

Triumph 201

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Nobody thought the silver needle could cure end-stage stomach cancer. Even with modern medicine, the condition was so lethal that it was difficult to manage. If the patient had not known someone in the group, they would have assumed Skyler was a hoax. Nonetheless, they were still skeptical of the man's claims.

The crowd surrounded the patient, and some even tried to touch his body to validate the assertions. He did not mind their inspection as he had never felt so comfortable.

After a round of investigation, someone uttered in disbelief, "The stomach tumor is really gone! He seems really energized too."

Another added, "Is this young lad a prodigy?"

Some of the cancer patients began to exhibit hopeful signs. They had already shelled out a fortune on exorbitant medical expenses. Therefore, they had agreed to cause trouble in order to obtain money to pay for their treatment. Although this was the case, they had to accept their fate because no one knew how long the treatments would be able to prolong their lives. In a sudden twist of events, they witnessed Skyler treating an end-stage stomach cancer patient right in front of them. They longed for Skyler to work the miracle on them as well. After all, it would be priceless if they could experience a full recovery.

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Before Yulia could react, Skylar said to the employees in the main hall, "Everyone head back to work. I'll deal with the consequences." He pulled the woman to the lift lobby once he was done with the instructions.

The security guard at the ground level was puzzled by Skylar's actions. He thought, has the matter been settled?

The raucous crowd was upset by Skylar's rejection. They threatened, "Stop right there! Did you really think that you were so important just because we called you the God of Medicine? All of us developed cancer after using Kareem Fashion's products! We'll destroy the place if you refuse to treat us today!"

Another called out, "That's right! Why is it that a random person with end-stage cancer could make a full recovery but we can't?"

"If you dare leave, we'll end our lives here! Everyone in Cloudtopia will know that Kareem Fashion is responsible for our deaths!"

The crowd became increasingly enraged, hurling insults and threats. Skylar, on the other hand, was unconcerned by their threats as he replied, "I don't care if you die."

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When Dienne noticed the women approaching Skylar, she rushed forward and kicked her away. The poor woman was thrown 20 feet in the air. She collapsed to the ground, clutching her stomach with an anguished expression.

No one knew that Dienne had a short black dagger. She wielded the dagger in her right hand and gracefully struck the floor with a ring of sound. Sparks flew as she started carving on the hard wooden floor. Two seconds later, a 13-foot line appeared on the floor. It was not very long as Dienne had carved the line without moving an inch. However, everyone's attention was drawn to the depth of the line. It was seven inches deep! Carving such depth with a short dagger would require incredible strength and skill.

Dienne raised her dagger and announced to the rowdy crowd, "Anyone who dares cross this line shall face my dagger." Her threatening words sent shivers up their spines. They remained silent because they were afraid to confront Dienne.

Everyone started panicking when they witnessed his dismissive attitude. A short plump lady rolled her sleeves and stomped toward Skylar. "Listen up, pretty boy. You must treat my son today, or else, I'll make sure you and Yulia will not step out of this place alive."

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The protestors were conflicted about Skylar's refusal to treat them, even though he had the ability to do so. All they intended was to earn some money to pay for their treatments. Instead, they witnessed an end-stage stomach cancer patient's complete recovery. This set fire to their desire to live, which eventually turned into desperation when Skylar refused to lend a helping hand. They were filled with torturous pain and agony when the man was unmoved by their pleas.

Skylar scoffed inwardly, the troublemakers would never succumb if I had not shown my extraordinary medical skills. They'll never be willing to apologize for their mistakes. I gave them a chance to repent earlier. It's their fault for failing to seize the opportunity. How dare they try to smear Yulia and threaten

me! They can't blame me for being ruthless.

"Harry Chase?" Skylar raised a brow, his face hardened as he learned who was behind the incident. The head of the Chase family, Mortimer Chase, had long conceded defeat. Skylar would never have expected Harry to persist in the fight.

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"Harry Chasa?" Skylar raised a brow, his face hardened as he learned who was behind the incident. The head of the Chasa family, Mortimar Chasa, had long conducted affairs. Skylar would never have expected Harry to persist in the fight.

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"It's him! Yvonne is nothing but trouble," Yulie growled. Her perseverance and talent have earned her the respect of her staff and business partners ever since she took over the company. Yvonne was the only one who was constantly critical of her. She had collaborated with the suppliers to force Yulie to relinquish her position. She was, however, unsuccessful and had since been plotting her revenge. Harry was in alliance with Yvonne and had undoubtedly plotted this to benefit the latter.

Yulie did not expect Harry and Yvonne to use Kareem Fashion as a means of retaliation. The launch of the skincare products was the company's highlight event of the year. They had spent all their time and money developing the product, and it was finally time to market it. There was no room for negative news, or their efforts would be futile. Even if there were scientific reports to dispel the rumors, no one would be patient enough to listen to the company's clarifications. The public would avoid the product if there were any chance of harmful reactions. Kareem Fashion's reputation would be tainted by then, and it would be hard to salvage the situation. Yulie's expression darkened as she thought of the challenges that they had to deal with.

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They heard the waiter informing, "Your guests are here, Mr. Stone."

"Let them in," Skylar said solemnly.

A man dressed in a well-fitting suit walked in confidently, followed by a woman in a red mermaid dress with thick make-up and perfect hair. Based on her attire, one would have assumed she was attending a high-end event.

When Harry and Yvonne realized Skylar and Dianne had begun eating without them, their spirits were

slightly dampened. Even though they had not expected Skylar to treat them to a meal, they saw the man's eating before they arrived as a sign of disrespect. They had initially assumed Yulia had requested the meeting to seek their forgiveness. Little did they know that Skylar had planned to humiliate them instead.

The duo tried to suppress their anger as they did not want to cause a scene over a meal. After taking their seats across from Skylar, Yvonne asked curtly, "Why isn't Yulia here with you?"

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"The lunch was my idea. Yulia has nothing to do with this," Skylar said calmly, placing his fork on the table.

Yvonne guffawed. "Do you intend to ask us to leave Yulia alone? Who do you think you are? Yulia should beg for our forgiveness herself."

"Who's asking for forgiveness?" Skylar smirked.

"There's no need to lie," Yvonne said arrogantly. She had no idea how the morning event had turned out. As a result, she assumed Yulia had asked Skylar to seek her assistance in calming the rowdy crowd.

Before Skylar could reply, Yvonne continued, "Since you called for this meeting, you must have known that I paid those people to cause trouble. Yulia always thinks that she's so capable. I wanted her to know what it feels like to be unable to argue your way out. How dare she steal my position! I swear to make her life a living hell!" The woman became increasingly agitated as she spoke about Yulia's misdeeds.

Harry stood up and warned, "Don't blame us for being cruel, Skylar. Yulia must kneel and apologize to my girlfriend if she is to save Kareem Fashion. She must also inform Old Mr. Sue that she wishes to resign as Managing Director and CEO of the company." He then walked Yvonne out of the room, adding arrogantly just before stepping out the door, "We have stated our terms clearly. You can think about the offer."

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"Mr. Lange, I..." Before Harry could probe further, Mr. Lange ended the call. He could not reach the man anymore because he had been blacklisted.

Harry frowned as he tried to figure out what was going on. Mr. Lange was one of their most important customers, purchasing nearly thirty percent of the company's products and accounting for nearly a third of the company's profit. Even though Mr. Lange's withdrawal would not cause the company to fail, it would have a significant impact on profits.

"What's wrong, Honey? You look terrible," Yvonne asked with concern.

Before Harry could explain, his phone rang again. His heart skipped a beat when he saw that it was another of the company's important clients.

The client stated, "We will no longer purchase your company's products in the future. It is not necessary to request a contract renewal. I will pay you the early termination bonus. Good luck."

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"Whet's heppening, Herry?" Yvonne esked worriedly.

The men clung to the hendreil for support. "All of our mein cliants end suppliers celled to terminete our contract," he seid weekly.

"Terminete the contractes?" Yvonne shrieked. She wondered, why does this sound so femilier? Thet's right! Herry used this method two deys ego to force Yulie to resign. Wes this Skyler end Yulie's doing to exect revenge?

While Yvonne wes thinking about the metter, Herry's phone reng egein. This time, it wes not his client or his supplier, but the compeny's essistent CEO.

When Herry picked up the cell, his essistent stuttered, "Mr. Chese, when... when the Consumer Product Sefety Commission officers ceme to inspect our products, they informed us that we hed feiled the quality inspection stenderd. The Chief Inspector issued e Government notice ordering the closure of ell of our factories until further notice."

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Harry received over ten phone calls in a short period of time. The color drained from his face, and he broke out in cold sweat.

"What's happening, Harry?" Yvonne asked worriedly.

The man clung to the handrail for support. "All of our main clients and suppliers called to terminate our contract," he said weakly.

"Terminate the contracts?" Yvonne shrieked. She wondered, why does this sound so familiar? That's right! Harry used this method two days ago to force Yulia to resign. Was this Skylar and Yulia's doing to exact revenge?

While Yvonne was thinking about the matter, Harry's phone rang again. This time, it was not his client or his supplier, but the company's assistant CEO.

When Harry picked up the call, his assistant stuttered, "Mr. Chase, when... when the Consumer Product Safety Commission officers came to inspect our products, they informed us that we had failed the quality inspection standard. The Chief Inspector issued a Government notice ordering the closure of all of our factories until further notice."

Skylar had finished his meal by then, so he stood up and went to the door with Dianne following close behind. When Skylar passed by Harry, the latter immediately jumped up and screamed, "It's you! You did this, didn't you? How dare you ruin my company, Skylar Stone. I swear I'll make you pay for it!"

Despite the fact that Harry had started the company using his family's connections, he had spent time and effort growing it over the years. Last year, the company became profitable, allowing Harry to be taken more seriously in his family.

Skylar not only destroyed his company, but also his glory, hard work, and the money to support his lavish lifestyle. The man yearned to sever Skylar to vent his rage.

"This is just a warning, Harry Chase. If you keep playing games, you will meet your end," Skylar hissed as he exited the room.

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"Skylar Stone, I'll not let you off!" Raw anger shot through Harry as he yelled at the top of his lungs.

Skylar, who was in the corridor, remained calm despite Harry's threat. He did not feel threatened even if the entire Chase family retaliated, let alone Harry.

After Skylar entered the car, he received a phone call from his adoptive father, Nathaniel.

"Norman is coming back soon, Skylar. We are planning a welcome party for him, and all the Fuller family members are expected to be there. You have been in the military all these years. Many of your relatives are concerned about your well-being as it has been a long time since they met you. Why don't you come to the party with me if you're free in the next few days? I can also let everyone know that my son is not worse off than Norman," Nathaniel said proudly.

"I'm available, Dad. I'll pick you up from the villa tomorrow." Skylar readily accepted the invite. He was willing to play the role of a filial son, making his father proud. He knew that Nathaniel was not out to take advantage of his wealth; rather, he was just like any normal father, eager to demonstrate to his relatives that he had raised a capable son.

Skylar used to go to the Fuller house for the annual family gathering when he was a kid. This year's gathering was also to welcome Norman home, as the dates coincided.

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Half an hour later, Dianne parked the vehicle in front of Automobile Megastore. When they walked into the store, they heard someone calling, "Are you... Skylar Stone?"

When Skylar turned to look, he noticed a young boy standing in a black T-shirt in the distance. A slightly overweight middle-aged man with white hair was sitting next to him.

When he got a closer look, he realized the man was Jerry Moores, his senior-year high school form teacher. The young boy next to him was most likely his son, Timothy Moores, due to their striking resemblance.

Timothy had a crush on Valerie Pearce. After his failed confession, he discovered that the woman had feelings for Skylar. Hence, to prove that he was better, he naively sent Skylar an official invitation to compete. His opponent, on the other hand, did not bother to respond.

Skylar never cared about the matter. However, he was reminded of his school days when he spotted Timothy.

Half an hour later, Dianna parkad tha vehicla in front of Automobila Magastora. Whan thay walkad into tha stora, thay haard somaona calling, "Ara you... Skylar Stona?"

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"Hello, Mr. Moores," Skylar smiled and greeted his former teacher.

"It really is you!" Jerry continued as he studied Skylar, "In high school, we advised you against enlisting, but you insisted on doing so. The outcomes of the class's admissions process were undoubtedly impacted. But look! You're back in Cloudtopia! Where are you employed now that you have left the

military?"

Skylar grinned and replied politely, "I'm back temporarily. I'm still in the military."

Jerry was even more convinced that the man would not succeed in life. He did not think that his former student would amount to much as he had been in the army for six years and no one had heard of his accomplishments.

Jerry said sarcastically, "You are doing this for the country. How noble of you!" Before Skylar could reply, he patted Timothy on the shoulder and said proudly, "This is my son, Timothy. He's the Sales Director at Silverton Corporation. He was just awarded a 30 thousand dollars commission for closing a deal. I told him to save the money, but he insisted on buying a new car."

Jerry was clearly bragging about his son's brilliance. When Timothy saw Skylar remained silent, he became even more pompous.

"Are you here to look at cars, Skylar? I'm quite an expert in this field. Which brands are you interested in? I can give you some advice," Timothy offered.

"Are you here to look at cars, Skylar? I'm quite an expert in this field. Which brands are you interested in? I can give you some advice," Timothy offered.

"It's all right. I'm just looking around," Skylar said nonchalantly.

The father and son looked on smugly because they guessed Skylar couldn't afford the car and was at the store to admire the expensive cars. It's also possible that the man was embarrassed to admit that he planned to buy a low-end brand.

"Don't be shy, Skylar. I'm friendly with the boss. Let me know which car you are interested in, and I'll get you a 20 percent discount," Timothy suggested. He was prepared to mock Skylar if he could not afford a car even with the discount. If he could afford it, it would most likely be a scooter worth around a hundred thousand dollars. The 20 percent discount would only take 20 thousand dollars off the price tag. He was boasting when he said he was friends with the boss of the Automobile Megastore. They were only acquaintances at best.

Timothy was planning to purchase a vehicle that cost 300 thousand dollars. Hence, he was confident that the boss would be willing to discount 20 thousand dollars for Skylar.

"Are you here to look at cars, Skylar? I'm quite an expert in this field. Which brands are you interested in? I can give you some advice," Timothy offered.

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"All right then" Skylar finally agreed. He pointed to a vehicle afar, "How about that?"

Jerry and Timothy followed his gaze and were surprised to see it was an imported Land Rover worth 5 million dollars. They thought in unison, he's such a liar!

While the father and son were still recovering from the unexpected news, Skylar had already walked over to the Land Rover.

A salesman in a black uniform reminded, "Sir, this is a limited-edition Land Rover with an extended wheelbase. The vehicle cost 5 million dollars, and after taxes and warranty fees, the total cost will be close to 6 million dollars."

"With a 20 percent discount, I can save about 1.2 million dollars. What a steal! I want this car," Skylar said excitedly.

"What do you mean by a 20 percent discount?" the salesman asked in confusion.

Skylar cocked his head to Timothy, who had just arrived. "He's good friends with your boss. He told me that I could choose any vehicle I wanted and receive a 20 percent discount."

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Timothy's face flushed red when he heard Skylar's request. He was not even certain he could get a 20 thousand dollar discount. Now that it had skyrocketed to 1.2 million dollars, it was even more likely that he won't be successful. However, Timothy was quick to think on his feet. Even if I convince the boss to give him a 20 percent discount, are you certain he can afford the remaining 80 percent? That's a total of 4.8 million dollars! Skylar must be putting on a show and trying to intimidate me. I must not show any sign of weakness now. We shall see who gets the last laugh!

Timothy scoffed, "All right, then. You can pay the remaining 4.8 million dollars first. I'll negotiate the remaining 1.2 million with the boss. I'm a man of my word. If your boss refuses to give you the discount, I'll cover the cost myself."

"Timothy, you..." Jerry said worriedly as 1.2 million dollars was not a small sum.

"Don't worry, Dad. He's just a soldier in the military. How can he afford 4.8 million dollars?" Timothy assured. Jerry did not object to his son's plans because he thought it was reasonable.

Timothy triumphantly turned to the salesman and urged, "What are you waiting for? Take his credit card and charge 4.8 million dollars. I'll pay the remaining 1.2 million dollars!"

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It would be foolish of the salesman to ignore the transaction. Furthermore, he was aware that Timothy was the Sales Director of Silverton Corporation, earning at least 600 hundred thousand dollars per year. If he scrimped and saved, he could afford 1.2 million dollars, which was roughly two years' worth of pay.

"Okay, I'm on it." The salesman then went to look for the cashier to close the deal.

The cashier appeared a minute later, and Dianne handed him the credit card. She entered the password into the card, and the transaction was approved. Jerry and Timothy, who had stayed to witness Skylar's humiliation, were astounded. Does Skylar actually possess \$4,8 million?

"That's impossible! Did you key in the wrong amount?" When Timothy grabbed the receipt to examine the amount, he grew pale at the sight of the numerous zeroes.

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How's that possible? Skylar paid 4.8 million dollars! Based on our agreement, I have to foot the remaining 1.2 million bill.

"Mr. Moores, Mr. Stone has already paid his share. Please decide if you would like to ask the boss for a 20 percent discount, or pay for the remaining," the cashier said.

Jerry's knees trembled and he nearly fainted as he heard the news. His son had spent days deliberating over the purchase of a 300-thousand-dollar car, but now he had to assist Skylar in paying the 1.2 million dollar car loan.

The father and son were unable to accept their defeat. They refused to back down because doing so would be even more embarrassing. If they changed their minds, they'd be a laughingstock in Cloudtopia. The consequence was even direr for Timothy, who was the Sales Director of a company. He would be seen as untrustworthy and unfit to be a leader. Jerry and Timothy were faced with a difficult decision.

After much deliberation, Timothy informed the cashier. "I'll make a phone call."

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Timothy returned shortly after making the call. He tried to keep his anxiety at bay and spoke calmly to the cashier, "Your boss promised to award a 20 percent discount. There's no need for me to foot the rest of the bill."

Just as the cashier was about to clarify the deal, his phone rang. It was a call from his boss. After a short conversation, he ended the call and said to Skylar, "Mr. Stone, our boss has promised to give you an 80 percent discount. You may ride the car home anytime."

Skylar nodded his head and smiled at Timothy, "You're sure well-connected. Thank you."

Timothy put on a brave front and said nonchalantly, "It was nothing! Don't worry about it."

Deep down, the man was cursing and fretting over his loss. Before he could finish speaking, he was flatly rejected by the boss. To avoid embarrassing himself in front of Skylar, he struck a deal with the boss. He enlisted the man's assistance in accepting the discount, but Timothy would pay the remaining 20 percent in secret. The boss agreed to the arrangement reluctantly as Timothy was a loyal customer.

Timothy was on the verge of tears as he thought, a whopping 1.2 million dollars! It's almost my entire savings after years of hard work. I've sacrificed everything just to save my pride. Worse still, all I got was a thank you from Skylar.

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Skylor informed Yulio and Lolo during dinner that he was accompanying his adoptive father to the Fuller residence in Altos County and would not be returning home in the next couple of days. While the reunion dinner was only on the following day, Nathaniel had requested that they arrive earlier to make the necessary preparations for the important event. They might extend their stay for another day if his father wanted to spend more time at the Fuller residence. As a result, Skylor informed Yulio and Lolo that he would not be home for the next three days.

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Upon hearing that her father would be gone for a couple of days, Lola hugged Skylar and refused to let him go. She only let go reluctantly when Skylar promised to bring her lots of good food and toys to play with.

Even though Yulia could not bear to part with Skylar, she knew that the man had other important matters to attend to. Apart from Yulia and her, he had to look after his family and friends. Hence, she gently agreed to the arrangement.

It was time for bed at ten o'clock in the night. Lola, who was wearing her pink nightdress, said to Yulia, "Mommy, I want to sleep in the little room tonight."

"Sure, Mommy will sleep with you in the little room." Yulia assumed Lola had a sudden preference for sleeping in the little room, as she sometimes did.

The little room was designed for Lola. It was pink in color with a princess theme.

Lola shook her head and said, "No, Mommy. I want to sleep alone in the little room."

"Why? Lola doesn't want Mommy anymore?" Yulia asked in surprise.

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Lola looked at Yulia with large bright eyes and said earnestly, "Willia said that before her father goes on a work trip, he would always spend the entire night talking to her mother. To avoid disturbing Willa's sleep, her parents would put her in the nursery for a night."

Yulia's face flushed with embarrassment as she could guess what the parents were up to. She thought it was not good that children these days mature so quickly. I wonder what's Skylar's reaction to this. She felt so awkward that she could not bring herself to look at the man.

"Well... Lola, Willa's parents may have many things to talk about for the entire night. You don't have to sleep alone in the small room now that Daddy and Mommy have finished talking," Yulia said gently, her ears abnormally red.

The little girl insisted, "No, Mommy. You need to talk to Daddy the whole night. Willia said that her parents always had a good chat and that her father adored her mother even more the next day. I want you to have a good chat with Daddy so that he loves you even more!"

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Unlike Yulia, whose cheeks were getting warm and her face turning bright red, Skylar had a different reaction. He grinned and thought happily, Lolo is such a wise girl. She sure knows how to please her father! When he saw the woman's shocked look, he said cheekily, "Lolo is such a darling. Isn't she, Yulia? Let's heed her advice today and have a good chat!"

"You..." Yulia glared at Skylar, but she was deeply embarrassed. Lolo may have been naive as a child, but the grown man had to join in on the fun. She seethed inwardly, how dare they tease me! Even Lolo, my dear daughter, is making things difficult for her mother.

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In the end, Yulia gave in and prepared the small room for Lola because she knew she could not outsmart her daughter.

"Good night, Sweetheart! Have a good dream," Yulia said gently after tucking Lola into bed.

"Okay! I'll fall asleep by myself. Daddy, you must have a good conversation with Mommy," Lola instructed.

Skylar, too, was embarrassed by his daughter's words. "Don't worry, Lola. I will."

He smiled when he saw Yulia rush back to the master bedroom, unable to stand the awkward conversation any longer. After bidding Lola good night, he turned off the lamp in the nursery and went back to the master bedroom.

When Skylar entered the room, he discovered Yulia buried beneath the sheets. The woman chose to face the wall instead of him. He remained silent and tucked himself under the sheets. Yulia's heart palpitated, and her body trembled as Skylar nudged closer.