

The Sword Master  
by  
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EXT. FOREST - DAY

It is a beautiful sunny day in thick woodland. A HUNTER (25) wearing a green shirt and shorts, with arrows strapped to his back and carrying a bow gradually makes his way through the area.

An OLD MAN is heard screaming somewhere in the distance.

OLD MAN  
(shouting)  
I would back off if I were you! I'm a  
highly skilled swordsman with a magic  
weapon made from immortal steel!

The HUNTER runs in the direction of the yelling. He eventually finds the OLD MAN bleeding slightly, whilst lying on the ground in more woodland. A SWORD is by the OLD MAN'S side.

HUNTER  
Are you ok?? What happened???

The OLD MAN gradually stands back up.

OLD MAN  
I was ambushed and robbed!

HUNTER  
Who by??

OLD MAN  
A couple of no good animals!

HUNTER  
They didn't steal your sword? You said  
it's made from immortal steel...

OLD MAN  
Yes, that is weird.

HUNTER  
What did they steal from you?

OLD MAN  
My hat and my shoes.

HUNTER  
I see. You couldn't... fend them off  
with your special sword?

OLD MAN  
No, anyway I want you to have it.  
It's my way of saying 'thank you'.  
For coming to my aid.

The OLD man gives the weapon to the HUNTER.

HUNTER

Wow! Thank you SO much!

OLD MAN

No problem. This may sound presumptuous, but I want you to leave your life behind. I will train you to be an elite swordsman like me!

The OLD MAN smiles.

HUNTER

Errr...

OLD MAN

Come on! The sword I gave you IS immortal... In fact it's SO powerful you won't even be able to handle it. At least at first. You don't want to miss this opportunity.

HUNTER

I was going to ask you about that. How can a sword be immortal?

OLD MAN

It won't die.

HUNTER

Oh. Wow.

The HUNTER coughs as he speaks.

HUNTER

NO swords will die!

OLD MAN

Excuse me?

HUNTER

Anyway, it was nice meeting you, good day.

The HUNTER walks away.

The OLD MAN runs and blocks the HUNTER'S path.

OLD MAN

Where are you going?

HUNTER

I'm going home...

OLD MAN  
No you're not. You're a warrior now.  
Let me train you.

The HUNTER runs away, but the OLD MAN chases after him and blocks his path again.

OLD MAN  
(out of breath)  
You have spirit! You're the perfect  
person to learn my incredible skills!

HUNTER  
How to fend off bandits?

OLD MAN  
Well no, but how about I teach you  
how to fight in battles?

HUNTER  
Can you really fight in battles or  
are you just saying that?

OLD MAN  
Er...

HUNTER  
Have you ever thought in a battle?

OLD MAN  
The battle inside my own mind!

The HUNTER rolls his eyes.

HUNTER  
Ohhhhh, I see.

OLD MAN  
What?

HUNTER  
That's why you think your sword is  
immortal?

OLD MAN  
Come again?

HUNTER  
You're just a crazy person, aren't  
you?

OLD MAN  
I'm not crazy, all swords are  
immortal.

HUNTER

Ha! I got you to admit your sword is just like any other!

OLD MAN

Whoops.

HUNTER

Just let me go!

OLD MAN

Please, I'm a swordsman who has never thought any battles apart from the ones in my own mind. I need to feel like other people look up to me.

HUNTER

Oh I do, I do.

OLD MAN

Then let me train you.

HUNTER

Alright. What's your favourite move, then?

OLD MAN

If someone chases after me, I drop the sword, fall to the ground and look helpless.

HUNTER

That's a skill?

OLD MAN

Joke! You just caught me at a bad time, earlier. Let me teach you my favourite attack. Hand me your sword.

The HUNTER does so.

OLD MAN

Check this out...

The OLD MAN slashes the air with the weapon.

HUNTER

It's called a 'slash'...

OLD MAN

Good isn't it?

HUNTER

It's ok...

OLD MAN  
Now do that a thousand times!

HUNTER  
My family will be wondering where I  
am!

OLD MAN  
I want to meet them.

HUNTER  
Why??

OLD MAN  
They will be swordsmen, too.

HUNTER  
Most of family are just little girls!

OLD MAN  
Oh that doesn't bother me at all.

HUNTER  
It will bother them!

The HUNTER retrieves a small drawing of his family from his  
pocket and shows it to the OLD MAN.

HUNTER  
See this picture? THAT'S my family.

OLD MAN  
They have the look of killers.

HUNTER  
No they don't!

OLD MAN  
Ok, I came on too strong. I shouldn't  
have told you to leave your whole  
life behind on my first meeting with  
you...

HUNTER  
Right!

OLD MAN  
How about we meet up again, and THEN  
I can turn your whole family into  
warriors?

HUNTER  
Most of them are under the age of  
three...

OLD MAN  
That's fine...

The HUNTER sighs and then points at the OLD MAN'S hat, not so far away.

HUNTER  
Your hat! The robbers must have  
thrown it away!

OLD MAN  
Oh my word, THANK YOU young man. I  
have been waiting for a moment like  
this. I will now train you how to  
make hats. You will of course, never  
see your family again.