

“BOXING FOR GOLD” by Alexander Lee-Rekers (StageMilk, 2024)

JESSE LAIRD is a promising, if troubled, young boxer. After a series of career setbacks (including a much-publicised disqualification) their prospects for fame and fortune look grim. They consider throwing in the towel, until their trainer/manager/friend CAM DOBBS shows up one night at their apartment with a plan...

JESSE: So did you talk to Brett?

CAM: Brett?

JESSE: He said I could do some exhibition stuff.

CAM: Forget Brett. Think bigger. Think international.

JESSE: I'm listening.

CAM: Jesse Laird: you're going to box in the Olympics. For your country.

JESSE: Which one?

CAM: Which country?

JESSE: Which Olympics?

CAM: The next- the next summer one, I don't know. You ever heard of a trainer named Hank Follman? Well he's an advisor to the national team, and they're looking for somebody to come in and shake it up. When I heard about that, I gave him a call and he seemed- he seemed very interested in you being that ... shake.

JESSE: Yeah, look. I don't think so. Call Brett, will you?

CAM: Brett doesn't want to promote you right now. *(Pause.)* Nobody in our world does. But the general public, out there in the real world? They don't know you yet. So if we do this thing we get to introduce you. Fresh.

JESSE: I just want to do what I do.

CAM: I know. This is how we make it happen.

JESSE: Okay. *(Pause.)* Jesse Laird, boxing for gold.

CAM: If it helps, we can melt it down into a belt.