

Lucky and Life



BluemareLuna

Prologue

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Prologue

In the world of Asteria, during the time when sword and magic ruled, there was an old Master of magic called Hiroshi, whose duty it was to maintain the balance of luck and misfortune on Earth. But as the years passed by, even the Master himself had to admit that his strength was coming to an end.

In his tower Hiroshi pensively read a parchment floating in front of him. When he was done he made it disappear with a wave of his hand, simultaneously igniting blue-green and black-blue flames in his left palm. The flames danced brightly around his fingers. »It would be unthinkable if these powers were to land in the wrong hands,« he whispered quietly to himself, stroking his long white beard thoughtfully.

Letting the flames disappear, he determinedly left his tower and made his way to the mountaintop that loomed in front of him. His tower was situated close to a cliff, the edge of which revealed the city of Sunrain below. It was springtime, and the birds flew about happily, perching on the spire of the tower, where a small navy blue flag fluttered in the wind.

Hiroshi sat down on the edge of the cliff to look over the city. His dark blue robe was embroidered with stars and moons and allowed him to sit more comfortably on the grass. He marveled at the city in which he had grown up and contemplated who he could entrust his powers to.

Sunrain was a large city with a castle – a castle where no one reigned, uninhabited yet enthroned in the center of Sunrain. Even today, nobody knew why no king reigned in the castle. This was one of the many mysteries of the Master and his apprentices.

In the beginning, only ten houses had surrounded the castle in order to protect it but over time further buildings and constructions were built by the residents, eventually leading to what appeared to be a protective wall made of the wooden and stone houses.

It was thanks to Master Hiroshi, who had returned home one day with his apprentices, that the people had begun to work together with the magicians. He watched over everyone who lived in Sunrain and directed the magicians, who always obeyed him faithfully, to protect the

farmers. For this reason, the magicians lived close to the farmers so that they could react when danger threatened.

The farmers were grateful for any bit of help they received. They were always working hard and tended to their fields and the crops as well as their cattle. Their farms were the greatest treasure they possessed. The magicians made sure that the farmers' work was made easier, especially with their magic, be it by creating rain on their fields, building houses or by helping to grow medicinal plants, vegetables and fruits faster. In this way they could provide great help with their elemental magic.

The master rarely visited the city, preferring to live in peace in his tower that he had built himself. Nevertheless, the farmers knew who they had to thank for this peace and care. They showed him great respect and in return occasionally brought him gifts. Be it parchment paper for his scrolls, fine herbs for his teas or seeds with which he fed his birds. Even though it was natural for Hiroshi to help people and he didn't ask for anything in return, he appreciated the friendliness of the residents.

The residents, who did not know magic, supported the powers of the magicians with their animals and tools. In return, the magicians taught them how to take care of their cattle and various crafting techniques. Meanwhile the city bloomed and more and more humans and magicians flocked to the Sunrain. Life seemed to take place peacefully.

»This city contains enormous powers that only the youngest dare to dream of and yet there isn't much time left for me to pass on the secrets of the Sunrain magic.«

After voicing his concern, a small blue bird with a yellow belly flew onto his outstretched palm. »Emilius, my faithful friend, the time is near when I shall bid farewell to this world. But how can I go with a quiet conscience if I have not yet chosen my successor to maintain the balance of luck and misfortune?«

The master then made a transparent orb appear with his other hand, that floated in front of him. Emilius perched on Hiroshi's shoulder and watched him use his magic. A purple glow came from the master's eyes and the sphere responded, revealing the city of Sunrain. He could see every part of the city with his magic. For a while he searched the

streets seemingly aimlessly until he saw a young couple walking down the street of the market. Since both wore a ring on their fingers, he knew they were a married couple. They walked hand in hand across the marketplace, their eyes full of love for each other.

A fire that never goes out, thought the Master to himself. He hadn't seen such a sight in a long time. He observed the two of them, taking note of their differences. The long blonde hair of the woman sparkled in the sunlight. Through the light breeze one could see the waves in her hair as the wind stroked it gently. Her husband by contrast had straight brown hair that he had tied back in a short ponytail.

The couple walked over to the baker who sold fresh bread at the market. There was a long line but they were undeterred. After a while, the couple finally reached the baker who sold them the last loaf of bread he had left for the day.

»I knew it! Thanks to you, we were able to snag the last loaf. These days no one is as lucky as you«, the man said with a grin.

The woman blushed: »Oh, don't say such things. I'm sure you'll be lucky one day too!«

»For seven days now, I have been trying to get a loaf of bread and so far I have not been successful even once. Either I was too late, or something came in my way that prevented me from getting any. And yet, no matter what you set your mind to, you always succeed on the first try. I do envy you for that,« he said, glancing at her lovingly.

She smiled, kissed him on the cheek, and said: »You'll definitely get one next time.« Their blue eyes sparkled every time their gaze met.

Hiroshi had followed what was happening inside his sphere: How lucky, that the last bread was sold to you. *What will you do now, young lady?*, the Master wondered.

They said goodbye to the baker and were about to go home when the woman heard a child crying. She turned around and saw him standing at the baker's booth. The little boy was asking for some bread. To his misfortune he had arrived too late.

The boy took a few steps back. With his head hung low, he clenched his hands into fists.

In desperation he shouted: »What am I going to do? Without bread I won't be able to feed all of my siblings this time. That stupid baker... He shall vanish and never come back!«

The woman could not bear the sight and went over to the boy.

»Young man, I'll give you mine, it should do you and your siblings good, but only if you first apologize to this nice man, who blesses us with delicious bread every day.« The boy was stunned, he hadn't expected such a gesture. He accepted the bread and, somewhat ashamed, apologized to the baker.

»Furthermore, I'll give you a few thalers. Make sure to use them wisely,« she said, with a bright smile, as she placed the coins on his hand.

»I thank you a thousand times, I will not forget!« and he ran straight home with a heart full of joy.

This woman, whose soul's bright glow can take on fear and worry and even conquer hatred, must bestow good luck, the Master thought to himself.

When Emilius saw the bread he flapped his little wings. Then Hiroshi stroked his little head with his finger. Smiling, he said: »Yes, the bread from our baker has brought joy to everyone so far. Isn't that right, Emilius?«

Chirping happily, he flew onto the master's orb and looked down to continue observing the two.

»The young man only smiled at the sight of her, but what was happening behind him was probably not clear to him yet,« said the Master, chuckling to himself as he realized what was about to happen. He was curious to see the man's reaction.

Behind the husband a black cat was trying to squeeze through the throng of people. The man took a step back, stepping right onto the cat's tail. The cat meowed in agony. The man jumped in surprise and

banged his head on the wall behind him, falling to the ground and ripping his shirt in two.

Around him, people started laughing maliciously.

What bad luck, young man. How will you react now? the Master wondered excitedly. He felt that these coincidences did not take place without a reason.

»My goodness! How could I have missed such a pretty cat?« the man said with a smile on his lips. »I'm sorry little kitten, I'll pay better attention in the future.« He took the kitten into his lap and pulled an ointment out of his pocket, which he carefully applied with a bandage to the cat's tail.

»Now go on your way, little kitten,« he said, placing it back on its four paws.

His wife was startled: »My goodness, dearest, are you ok?! Your clothes are torn and your head must be in agonizing pain!« She looked at him worriedly.

He replied with a gentle smile: »How could my head ever suffer agony when you are in my thoughts every day?« She smiled back at him and kissed his forehead.

»Come, let's have our tailor fix your shirt,« she said as she helped him up and they both walked away together.

A man who meets misfortune with joy is well disposed toward his loved one. He does not bow to scorn and is not afraid of his own nature. He must bestow misfortune! thought the Master. He laughed aloud and said: »Fate seems well disposed towards me.«

But will two humans be able to wield this power? he wondered, when suddenly a voice snapped him out of his thoughts.

At the appearance of the master's apprentice, the little bird Emilius startled and flew to the roof of the castle by the marketplace.

You seem to want to form your own opinion of the couple... or is it the ominous force that appeared behind me?, thought the master. His question was answered immediately.

»Master, here you are! I have been looking for you all day in vain,« said the familiar voice. Julius, one of the last apprentices that had been personally trained by the Master, stood next to him. He had straight black hair, tied back in a long ponytail. His black robe was blowing in the wind as he stepped towards to the master.

»Well, my young apprentice, you seem to have found me now,« he sighed. »What put you into such a bad mood?« Julius asked his Master, staring at him in bewilderment with his green eyes.

The Master replied in a serious tone: »It is time to choose the inheritors of the Sunrain magic.«

»Master,« he said in surprise and bowed. »Master, I would be honored to carry on your magic.«

»I am certain of that,« he replied. »Nevertheless, it will not happen.«

»What? But Master, I will -«, he said surprised as he stood upright again.

»I have made my decision and you, Julius, will help me with it,« Hiroshi interrupted him. The Master pointed to his orb in which the couple could be seen. »Do you see these people there?«

»Yes, they are simple farmers,« he said with anger on his face.

»These people will inherit my magic and you will watch over them.« The Master rose and let his orb disappear.

Julius was not pleased with this decision. His folk had been promised the Sunrain magic. This was an important agreement, for which he had worked his entire life. »Master, surely these people cannot handle the power that lives inside us magicians, let alone your power. It will most certainly harm them!«

»That will only happen if they are denied the proper guidance on the use of magic. For that purpose, I shall send six trusted guardians to

each of them. They will teach them how to use their magic and also protect them,« Master Hiroshi spoke hopefully.

Julius started gesturing nervously while replying indignantly: »Master, for years I have always obediently followed what you commanded me to do. I have never doubted your actions and decisions. However, this time I do not understand how you cannot entrust me with your powers to maintain the balance of luck and misfortune. Instead, you choose simple farmers and even wish to include them in the world of us magicians?«, he asked while desperately clutching his hand.

After this last question, he suddenly became calm, he let his shoulders sag and he gazed at the Master, lost in thought: *Have you forgotten our agreement? For what have I labored all these years?* thought Julius to himself.

»Julius, I see the disappointment in your eyes. But please have faith,« said the Master, smiling warmly. He placed one hand on Julius' shoulder.

»I did not include you because it will be your task to watch over and guide these people during this time, so that destiny may take its proper course. This burden can only be carried by you and no one else,« he said with a smile.

Julius nodded. The master went past him and looked towards the forest that was behind his tower.

»I will now reveal my magic for the last time and take these people under my wing. Meanwhile you will bring them the twelve guardians I have chosen,« the Master said. »When this happens, my time will have come and I will place my powers in the fate of this young couple. So it shall be.« And while speaking these words, he disappeared in a dazzling ray of light.

»As you wish, Julius said in a deep voice. If I do not get these powers now, I will see to it that it happens in another time. They were promised to me and my folk,« Julius added with an ominous smile. And dissolved into smoke using his magic.

II

»I knew it... They couldn't even save my shirt,« he said as the tailor gave him a new shirt and he began putting it on.

»Don't worry, at least I could get you a new one made. Something like this also makes me happy.« The two were just about to head home when suddenly Master Hiroshi appeared in front of them.

»What a pleasant surprise, for it is you who I am looking for, Kero.« The woman startled whereupon Kero stepped in front of her to protect her.

»How true, a man's protective instinct is of great value,« Master Hiroshi continued. He now stood a nose's length away from him. »You need not feel threatened, you now have a fateful choice waiting for you. This will surely move you to make the right decision. After all, magic can also bind people together.« Kero moved away from him slowly. He pushed his wife a little further away from Hiroshi and now stood next to her. He was still skeptical and his shoulders tensed up as he held his wife protectively in his arms.

»Who are you?« she asked.

Kero forestalled and answered for him: »That is Master Hiroshi.«

»You know him?« she turned to Kero with a raised eyebrow.

»Well, it's a long story. What do you want from us, Master? I don't want to put Philia in danger.«

»What a lovely name you have young lady,« said the Master, smiling over Kero's shoulder.

Philia smiled back kindly, feeling at ease in the Master's presence.

»I seem to have frightened you, I'd like to apologize for that. I do not bring bad news, I promise you. However, my request is urgent. Will you allow me to speak with your wife?« Hiroshi bowed to show Kero his respect.

The villagers who were watching were shocked. They had never seen the Master adopt a submissive attitude before.

Kero now realized that the Master was being very serious. »Rise before the spectators can't look away anymore.«, he said nervously, holding out his hand and feeling the eyes of the villagers.

»Should I be bowing down to you too?« asked Philia with a laugh, as she glanced at him from the side.

»Your wife seems to handle this with a sense of humor,« the Master replied, rising again.

»One of the reasons why I love her. Please continue now,« Kero said in an impatient voice.

»Before I do, let us go to a safer place. Please trust and follow me.«

»Only this one last time,« Kero replied in a low voice.

The two of them followed him. The little bird Emilius, who had been watching everything, flew behind them. They approached the great mountain on which stood the Master's tower. The Master had built it out of stone. With his magic's aid it had been close to child's play for him. The round, grey tower was adorned with small stone arched windows in various locations on the outer wall and rose to a height of fifty feet. As the Master led them to his tower, they saw the sun slowly setting in the dazzling orange light of dusk.

»So this is what the tower looks like from up close. It's beautiful!« Philia was outside of town with Kero for the first time. Until now, she could only look at the tower from afar.

»That brings back some memories...«, Kero murmured.

The Master began to chuckle. »How true, « he said.

He opened the tower's brown wooden door and let them in. Kero and Philia gazed at the room. A fireplace was visible on their left, filling the room with its warm light while small fireflies in a pair of transparent spheres, which were bound to the stone walls with green plant tendrils, lit up the Master's room. In addition, there was a spiral stone

staircase leading to the other floors above. To the right of it were a few folded sheets spread across three ornate oak chairs. Engraved vine borders, as well as carved spheres where the legs met the armrests showed the attention to detail that Hiroshi put into sculpting his own furniture. The sheets on the chairs offered the necessary comfort. The chairs were placed around a small table, on which a large clay teapot could be seen.

»You seem to have been expecting us,« Kero said, knowing that the Master was an excellent planner.

»Since this will be the last time I receive guests, they should feel as comfortable as possible«, the Master said with a warm smile.

Philia and Kero sat down next to each other while the Master prepared tea.

Philia noticed how tense Kero was. She put her hand on his and whispered: »Don't worry so much. The Master surely knows what he's doing. He doesn't seem like a bad magician to me.«

»You only say that because you don't know him well enough yet. This man is capable of anything. That's exactly why you have to be so careful with him. He is certainly not someone who has bad intentions, but once you have been chosen, there is no turning back,« he said, raising his voice.

»I see, you haven't forgotten my training,« the Master laughed as he heard Kero.

»Training?« she asked. Kero's face turned red as he remembered and he stared at the carpeted floor.

»Now you're making me curious«, Philia said.

Master Hiroshi picked up two small cups that he had also fashioned out of clay and filled them with tea. He gave Philia one cup and put his hand on Kero's shoulder while kneeling in front of him and handing him his cup. Kero, who was embarrassed by the topic of his training, hung his head.

The Master smiled and said: »Now Kero, don't let the past get you down, just because you were one of the first humans to refuse to learn magic.«

When Philia heard this, she was very surprised and said: »You didn't want to be involved with magic? But why?«

The Master rose again and sat down on his chair as well.

»I-it doesn't matter now, I will tell you that story another time,« Kero said as he took a sip of the tea. The flavor of the tea in his mouth startled him. *A herbal tea to calm the nerves... don't tell me...* he thought, looking anxiously at the Master. Master Hiroshi had a habit of telling people things through his teas in a variety of ways.

»I have brought you here to tell you that my time will come to an end on this very day.«

»I knew it would be bad news. You must be joking!« Kero said in shock.

The Master continued to smile and spoke on: »Just like any other person, my flame of life will eventually go out, which is why I am here with you now.«

»But what could we possibly possess that would be of use to you?«

»Kero, he doesn't mean possessions, he means doing something,« Philia said with a smile.



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»Your wise nature will serve you well, young lady. You will have to decide what will become of this earth.«

Kero pondered what the Master meant by this until it dawned on him. He startled: »You don't mean ...?!«

The look on the Master's face got serious and he nodded.

Kero was more than taken by surprise, »Why us?! I've heard that there are plenty of magicians who covet this power, why don't you bestow it to them?!«

»They covet it and it leaves shadows in their hearts; this magic will not accept those people. Only those who are pure of heart will be able to control it.«

»Kero, please calm down,« Philia said.

He took her hand and with a worried look he spoke: »If you and I are chosen... I don't want anything to happen to you.«

Desperate, Kero turned to the Master: »Can't you look for other people who have a pure heart and leave us out of this?«

In a calm tone he answered: »You are concerned and that is your good right, but please have faith. Your power lies in your love and in your merciful nature. Not many people on this earth have the disposition. Your hearts seem to be truly connected and that is a rarity.«

»But this is not the reason for...«

»Kero, let me finish. This magic will empower you to protect your loved ones.«

»Will you guarantee me that?«

»As I still stand before you now.«

Kero remembered his duties towards his master and could no longer defy him. He had to admit that it was about time he had to make his contribution to the magic world. He sighed and turned his gaze to Philia.

»Kero you know that I always want to be of help to you. Not to mention that it is an honor for me to be able to be of service to our master. Unlike you, you know how much I admired the magicians in our land. Still...« Then she put her tea aside and looked at Hiroshi. »Master, so far no one has inherited these magics. We are the first to ever be chosen. I am overwhelmed and more than willing to learn magic, yet we know nothing of your magic. After all, those magics aren't elemental magics, right?«

The master nodded, »A very keen observation. In fact, it will be a challenge because I created these magics. But have no fear. I have taken precautions that will help you on your way to understanding my magic. You will not be alone.«

Knowing you, you must have planned it in advance, Kero thought. »So we will be trained... I expect it will take a long time, right?« Kero spoke from experience.

»Like any other magic, for mine it also takes time until mastery. Just keep one thing in mind. Hold on to your love. After all, it's the strongest force to exist,« he said.

This made Philia smile. *I understand*, she thought. »All right, I'm ready,« she said to Kero while holding his hand.

Then Kero said in a serious tone: »Philia, are you really sure about this? As the master's chosen ones we will have to overcome many dangers and undergo a demanding training. This path will not be an easy one, but if you wish to walk this path with me, I will do everything in my power to protect you.«

»We can't refuse our Master's last wish, can we?« she said while giving Hiroshi a sad look despite a smile.

»You have my thanks,« he said.

The decision had been made. They both rose and spoke: »We will embrace your magic.«

»A wise decision. Now, both of you, give me your hands. And do not let go throughout the entirety of the ceremony.«

On this day, Master Hiroshi transferred the magic of luck and misfortune to the couple. The Master took each of their hands and spoke the magic words:

»The woman shall be endowed with luck, ever wise and full of mercy, thus her soul is also pure.«

»With misfortune the man shall walk his path, ever cheerful with no eyes for loss, thus his heart shall be understood.«

»Receive these gifts from our Gods without a grudge and keep on building your mutual trust.

Together, they now symbolized the balance between human luck and human misfortune.

The Master then added a small condition: »For now, your powers build on each other and still repel each other. Until your magic reaches maturity and bears fruit, I must ask of you to go separate ways. My faithful friend Emilius will keep an eye on you, together with my apprentice Julius. Emilius shall serve you as both the message and the messenger. He will remain hidden, but should he reveal himself to one of you, it will be time to join your powers together. Once this connection has been made, then you two will meet again.«

With these last words, the Master disappeared in a dazzling ray of light.

He was counting on their goodwill and he hoped that he had made the right decision. On that night, the castle in the center of Sunrain vanished as well.

III

Four years passed in this manner. The guardians taught the chosen ones the teachings of magic, as well as individual fighting techniques. The twelve guardians sent by Master Hiroshi were divided into two groups of six. Female guardians were assigned to Philia and male guardians were responsible for Kero.

Philia's female guardians, who were to represent the magic of luck, wore white hooded cloaks with gold embroidery on their sleeves, hoods and hems of their coats.

Kero's guardians also wore the same hooded cloaks, but in a different color. Since the magic of misfortune was related to dark magic, his guardians wore black capes with dark blue embroidery.

In each group, each guardian had a special magical formula that they represented:

The Water, Formula of Vibration

The Wind, Formula of Tranquility

The Earth, Formula of Healing

The Lightning, Formula of Energy

The Transformation of Matter, Formula of Creation

and the Illusion, Formula of Nature

Particularly special magic forces were *The Fire, the Formula of Awakening* and *the Ice, Formula of Consolidation*. Fire and Ice magic were the only magics that the guardians had not mastered yet. Master Hiroshi and Julius belonged to the few who were able to wield it. *The Magic of Light, Formula of Salvation* and *the magic of Darkness, Formula of Damnation* were kinds of magic that could only be acquired if one met certain requirements.

Philia received the magic of *The Aura of Nature, Formula of Realization*, while Kero received the magic of *The Ice Fire; Formula of Challenge*. Once their powers matured, it would be possible for her to control *the magic of luck* and for him to control *the magic of misfortune*.

To wield magic powers requires the predisposition of the individual, whereupon the unique magic that is compatible to the person will manifest itself. When someone has mastered the use of magic, they are able to wield it purely by the power of their thoughts and willpower, sustaining it through their imagination. The imagination is a powerful tool that is utilized to wield magic. Spells are not always used to carry it out. Very often, gestures are used to use magic.

These teachings were taught to the chosen ones by the guardians.

Julius watched over the two, making sure that no one interfered with them as they became one with this magic. Julius found himself currently in Philia's camp. The forest that surrounded the camp had been created by the guardian of Illusion who served Philia. This made it easier to protect her from enemies. This played right into Julius' hands and he made himself comfortable. He sat on the branch of a tree that grew in the middle of the camp, leaning back against the tree trunk.

He looked down at the tent where Philia was.

What a laughable sight... But I shall not lose sight of my goal, he thought to himself. Once her powers have reached their peak I will have to act.

When Julius noticed the little bird Emilius, he stretched out his hand. The bird flew onto his outstretched finger and chirped: »You're just in time, it seems that the young man's powers are at their pinnacle. But the young lady doesn't seem ready yet, what's stopping her?«

There was a sudden shout to be heard. Philia ran out of the tent, gathering her white dress, and said: »I can't do this anymore; I feel that something horrible is going to happen if my powers continue to grow!«

Emilius, the little bird, was startled by the shout and flew from Julius' finger to another tree. He looked down at Philia, who had a worried expression on her face.

Philia's guardian of Lightning put her hand on her shoulder: »But Master Hiroshi had great faith in you, young mistress. You have done very well so far. We will ensure that nothing bad will happen. That is our

job.« The guardian tried to reassure her with a confident tone and a smile but to no use.

Philia could feel that the guardian was trying to give her strength. »I'm really sorry... but I can't do this anymore,« she said with a worried look.

Julius sighed and thought: *Well I will be damned! To give up just because of a feeling. Why are women so exhausting?*

Julius jumped down from his tree and landed in front of the guardian: »Is there a problem?«

»Master Julius, I sincerely apologize, but our mistress refuses to practice her powers further.«

Julius looked at her with a serious expression and crossed his arms. »Is this true, young lady?«

»I won't do it anymore. I can feel that something terrible will happen. I've never had a feeling like this before,« Philia said nervously. She clasped her arms and looked to the side.

Julius then gently took her hand into his own. »The perception of your own feelings has been sharpened by the magic that you carry within you. But do not forget that the Master chose you for this task. His last words shall not have been in vain, right?« he asked hopefully, glancing down at her.

Philia's gaze turned to Julius. His confident and hopeful demeanor displayed what expectations he had for her.

»If you think that this burden is too great for you and your feelings about it are changing, then I would be happy to assist and train you personally. I am, after all, proficient in all the magical arts of the guardians and over the years I have proven my martial art skills adequately, young lady.«

He straightened himself up and pulled her close with one hand, grabbing her by the waist with the other. With a smile, he looked straight in the eyes: »What do you say?«

Philia reflected: »If this feeling should disappear with your help, Master Julius, then I will do it.« And with those words, she agreed to start training with Julius.

The little bird Emilius continued to wait on the tree until Philia was ready.

Meanwhile, Kero was relaxing by a lake. »Young Master, you have now reached your full potential with this powerful magic, isn't it time to set out?« asked one of the guardians behind him, who had mastered the Transformation of Matter.

Kero sat on a rock where a lake covered with lotus flowers stretched out before him. »Not yet. Until the little bird gives us the sign, we will have to wait. Nevertheless, a strange feeling has been coming over me for some time«, he said as he directed his gaze up into the clouds.

»What do you mean?« the guard asked and stepped closer. Standing beside him, he looked down at Kero while listening to him.

»My heart tells me to go to her but my mind holds onto the instructions that Master Hiroshi gave us. The misfortune that was endowed to me will probably be applied here as well.« Kero was tense. He had an uneasy feeling and wondered if Philia was alright.

»To worry is perfectly normal. Don't forget that her guardians will also be keeping an eye on her. The young mistress is not alone. Besides, with the magic from our Master, she will be able to defend herself. She will surely convince you of her strength when you meet again.«

»If magic didn't exist, I would have been spared a lot in life,« he said as he stared into the water. »That's why I never wanted to have anything to do with it, no matter how much Master Hiroshi tried to train me.«

»So you could have been able to take on magic earlier?«

»Apparently my body could have practiced magic long ago. The Master tried everything in his power to convince me that magic was a gift of nature. But I just wanted to live a normal life. That stubborn old Master never gave up. And even now he got his will.«

The guard began to laugh, »Those who were acquainted with Master Hiroshi knew what was in store for them.«

»I'm aware that he wanted to help the people and the magicians. However, magic took something really important away from me in the past, which is exactly why I don't want anything to happen to Philia. I want to protect her.«

The guard stood up and extended his hand to Kero. »No matter what happens, we the guardians shall always stand by your side and strive to help you. That is our duty and we will uphold it to the death! I give you my word!«

He started to smile: »Your words soothe my heart. I thank you.« Kero accepted the guard's hand and stood up. Pensively, they returned to their camp.

In the three years that followed, Julius had developed a certain liking for Philia. Training with her not only brought out her strength, but also allowed her charisma and charm to shine. They talked a lot and ate and drank together. But Julius did not lose sight of his goal and he used the opportunity to get closer and closer to her. He was sure there was only one way to separate the powers and to do that it was necessary to divide the people who wielded them. With his charm and knowledge, he tried to seduce her. However, he had not considered that this was no easy task because her heart only beat for Kero.

Nevertheless, today the training seemed to finally bear fruit.

»Young lady, you have brought your magic to the highest level today and look— nothing bad has happened«, he announced proudly and hugged her.

»I thank you, Master Julius, I don't know what I would've done without you by my side. But now I must fulfill my duty and finally reunite with my beloved again.« She was slowly trying to free herself from his embrace, when Julius suddenly took the lead.

»But before that happens...«, his voice faded away and he drew his face closer and kissed her.

»I can't believe it... I can't believe my eyes!« shouted Kero upon seeing the two of them.

IV

Philia winced: *How could this have happened?!* she thought, startled.

»Ah, the young man has returned it seems«, Julius grinned to himself with pleasure.

The guardians gathered behind their magicians upon hearing the shouting, sensing impending danger.

Philia tried to explain: »Kero, I ...«

»How dare you?!« he interrupted her. »How can you treat these seven long years, where I thought of you every day, worried about you, with such contempt?!«

Before any of the guardians could notice, Julius disappeared from the scene and watched the situation unfold from a safe distance. »That's what was supposed to happen, right Master?« a joyful smile came over him.

Kero's guardians tried to appease him. »Young Master, please try to contain your anger!«

»Kero...« she said sadly as she clutched her hand to her chest and began to tremble.

»Don't look at me like that! Kissing another man right in front of me, spending all these years with him... my love appears to have no meaning to you anymore. Luck and misfortune, ha-ha... How true, I harbor the misfortune of having loved a woman who never really returned my feelings... And you find your luck kissing another man in my presence?!« He was boiling with anger, yet at the same time one could see his hurt expression.

»Kero, I never cheated on you, let alone lied to you. My love for you is real. I didn't know Julius was planning to kiss me!« she wailed as tears ran down her cheeks.

»And yet you didn't even have the decency to push him back,« he said, staring down at the ground.

Philia felt ashamed and covered her mouth with her hands, thinking: *Why? How could I have let this happen? Kero I beg you. I didn't want this to happen.*

»How can I even trust you anymore? I don't believe a word you say!« he said, clenching his jaw. The pain on his face could not be overlooked. His eyes and body began to glow blue-black.

The sky darkened, he clenched his hands into fists. Icy dark flames of misfortune sprang from them.

The guardians tried to stop him. »Young Master, don't!«

He hurled his flames at them: »I will not forgive you; let the whole world be covered in misfortune!«

The guardians reacted quickly and tried to stop the flames. »Young mistress, you must retreat!«

»I...I can't. If I do, the world will be nothing but misfortune!« She ran to him and tried to fight off his ice flames with her luck magic. Her eyes and body began to glow blue-green. She stretched out her arm and pointed her palm forward. A shield formed, causing the ice flames to bounce off her. »I will not let you abuse the powers that have been entrusted to us!«

»Try and stop me!« As Kero began to spread more flames, Philia could no longer withstand the pressure. She summoned all her strength to release a large beam of magic. Kero did the same, causing too much magic to be released simultaneously.

In that moment, the magic of luck and misfortune clashed, releasing enormous magical forces that culminated in an explosion. The resulting shock wave hurled the guardians away.

Julius jumped into action in this moment and rescued Philia from Kero's flames. »We don't want you to get hurt, do we?« he said sternly, as he held onto her.

»Julius, why are you doing this?«, she exclaimed and with these words she pushed him as far away from her as possible.

»Julius! How could you even contemplate betraying me, no, us magicians?!« Kero screamed angrily, storming over to him.

»Oh, you're still alive? How amusing... I haven't seen such a display of wrath with my own eyes in a long time,« he laughed mockingly.

Kero fired his flames at Julius as he ran to him. The moment Julius fought them off, Kero dodged to the side and tried to hit him behind his back with his two battlestaffs, but in vain. Julius dodged, caught Kero's arm and countered with his dark magic. Black flames poured from his body. With these he hurled Kero away.

The trees at the edge of the forest surrounding the camp could no longer maintain the illusion of the guards and slowly began to be dissipated by the black flames. The grassy ground disappeared and the brown stone ground became as dry as the savannah.

Julius vanished with his flames into thin air, reappearing directly in front of Kero. An icicle protruded from his hand, pointed directly at Kero. »Although you have the magic of misfortune, you still don't know how to use it most effectively... what a shame!«

»Shut up!« shouted Kero, catching the icicle between his hands.

Julius lashed out and the ice spike came close to Kero's neck. »Cease to struggle and relinquish your powers to me!« screamed Julius.

»Stop at once!« Philia made white flames of light magic rise up and surround Julius and Kero. Since the magic of luck had a connection to light magic, Philia was able to counter Julius' dark magic.

Julius, upon realizing this, jumped over the flames and forced Kero to fall to the ground.

»Kero!« She was about to reach out to him when Julius grabbed her from behind.

»Enough young lady, don't sacrifice your life for someone who treats your trust with contempt. You are much more valuable than this half-magician who can't even control his own power properly.«

»Julius... I won't believe your anymore!« She grabbed his arm and flung him forwards.

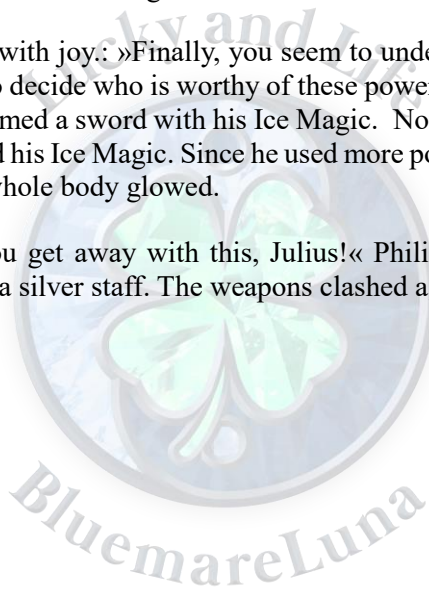
As Kero slowly tried to get up, he started to understand, »So it was you... you deliberately inflamed anger in me... I will not allow you to harm Philia, much less manipulate her, Julius.« Slowly, he sat back up, panting. He had one knee on the ground while supporting himself with the other foot.

»Kero, be careful!« shouted Philia in concern.

»Don't worry. I'm going to finish this!«, he said as he picked up one of his battle staffs from the ground.

Julius grinned with joy: »Finally, you seem to understand that this is the only way to decide who is worthy of these powers.« Julius leapt to his feet and formed a sword with his Ice Magic. Not only did his eyes glow as he used his Ice Magic. Since he used more power for his magic this time, his whole body glowed.

»I won't let you get away with this, Julius!« Philia sprang between them, creating a silver staff. The weapons clashed against each other.





Lucky and Life

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»What power! And how beautifully you have developed all these years, a true shame to have to put an end to this. Think twice my lady and become one with me instead of him. You will not regret it.«

»I will do nothing of the sort!« And she fought to protect her husband, who did the same for her. He used his flames to attack Julius from behind, but Julius forsook this.

»It is a pity... farewell young lady.« Julius skillfully dodged Kero's attack.

At that moment, Kero's attack hit Philia and again their powers clashed. This triggered a discharge of energies that flung them violently apart. Julius kept his distance from the two before it could hit him.

The guardians hurried to reach the battlefield and were able to get to them just in time. »Master Julius, how could you have let it come to this?! Our duty is to protect the chosen ones, not harm them!« yelled the Wind guardian in anger.

Julius didn't move and just stared at him: »Who appointed you as my superior? I don't let anyone tell me what to do!« To himself he said: *»To my regret, love can't be tamed after all, too bad...I will have to proceed differently.*

»Julius, how could you? Now it will be our task to put an end to you,« the guardian of Illusion spoke.

»Me? Put an end to me? Don't make me laugh. Your efforts won't be worth it, don't forget that I am a master of all elements!«

»It cannot end like this. The two powers must remain in harmony!« shouted the guardian of Water. »Quickly, bring the young lady and the young Master together!«

The guardians of the Earth rushed to them, trying to heal them.

Philia and Kero layed side by side on the ground, shaken and hurt.

»How could it have come to this?« whispered Kero with a heavy heart.

She tried to control her breath: »I hurt you, I'm so sorry.« Philia took Kero's hand and squeezed it tightly. He returned the gesture.

The two guardians of the Earth placed their hands upon Philia's and Kero's bodies.

»Hurry up, heal them!« shouted the guardian of Lightning. All the guardians were tense and were trying their best, yet they could not uphold this magic.

»This magic must not disappear, or the world as we know it will cease to exist!«, said an Earth guardian.

»Listen to me,« Philia said with a warm and weary smile. »My husband and I are just ordinary people who have been blessed with your magic, but we cannot undo our mistakes.« Her shamrock brooch, which she wore on the middle of her dress, began to light up and let a small clover float upwards.

»I have no more strength left and my husband has been overcome by anger. To prevent this magic from disappearing, I will bring it to life in a four-leaf clover. Please be the guardians of the Magic of Luck and try to maintain the balance so that nothing bad happens to the people. Kero, please try to understand that this power also causes harm, greed has already possessed Julius too.« With that, Philia closed her eyes wearily.

»No, I didn't mean to do that to you, all because of that imposter!« he sobbed. Then the black-blue symbols on his vesture began to light up and a small mirror formed.

»I only spread misfortune and this power shall not be a stain upon my deeds... guardians of Misfortune, I return to you my powers, brought to life and contained within this mirror. Break it every seven years. During this time it will grow back together by magic. Then you must repeat this cycle, so that I may atone for my deeds. Our souls shall be linked to these objects.«

Thus, their bodies slowly dissolved in a blue-green and blue-black light. The guardians held up the mirror and the clover and let the souls levitate inside. In this way, the souls of Philia and Kero were locked away by the guards along with their magic.

Julius saw all of this and was horrified. »That's not what I bargained for,« he countered. The guardians looked at him.

»What do you mean, Master Julius?!« the guardians could barely contain themselves. They were more than angry.

»I mean that I'm not going to just let you take these powers, that are rightfully mine, away from me.« he said as lightning struck behind him, electrifying both his ice sword and the ground he walked on. He also used his ice magic to control the entire battlefield. Everything around him was encased in ice. Julius started attacking the guards.

The illusion guards knew how to help themselves and launched a counterattack. They started attacking him with their tendrils while Julius countered with his ice sword. The water guards, on the other hand, gave their comrades the sign to flee. There was nothing they could do in this situation but take the mirror and the clover with them and leave the battlefield.

The other guardians fulfilled the last wish of their fellow magicians and parted ways. They promised to ensure that the power of magic continue to be taught and protected. And above all, to escape from Julius. The illusion guards stayed behind in the fight with Julius.

»What cowards you are that you can't even face me honorably! However, you will lose this fight!« he shouted.

The guardians of Illusion tried to trick him with a dense fog to give themselves and the others the time they needed to escape.

»No matter what means are needed, we must continue to ensure the legacy,« spoke the guardians of Illusion. »Master Julius, how could you betray us like this?« Tendrils sprang from the ice floor and entwined him. The vines jerked him high up into the air, unable to feel the ground beneath his feet.

»And how dare you tie up your Master?!« As he screamed, his wind magic blew away the fog. He tried to free himself with all the hate he had loaded on himself. But the illusion guardian's tendrils seemed to hold strong.

»Our magic will not be able to withstand him much longer, we must act,« she said.

»Then there is only one way,« spoke the guardian of Illusion.

Julius shuddered: »You dare...« The guardian of Illusion placed his hand on Julius' chest, drawing out his magic. He then sealed it within eight moonstones.

»This will be a challenge for you for quite a while. Enjoy being without your magic,« spoke the guardian. As Julius' body was drained of energy and he noticed the loss of magic, he stopped struggling against the vines. His body went limp, his head dropped onto his chest and he lost consciousness.

»Let's get out of here,« the guardians said.

After a few minutes, Julius woke up. He slowly freed himself from the grip of the tendrils, which now weakened and fell to the ground. He held himself up painfully. »You think that it's all over now. Well wait....all of you, you will pay for this, even if I have to hunt you down through my descendants!« he screamed angrily.

After Julius had said this, thousands of years of fighting for luck and misfortune went by. Since the magic was not easy to maintain, two folks had agreed to protect it.

The **Shiawase folk** founded the guardians of Luck. They decided to endow the four-leaf clover to one chief at a time over many generations. This chief wielded great power and could protect their folk from harm. The clover was veiled by the guardians of Illusion so that only the chiefs were able to locate it. The guardians were to ensure that greed and envy did not creep into the souls of the chiefs.

The **Haji folk** however, who were founded by the guardians of Misfortune, locked the mirror in a chamber because it could do more harm than they would have liked. So far, no one had agreed to take on this power. The seven-year ritual of shattering the mirror and upholding Kero's magic was taken care of by the guardians.

In this way, all further generations continued to be trained to guard the magic. But the guardians knew that Julius would never rest until he

had what he wanted. So, they warned each successive generation that his presence had not yet disappeared.

The magicians and humans learned to fear him, hoping that the threat would never come true. Until today...



Thank
you for
reading!



2D Anime OC Illustration drawn by:

https://www.instagram.com/angrycomputer_studio/

Thank you for taking the time to read my prologue!

*If you liked the artstyle and the reading sample, then you are
welcome to look forward to the upcoming volumes and
Projectsteps for "Lucky and Life"! o(^-^)/*

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- Best wishes! -

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