

FINDING THE MAGIC PILL

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Medical School: Day 1

I had a dream: “One day I will find a magic pill to help all the patients.”

Medical School: Day 1000

I was in my medicine rotation. As usual, I was ready to see my next patient, Ms. K, who was new to this clinic. She was accompanied by her husband. I introduced myself. Mr. K sat straight in the chair with crossed arms around his chest. Both of them looked at me suspiciously. Clearly, I could feel the distrust in the room.

“Ms. K, it is so nice to meet you. Please tell me about yourself. Where were you originally from? What did you do in the past? Who was your previous primary care doctor?” I started collecting her information, careful to be as detailed as possible. Although I had previewed her charts, I continued asking, “Ms. K, to fully understand your health conditions, please tell me about your past medical history in detail.”

I listened carefully and documented all the information in my notes. I noticed that Mr. K leaned forward and sat in a more relaxed manner. He looked at me with a smile on his face and said, “Nobody has listened to her story like you. Thank you for everything. You will be a great doctor.”

Medical School: Day 1001

Today, I followed my attending, Dr. Kaplan, to see a well-established patient. Mr. J, a 60 year-old Caucasian male with a history of hypertension, presented for a routine biannual check-up. His blood pressure was well controlled and he did not have any new concerns today.

At the end of the encounter, Dr. Kaplan said, “Mr. J, your health is in really good condition. You can come see me again in either six months or one year.”

“Six months please. I want to see you, doctor, because you listen.” Mr. J replied without any doubt.

Suddenly, my mind was enlightened by something like a lightning strike. I realized that I found the magic pill. Its brand name is “Listen.” It can be manufactured by every doctor. It does not have an expiration date and has a life-long warranty. More importantly, it does not have any side effects.

He looked at me with a smile on his face and said, “Nobody has listened to her story like you. Thank you for everything. You will be a great doctor.”