn't expect to see Xena around. He frowned when he saw her. "Why are there outsiders around?"

Ivan didn't dare say anything-he knew he was bound to upset someone, no matter what he said. More importantly, he couldn't afford to offend any of the people present.

Having outsiders around after summoning the miracle doctor with the Miracle Card was against the rules. Xander had been present at the Kinsley residence, but that was fine because he was also a healer.

"An outsider?" Xena was already upset to see Felix. His words only set her alight. "You're just afraid of me.

sleeve, exposing you for the fraud you are, aren't you? I have to admit that you've got quite a few tricks up your though.

"I thought you'd gotten a proper job at Luxe Dining, but it looks like you've ultimately decided to become a conman. You even have the nerve to pretend to be the miracle doctor! Do you have the skills for that?" Winston hurriedly turned to her. "Do you know him, milady?"

"I wouldn't say that. I've met him before and only know that he's an average doctor from a tiny clinic in the countryside," Xena said, her face devoid of emotion.

"The Cameron family is considered reputable in Avesburgh, and it's rather ridiculous that you haven't seen through his schemes."

With that, she got into the car and left. She'd been filled with hope before this, but all she'd gotten was Felix, the worthless piece of trash who didn't know his place. How could she possibly linger?

As for how Felix had managed to trick Winston and where he'd found the nerve to forge the Miracle Card, those weren't things she cared about. As Dragonia's first goddess of war, her time was precious. She couldn't continue wasting it there with them. Once she was gone, Winston's expression turned ugly. "How could you get something so simple wrong, you scoundrel? How could you pick up the wrong person? Have you lost all your brain cells?"

He didn't pick on Felix because he knew the Miracle Card's secret. He only thought Ivan had gotten the wrong

person.

This time, however, Ivan didn't back down in the face of Winston's fury. "I'm positive I didn't get the wrong guy, Dad. Felix is here on the miracle doctor's behalf, and he can cure Mom's legs"

Ivan was about to say something else when Felix approached him. "Where's the Miracle Card?"

For some reason, Ivan felt pressured as he looked into Felix's eyes. He found it ridiculous. One needed time and experience to form a domineering and commanding presence-it wasn't something that would appear overnight.

No matter how powerful or influential, none of the sons of affluent families had made him feel like this before. Ultimately, he just pulled out the Miracle Card.

"There we go. Now, take me to the patient," Felix said.

Ivan kept shooting looks at Winston, and Felix sounded so confident. Winston didn't say anything else about his Identity. "Come with me."

He would allow Felix to check on Cheryl. If Felix could cure her, Winston would give him everything he wanted. But if he couldn't, Winston would show him the consequences of fooling the Cameron family. Meanwhile, Belle sat in the car, looking guilty. "I'm sorry for giving you the wrong information, milady. Please punish me."

Xena waved a hand. "It's fine. Having some news is better than nothing at all. It might've been a wasted trip, but at least I've gotten to see what Felix's true colors are."

She snorted. "How ridiculous. I suppose he's only using his cover as a small-town doctor to go around scamming people." 1

The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. How could Curtis have arranged for her to marry

rv someone like Felix? I was bad enough that he didn't have any redeeming qualities. He had to be a conman, too!

She was already being kind and holding herself back because of their so-called engagement. Otherwise, she would've had him arrested and thrown behind bars!

'So that was Felix Zeller, milady? Should I do something to put him in his place?" Belle asked.

Xena hesitated before rejecting her suggestion, saying, "No, it's fine. People like him will eventually realize what the reality is like. Besides, I don't have any plans to marry just yet. Just leave him to his devices." Belle understood that.

Xena was a proud woman with many achievements under her belt, and no man had yet to catch her eye. How could she possibly want to settle down and marry someone?

Back at the Cameron residence, Felix saw Cheryl, where she lay in bed. A trace of confusion flashed in her eyes when she saw him, but she soon regained her composure.

Perhaps to every patient, everything and every one was worth giving a shot. Who knew? Maybe something would work.

"Felix, please take a look at my mother's legs," Ivan said.

Felix checked Cheryl's pulse before feeling her legs for a while. Then, he stood up.

"Can you treat her?" Winston was still doubtful of Felix's abilities. He'd even arranged for people to capture the latter once he revealed his true colors.

Felix glanced at Ivan before saying, "Your mother isn't sick. Someone caused her legs to end up like this."

What? Cheryl wasn't sick?

Before Winston could say anything, Felix turned back to Cheryl. "Before you lost the feeling in your legs, did you feel any pain? It should've been faint and quick, almost as if you'd imagined it." Cheryl's eyes widened. "How did you know that? I genuinely thought I'd imagined the feeling."

Seeing that Felix had guessed correctly without Ivan and Winston even knowing about this, they couldn't help feeling hopeful.

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Winston immediately lowered his head respectfully. "Please forgive my earlier disrespect, sir. I'm willing to do anything and pay any price as long as you can get my wife back on her feet!"

Felix nodded. It looked like Winston genuinely cared for Cheryl. He said, "That won't be necessary. The Miracle Card is enough. Without that, I wouldn't even be here.

"Before we get into anything else, I should probably let you know what the situation is like. You should be more worried about the things I'm about to say, rather than just curing your wife's legs." pointed at Cheryl's legs and said, "Your family is a reputable one, so you should've seen some things in your lives.

"The pr

actice of martial arts has been around for centuries, and when we refer to someone as a martial arts practitioner, we normally mean people who have only learned martial arts informally.

"Once they're formally introduced to martial arts, they can be called martial artists. And what's happened to your mother now is that a martial arts master has sealed her meridians. That's why she's lost the feeling in her legs." Ivan looked lost at his words, but Winston seemed to think of something

Felix continued, "I'm going to start treating her now."

It was the Cameron family's business to discern which martial arts master they'd offended. Felix wasn't going to stick his nose into their issues.

He was about to start treating Cheryl when the butler ran into the room. "Mr. Winston, Lady Summers is back. She wants you to show her the Miracle Card."

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Before this, Winston would've demanded Felix return the Miracle Card to him so he could show it to Xena. Now, however, things were different. Felix had yet to start treating; Cheryl, but he'd already diagnosed what'd happened.

Even if Ivan didn't understand what Felix meant, Winston did. He knew that the Cameron family did indeed have a hidden foe who was a martial arts master. A few years ago, they'd received threats from this person, but Winston hadn't expected Cheryl to be the one to suffer from it.

Naturally, he believed Felix was the real deal. He said hesitantly, "Mr. Zeller, what do you..."

"Tell her that I've already taken back the Miracle Card and left. Or if you feel like you've been put in a tough spot, you can just ignore her," Felix said,

After that, he pulled out two silver needles. This time, the acupuncture was only a helpful tool. What would really do the work here was his skills.

As he started treating Cheryl, the butler stood by, feeling like he was between a rock and a hard place. He couldn't leave without a response, but he couldn't just demand an answer. After all, Xena was the one waiting outside. He didn't dare act rashly.

"I'll speak to her." Left with no choice, Winston could only head out there to speak to Xena. The others weren't even worthy of attending to her.

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"Alright. Try moving your toe." Just then, Felix removed the silver needles.

Cheryl no longer looked like she'd done before, and she moved two of her toes with everyone watching.

"Oh, my God!" She was so agitated that she couldn't say anything, and Winston and Ivan were flabbergasted.

Was that even considered a treatment? The whole thing had taken less than two minutes. It was amazing.

"Remember to only try getting out of bed to walk around in the afternoon tomorrow. I've treated your meridians and muscles, but it's been too long since you've used them, so you need to take things slow,

"It'll take about two weeks for you to start walking normally without anyone holding you up," Felix said.

Now that he'd proven himself by making Cheryl's toes move, no one dared to doubt his abilities.

"Thank you! Thank you so much!"

"Thank you, Felix!" Ivan cried. legs!

Felix was already turning to leave as the Camerons thanked him. He said, "I already told you that I only came because of the Miracle Card. You don't need to thank me. I'm leaving "

The long corridor led to a spacious corridor, and Felix naturally saw Xena seated on the couch when he exited the corridor. However, they didn't even look at each other, let alone speak.

Almost as soon as Felix was gone, Ivan ran out as quickly as he could. He paused to greet Xena before running out of the house.

A trace of curiosity flashed in Xena's eyes. She'd seen the rosiness in Ivan's cheeks and the happiness he hadn't been able to conceal. It was the complete opposite of how he'd been just moments ago. She asked Winston, "Has something good happened?" He laughed. "Nothing gets past you, Lady Summers. My wife has been cured, and I couldn't be happier."

Cured?

+25 BOTES

Xena frowned. "Did the actual miracle doctor appear in the brief period I was gone, treat your wife, and leave?"

The speed at which that had happened was unimaginable. One wouldn't even have had time to eat in such a short period, let alone treat a patient. How was it even possible?

"I'll be frank with you, milady. The man you saw earlier, Mr. Zeller, is the one who cured my wife," Winston said.

What? Felix?

Xena's expression shifted. If not for the fact that she knew Winston wouldn't dare lie to her, she would've upped and left in that instant. Who the hell was he trying to kid? Could a small-town doctor like Felix really treat such a complex condition? 1 Before coming to the Cameron residence, Belle had looked into the matter and found out that Cheryl's legs had been like that for the past few years. There was no way it was just a simple illness.

"Is he that great of a doctor?" Xena asked.

One had to speak nothing but the truth to Xena, and it was true that Winston didn't have the nerve to lie to her. And so, he said truthfully, "I'm not too sure about that. Mr. Zeller just said that Cheryl wasn't actually sick. "He said her legs' meridians were sealed by a martial arts master back in the day, leading to her losing feeling in them. Mr. Zeller has fixed it now."

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Xena relaxed in that Instant. She'd thought Felix was secretly some powerful medical practitioner if that were the case, she wouldn't have known how to feel about the situation. Now, the secret was out.

She herself was a martial arts master, so she understood what Winston meant. "So, that's what it's like. You have taken the wrong path over the years, so it's no wonder your wife hasn't gotten better. Indeed, that's not something a doctor can cure. Only martial artists can do it.

Winston went along with her and said, "Yes, exactly. I didn't expect Mr. Zeller to be a martial arts master at such a young age."

Her gaze turned disdainful. "A master?"

How could ordinary people understand the world of martial arts? Perhaps Felix had actually reached the level of a martial artist, but how powerful could he be?

In her eyes, he'd only gone from being a small-town doctor to a martial artist who wasn't half bad. It didn't make him that much worthier.

"Where's the Miracle Card?" she asked.

"Mr. Zeller has taken it. Since Cheryl has been cured, there was no reason for me not to give it to him. Besides, you should be aware that the Miracle Card is rendered useless once the call has been made, milady," Winston said. Felix had taken the Miracle Card?

Xena stood up without another word. She felt that she now understood the situation-there was probably a tear

behind Felix that had long since understood what was wrong with Cheryl. Their ultimate goal for coming here was to get the Miracle Card.

Making a phone call didn't mean the Miracle Card was now useless. It would only be truly rendered worthless when the miracle doctor appeared, saved the patient, and took it back. That meant Felix was now in possession of a genuine Miracle Card. Some time later, a Mercedes-Benz pulled over. Felix got out before getting into a Maserati driven by Wendy. They'd agreed to head to the underground auction together and were still in time for that.

"L... Can I call you Mr. Zeller from now on?" Wendy asked tentatively. She felt beyond uneasy calling Felix by name.

"Yeah," Felix said.

Wendy was happy to hear that. "I've already informed my family to keep an eye out for the herbs you Mr. Zeller. I'll inform you immediately should I hear anything."

Felix nodded. "If you can get even one of those herbs, I'll give you this Miracle Card as compensation."

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Wendy gasped at the sight of the Miracle Card. Holy cow-how could those herbs compare to the Miracle Card? The Kinsley family could do so many things if they had the Miracle Card in their possession. "That won't do, Mr. Zeller! I-

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"We'll do exactly as I say. Now, drive. I want to get some rest."

Wendy was delighted. Things were going as Vincent had imagined. They were reaping the rewards so soon! If they were to get that Miracle Card and use it at the right time, it would be priceless! Chapter 11

After a few minutes, Felix's phone rang. The number wasn't one he recognized, and he thought it was Gerald calling to assign him more work. He answered in resignation, "What now?"

Then, the voice that rang out on the other end of the line made him roll his eyes. "Felix, it's me. Xena Summers."

He wondered why she was calling him. "I don't think there's for us to talk about."

Xena's haughty and imperious tone made another appearance. "You're right. You've taken Winston's Miracle Card, and I'm sure you haven't given it to the person secretly backing you up yet. Hand it over to me right now, and I'll consider letting you pursue me for some time."

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Felix's expression became odd. Xena was quite narcissistic wasn't she?

"You're insane."

He hung up, not caring how furious Xena would be over his response. He continued resting

He and Wendy arrived at the auction venue Sunrise Bids had set up near Avesburgh, which was at a farmhouse of sorts. They got out of the car and followed someone into the venue. It had to be said that things were much more convenient with Wendy around. The farmhouse looked old on the outside, but it was well decorated on the inside. The person who greeted them was a somewhat feminine-looking middle-aged man. "Long time no see, Ms. Kinsley."

"Long time no see. This is Mr. Zeller, the one I mentioned to you before. Mr. Zeller, this is Louie Storm, Sunrise Bids' person in charge for Avesburgh," Wendy said.

After shaking hands, Felix got down to business. "I'm sure Ms. Kinsley has already informed you of my needs. How long will it take for you guys to acquire everything?"

Louie chuckled. "I wouldn't dare guarantee anything, Mr. Zeller. All I can say is that I'll try my best. I do have good news, though one of the herbs you need, Bluesand, will be in today's auction." Oh?

Felix smiled. Now, this was a pleasant surprise. "Does this mean I have to bid in the auction like everyone

else?"

Louie nodded. "Yes, Mr. Zeller. That's our rule, so I hope you'll understand. Still, now that we've received your request, we won't put the other herbs up for auction if we do manage to find them in the future."

After all, Felix's offer was too good to be turned down. Based on the market, the items wouldn't fetch such a high price during the auction. Naturally, Louie knew what to do to make the most profit. "You can leave now. I'll deal with the auction for Bluesand myself," Felix told Wendy.

She didn't dare refute him. She wanted to follow him but knew he was the type who wouldn't change his mind once he'd made a decision. Besides, the auction house would arrange for cars to send the guests off, so she didn't need to worry about him not being able to find his way back

Felix followed an employee to a hall beneath the farmhouse. It had been decorated lavishly, which was enough to show Sunrise Bids wealth and influence. They'd probably spent an exorbitant sum building this underground auction house.

Anyone participating in the auction could choose to wear masks to conceal their identities, but they could also choose to show their faces. Naturally, Felix chose the latter. He was the miracle doctor's apprentice-why would he need to hide his face and identity? Only a few people wore masks in the auction house. It was evident that most of the people around were confident

in themselves.

Hugo sat in the row before Felix's. He was on the phone with someone since the auction had yet to officially start. "Relax, Dad. No one can take away anything that our family is interested in. Do they even have the ability to fight against us? about Wand

'And don't worry Once this illness thing is settled, I guarantee I'll win her over within a month."

Soon, the auction began. Item after item was displayed on stage, and the bidding was tense.

Felix watched without bidding on anything. He had to admit that Sunrise Bids was quite capable-It had managed to get its hands on rare, odd, yet precious items.

"Next up is our sixth item-Bluesand. It's a rare herb used in traditional medicine, and I don't think I'll need to introduce its uses. Anyone in the know would already be aware of its worth.

"The starting price is 500,000 dollars, and each bid has to be at least 100,000 dollars. Ladies and gentlemen, may start placing your bids," the host said.

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Anyone who would bid on Bluesand had to be a traditional medicine practitioner or from a company that produced pharmaceutical products. People who knew nothing about Bluesand wouldn't bother participating in the bidding, so it would be a waste of time to introduce its functions. "Two million dollars!" Hugo slowly raised his right hand, looking disdainful. He, like Felix, hadn't bid on anything else before this.

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Hugo wasn't someone in the medical field, but he needed to get Bluesand to give it to Xander. His grandfather had ordered him to do so. After all, Xander was one of Dragonia's top ten healers. It went without saying why they needed to be on good terms with him. The starting price for Bluesand was 500,000 dollars, but it had now shot up to two million dollars. It had scared off a number of people, but that didn't mean everyone backed down.

"2.3 million dollars!"

"2.7 million dollars!"

"2.9 million dollars!"

Hugo's disdain grew. He raised his hand again. "Four million dollars!"

This time, no one dared to raise the bid. It was evident that Hugo had plenty of money at his disposal and wasn't afraid of spending it. There was no point in following his bid.

"Five million dollars."

Hugo heard the voice ring out behind him, but he couldn't be bothered to see who it was.

"Six million dollars."

Some people's expressions shifted at that. Bluesand was only an herb. Was it really worth such a price?

The host was the happiest person in the room—he would receive a commission from this, after all. Based on the market rate, they would've been lucky enough to auction Bluesand off at four million dollars. He didn't expect the bids to reach a new high here. "Ten million dollars." Felix raised his bid paddle.

Hugo finally turned around to see who it was. He frowned when he saw that Felix was around his age. The latter wasn't a familiar face, so he probably wasn't from Avesburgh.

Of course, there were many people who came from afar to participate in one of Sunrise Bids' auctions. They couldn't all be from Avesburgh.

"11 million dollars," Hugo said.

To his surprise, Felix raised the bid without hesitation. The amount almost made the host faint.

"20 m

"20 million dollars!"

Damn it! Had he lost his mind?

Hugo gulped, knowing he'd met his match. If Felix could spend 20 million dollars on a silly herb, how much money did he actually have? Whatever it was, this made him remember Felix.

Naturally, since Hugo had backed out, Felix won the auction for Bluesand. In the next moment, he headed for the backstage. The rest of the items on auction meant nothing to him, so it was time for him to leave.

As he headed backstage, someone else got up. The latter headed outside, though.

Soon, Louie personally walked Felix out of the auction house and opened the car door for him. The latter was an important customer, after all. Setting aside the requests Felix had put in for the other herbs, the fact that he'd spent 20 million dollars on Bluesand was enough to prove how wealthy he was. "Have a safe trip, Mr. Zeller," Louie said.

Unbeknownst to them, a car followed Felix from a distance. There were four men in the car.

"Should we get him now?"

"Let's follow him first. We can't afford to offend Sunrise Bits."

"Fuck, the dude can spend 20 million dollars on Bluesand but doesn't have his own car? And he even has to take Sunrise Bids' car. What a fucking waste of time!"

"Cut the crap. The car will leave once the dude reaches his destination. We'll have plenty of time to make our move once he's alone. Whatever it is, we can't lose Bluesand. It's why we're here in Avesburgh in the first place." "You're right!"

Felix was almost reaching Avesburgh's city center when his phone rang again. Once again, it was Xena. He wanted to reject the call but still answered it after some thought. Curtis was still sick, after all.

Sure enough, Xena's words made his eyes widen. "My grandfather's awake." 2