

## Triumph 321

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"What do you think?" Yulia asked. She was aware of the answer that Skylar wanted to hear but she was embarrassed to say it out loud. "How do I know?" Skylar shook his head and pretended to be clueless.

Yulia glared at him and said, "You know what, forget it. If you go you'll probably be arguing with Anderson." Skylar became serious and asked, "That bastard is going too?" Yulia nodded and replied, "That's right. He said he'll be there and he wants to talk with me privately."

"Did you agree to it?" Skylar asked. "Not yet. I'm still considering it," Yulia said as she stroked her hair. "That won't do. You can't agree to that! I'm coming with you! If anyone dares to lay a finger on my woman, I'll put an end to them!" Skylar uttered.

"Why must you go around killing people? Besides, what's your identity? If you don't know then how am I supposed to introduce you to my friends?" Yulia asked. She had a serious look on her face but she was holding in her laughter.

It was obvious that he was no match for her but none of that mattered. Skylar embraced Yulia from behind and said, "Dear, I was just joking. What else could my identity be? I'll go with you tomorrow. That's a promise!"

If his subordinates saw him in this state, their jaws would drop to the ground. Despite that, he indulged at the moment as there was nothing wrong with pampering his lover. "Hmph, since you're eagerly admitting your mistakes, I guess I'll bring you along with me!" Yulia said. Skylar kissed her on the face as she finished her words. Both blushed and smiled happily.

Skylar picked up Yulia from Kareem Fashion in the afternoon the next day. They made their way to the class reunion at Babylon. It was the same venue as Skylar's previous class reunion. However, he did not dwell on it.

After an hour, Skylar parked the car at their destination and walked with Yulia. As they took a few steps, the voice of a woman came from behind. "Hey, aren't you Yulia? You dropped out of school and gave birth to a child out of nowhere. How can you be so shameless and show up to this class reunion?"

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Skylar turned his head to the source of the voice. It was a woman clad in branded clothing. Yulia recognized her on sight. It was her classmate, Candy West. She glanced over at Skylar and said, "Oh my, you even brought your boyfriend along? Excuse me for what I said."

Candy turned to Skylar and said, "There's no need to think too much about it. It's all in the past now. I'm certain that she's no longer as arbitrary as she was back in the days." Yulia was upset. Candy had always mocked her back in school yet she was doing it after all those years.

"Did you just call my wife arbitrary?" Skylar sneered as he sized up Candy. She felt a chill down her spine as she was being analyzed. He continued, "I am fully aware of my wife's personality. As for you, you slept with sixteen men in two days. Who's the arbitrary one here?"

The ones behind Candy were astonished. If Skylar was telling the truth, then she would be no different from a prostitute. It would explain how she managed to purchase branded clothing despite being an average employee.

The men who saw her as a goddess changed their minds as they began to look at her lustfully. "That's nonsense!" Candy uttered. Her anxiousness already gave it away. She had indeed slept with sixteen men in two days and received remuneration.

Candy was bewildered by how Skylar found out. "That's nonsense? Are you willing to push your luck?" Skylar asked. "What do you mean?" Candy replied. "What I meant is that if you speak another word about my wife, I'll have all the sixteen men expose you right now! A few of them might even have video recordings. They could show everyone your methods in doing business."

Candy's mind was blank. Although Skylar could never gather all sixteen men, it was clear that he knew the details based on his words. If the video recordings were leaked, she would lose the dignity that she had left. Candy turned her head as she dared not to speak another word.

The voice of a man came from behind. "Why is everyone standing here at the entrance?"

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Everyone turned around and realized that it was Anderson. Multiple students began showering him with compliments on sight. Candy was no exception. She said, "Mr. Sawyer, it's been a year since I last saw you, yet you're looking more charming than before!"

Anderson had a broad grin on his face as he indulged in flattery. However, his expression changed as he saw Skylar. "Yulia, no one else brought their family members along," he said. Anderson turned to Skylar and said, "Skylar, don't you find being the only outsider in this class reunion awkward?"

Anderson had a crush on Yulia back in school. However, he moved on after Yulia dropped out and gave birth. Despite that, he was mesmerized by her beauty after their recent encounter at the coffee shop. He fell for her once again yet Skylar stood in his way.

He had organized the class reunion and covered all the expenses to create an opportunity to get close to Yulia. However, he did not expect Skylar to come along as well.

Skylar was not provoked by Anderson's question. Instead, he smiled and answered, "Of course not. My wife said that I'm her guardian, so I must accompany her wherever she goes. Besides, this place is not safe for my stunning wife. If anyone attempts to approach her, I won't be sorry if their heads got kicked clean off!"

Anderson was infuriated as Skylar was aware of his plan. "Hmph, this place is a high-end clubhouse, no one would do anything despicable. Perhaps you're lacking self-esteem for thinking that someone would covet Yulia?" he said.

"Being able to afford luxurious items and entering a high-end clubhouse doesn't mean that a person has a kind heart." Skylar sneered. Anderson was baffled as Skylar was seemingly aware of the problems in the anti-blemish cream.

"Let him be, Mr. Sawyer. We can't stop him if he persists," Candy said. She tried to end their conversation as she was afraid of Skylar shifting the topic to her. Anderson glared at Skylar as he entered the clubhouse. Everyone else followed suit.

As Skylar waited for everyone to enter the clubhouse, Yulia heard someone calling out to her from behind. "Kathy, you're back!" Yulia said. It was Katherine Yakov, a good friend of Yulia. She had gone overseas when Yulia dropped out, so they had not contacted each other for years.

"That's right. I'm back for a few days now," Katherine said. She sized up Yulia and continued, "You look prettier than you used to back at school!"

"Cut it out, you're making me embarrassed!" Yulia responded. They gave each other a warm hug. After that, Katherine looked at Skylar and asked, "Yulia, who's this?"

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Yulia shyly introduced him, "This is my boyfriend, Skylar Stone."

Skylar seemed to have found himself an opening and slung his arm around her shoulder. "Our daughter is already four, dearest wife. How sweet of you to still see me as your boyfriend!"

The woman flushed red.

He's been so cheeky recently.

He's even making fun of her in front of outsiders!

"H-Hey... Get out of the way. I still have matters to discuss with Kathy."

Yulia shyly nudged him away.

"Sure. Go ahead."

Skylar muttered while touching her hand.

Yulia wasn't having any of it this time. She threw her fist at him as Katherine watched dumbfounded.

Is this the aloof goddess I looked up to?

She seemed more like a young girl in love before Skylar.

It was no wonder their child was already four and she still saw him as her boyfriend.

It made one green with envy.

The three of them then chattered to the clubhouse.

Babylon was a clubhouse designed to resemble a garden.

Its decor might seem simple but the variety of entertainment facilities within made it clear that there was much to do.

There was a reason this place was chosen to be where they would have their reunion.

Everyone tacitly went to the restaurant as it was approaching mealtime.

When Skylar and his group entered, a few sneers could be heard.

"It's unheard of for a man to go out and dawdle around his wife like a leech!"

"Today's meal is Mr. Sawyer's treat. Why not be a sensible person and leave since you have nothing to do with him!"

"You expect him to have the brains to figure out how to behave? Mr. Sawyer already made himself clear at the door and yet here he is."

Candy never spoke a word but she was nevertheless glaring at Skylar.

She was the one who instigated them. Skylar shouldn't have exposed her!

Yulia and Katherine were infuriated by their words.

Who still spoke that way in this day and age?

Weren't they being a little too harsh?

Skylar was calm as he spoke. "I came here to accompany my wife. I'm not interested in your party."

"I can order my own food if you're so confident that I'm a freeloader. I'll foot my wife and Katherine's

bill."

"You better own your words!"

Anderson immediately cut in.

Skylar ignored him.

The others couldn't say anything more.

Shortly after, the servers came in with menus to take orders.

Candy jabbed a finger at Skylar's group and spoke to a server. "Arrange a separate table for them. Mr. Stone over there will foot their bill."

The server seemed taken aback but nodded and had a fellow colleague set up a table by the wayside.

Skylar asked both Yulia and Katherine what they wanted to have. Neither seemed to have any particular preference so he simply decided on a few dishes.

It didn't take long for the server to return with food.

"Three servings of premium grade abalone cured in sake flown in from Cerasus. Please enjoy."

"What? Premium abalone?"

"The rumored premium grade abalone cured in sake that costs 100,000 per plate?"

"Mr. Sawyer is far too generous. I've never had such a massive one in my life. How lucky!"

Everyone at the table gasped and picked up their cutleries, ready to dig in.

That was when the server suddenly returned in a panic. "Excuse me but the three abalones were ordered by the guests at the other table."

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The server then took the three sets of abalone to Skylar's table.

"I apologize, Sir. I wasn't paying attention to the table number. Please forgive me."

The server had gone pale with fear.

The three sets of abalones cost 300,000 in total. She was at a loss as to what she was to do if Skylar chose to not forgive her for her mistake.

"It's alright. Do what you must!"

Skylar waved her off.

"Thank you so much!"

The server gratefully exited the private room.

The group of people at the next table seemed extremely embarrassed as they retracted their arms, still hovering in the air.

Skylar was the one who ordered the three sets of the expensive seafood.

There were only three of them at the table. Did they order three sets when each serving was priced at 100,000?

Could they even finish them?

Skylar ignored their stares and ushered Yulia and Katherine to give it a go. "Try it."

Both women gaped at the luxury food item set out in front of them and said with distress, "You got three? These are so expensive. How are we even going to finish these?"

He smiled wryly, "I didn't say you have to finish it. I just wanted you to try them."

The group seemed to jerk at his words.

That was when the servers returned to serve them.

"Caesar salad, roast pork, spare ribs, butter-basted trout..."

They grew increasingly embarrassed as the server announced each order.

"Everyone seems to want premium-grade abalone over there, Anderson. Get one for them! It's not like it's that pricey!"

Skylar spoke casually.

Their faces took on a kaleidoscope of expressions. How entertaining.

It was 100,000 per serving. Not pricey?

He was clearly making fun of us!

Anderson, meanwhile, was glaring hatefully at Skylar.

He had offered to treat his guests to relish in the attention. What happened next was Skylar messing up his plans.

He couldn't retort either.

There were more than 20 people at their table. If each ordered a serving of that luxury food item for themselves, the total would reach two million. He wasn't that willing to part with such a large sum of money even if it were for Yulia's sake.

He, however, revealed an ominous smile as he recalled the anti-blemish cream.

Skylar's table saw a continuous stream of extravagant dishes being served as mealtime continued.

Katherine, being a relatively outgoing person, would repeatedly exclaim and praise every dish to get back at everyone who looked down on Skylar.

The group of people at the next table seemed to have lost their appetites listening to her exclamations when all they had before them was common foods.

They were so viciously making fun of Skylar before, and now he was the one with the last laugh.

Some among them enjoyed a pleasant meal while others suffered in their torment.

Candy found herself unable to take the strained atmosphere and suggested that everyone leave for the entertainment area for a karaoke session.

The others nodded in agreement.

Anderson once again approached Yulia with no intention of giving up. "Everyone's going to sing and chat. You and Katherine should come too."

Both immediately turned to Skylar.

Skylar nodded. "You two should go ahead. I'll come after I settle the bill."

Anderson then dragged the two women away.

He smirked as he watched Skylar walk away...

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Skylar received a call from Nathaniel just as he was about to settle the bill.

Nathaniel missed Lola and asked for the family of three to come visit when time allowed.

The father and son chatted for a while before Skylar paid his bill and then headed back to the room where Yulia was.

Just after entering the area, he noticed a large group of people gathered in the corridor of the karaoke zone.

At its center were Yulia and Katherine.

He hurried over.

"What's going on, Yulia?"

As he passed through the crowd and approached his wife, he realized that standing before her was a man in a black T-shirt and a big gold chain around his neck.

Yulia was glaring hatefully at the stranger.

Katherine was next to her, nursing her swollen cheek as tears welled up in her eyes.

It looked like she had been backhanded by the man wearing the gold chain.

"Skylar!"

Yulia's taut frame relaxed upon seeing Skylar.

She pointed at the man with the golden chain and spoke indignantly, "Kathy and I wanted to touch up our makeup in the bathroom, but this man actually followed us here, and tried to touch me."

"I was washing my face when it happened. I was lucky Kathy noticed."

"Kathy told him off but he slapped her in retaliation."

Something seemed to have snapped within him as he heard her narration of the events that transpired.

He tried to lay a hand on my woman?

Someone's asking for it!

Before he could even get a word in, the man with the gold chain glanced at him, and said contemptuously, "You can't blame me, kid! She was dressed so gorgeously I thought she was a hostess!"



"You should be proud that other men want to touch your girlfriend. It's not like I even touched her anyway!"

"As for that bumpkin next to her, she deserved what was coming to her for being such a loudmouth!"

The man was part of a gang and was also a boxer. He didn't even seem to register Skylar at all.

Most of the onlookers were Yulia's ex-classmates and were watching him, expecting a show to come out of it.

Candy was especially eager.

The man was no feeble individual. How was Skylar going to deal with him?

Wasn't he swaggering about during mealtime?

They were waiting with bated breath to see if he could still act like a bigwig.

Skylar unexpectedly closed in on the man and backhanded him.

Smack!

The impact resounded throughout the room.

The seemingly powerful man was sent flying into the air before he fell on his ass.

The crowd could see the man's head noticeably swelling.

Everyone was stupefied by the sight.

No one expected Skylar to attack him and so ruthlessly at that!

Even Katherine forgot the burning sensation on her face and stared wide-eyed at the embarrassed expression on the man's countenance.

It was startling to see a man like Skylar who was so gentle and refined to be so strong.

The man spat out a mouthful of blood after stabilizing himself against a wall.

"You punk! How dare you? Do you even know who I am?"

The man wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth and asked through gritted teeth.

"I don't care!"

Skylar snorted. "Hand, son of a b\*tch!! Was it the left or the right? I would advise you to carefully think it through."

"F\*ck you!" The man was furious. "Die!"

He then lunged for Skylar.

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Skylar sneered, "Don't blame me for being an a\*\*hole since you insist on disregarding me!"

He clamped down on the man's right fist and crushed it in one smooth motion.

Crack!

It was the sound of a shattering bone.

He let out a blood-curdling scream.

Skylar had obliterated the right hook that was aimed at his face. The man's bones were completely broken.

His hand would no longer see use.

The piercing pain had been so intense that the man's features were twisted by his pained expression as tears and snot rolled down his face in massive globs.

He never thought that Skylar would be able to crush his fist on a whim.

The bystanders were gaping.

How on earth did Yulia find herself such a violent man?

Anderson was also taken aback but quickly came back to himself.

A mere martial artist was not to be feared.

Skylar, after crushing the golden chain man's right fist, did not intend to let the matter slide.

He reached out and clamped onto the man's other hand.

The man with the golden chain widened his eyes in fright and exclaimed, "No! Please stop!"

"I'll answer you!"

"It was my right hand that nearly touched your wife. It was also my right that hit her friend!"

"It was my right hand. The left has nothing to do with anything!"

Only then did he fully understand why Skylar had asked the question.

Skylar smirked contemptuously as he shook his head. "Too late!"

He gave the man a chance, but the other party dismissed him. Don't blame me for being cruel.

He exerted force once more.

Crack!

The sound of breaking bones could be heard loud and clear.

This time, however, the man was in too much pain to even scream.

Everyone could seem to feel his pain as they stared at his expression radiating ferocity.

Skylar couldn't be bothered. He released his hand and shoved him aside.

The man was in so much pain he was writhing on the floor.

Katherine tried to reason, "Skylar, I don't think this is someone we can mess with. Let's just go!"

Before he could respond, however, a rush of footsteps could be heard.

More than a dozen young men also wearing black T-shirts made their presence known.

"What happened, Iron?"

One of them gasped at the sight of the distressed man.

These must've been his subordinates.

Seeing the group heavily tattooed with dragon and tiger imagery, Katherine turned pale with fright.

Candy and the others were silently rejoicing to themselves as they gave Skylar gloating looks.

Oh, Skylar. You're strong but can you actually take all of them on?

"What's going on, Iron?"

Two men helped the man named Iron to his feet.

Their expressions shifted when they noticed how he hung onto them like a wet rag with his hands broken.

The reason they dubbed the man with the gold chain Iron was because of his pair of iron fists.

Crippling his hands was no different than killing him.

"Who?"

One of the tattooed men roared.

"It was... It was him!"

Candy jabbed a finger at Skylar.

Skylar had nearly exposed her while they were outside. It was only natural that she couldn't wait to see how he'd be trampled by the group.

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The tattooed youth's gaze immediately locked onto Skylar after hearing Candy's words.

"Someone's eager to meet his maker. You're the one who crippled his hands?"

Iron, who was on the verge of losing consciousness, suddenly came to his senses. He glared hatefully at Skylar and roared, "Chop off his limbs!"

"I want him to see just how I'm going to defile his woman!"

"Yes, sir!"

The tattooed young man smirked and pulled out a machete.

The dozen others behind him followed suit.

The machetes glinted ominously in the light.

Katherine was scared out of her wits. Even Yulia, who had seen what Skylar was capable of, began to worry.

It didn't matter how many people there were. What was concerning were their blades.

She didn't like to see him cut up.

Katherine turned around in a panic and called for Anderson. "I heard you know the head honcho of Cloudtopia's underground society, Mr. Homer?"

"Please help us say something to them!"

Candy laughed coldly, "Stop being so sentimental, Katherine! It's Skylar that they want. Not you or Yulia."

"That said, Yulia herself hasn't said a word. Why are you so worried?"

Candy turned her gaze to Yulia as she ate up the conflict.

Anderson was standing there, waiting for Yulia to speak.

Yulia begging him meant that he was better than Skylar.

Unfortunately, Skylar spoke impassively in response to Candy's biting words, "Don't worry. They can't do anything to me even with machine guns."

"Arrogant!"

The tattooed man immediately grew furious to see Skylar looking down on them. "Cut him down!"

"Yeah!"

They brandished their blades and slashed down at Skylar.

It was a terrifying scene.

It was just a pity that they ran into the King of the North, God of War of the Nine Continents.

Only a few loud bangs were heard amongst the clash of light and shadow.

The clanging of a dozen blades as they fell to the floor followed.

One after another, men were sent flying.

Bang! Bang!

It didn't take long for the youths to be piled on marble not far from each other as they grimaced and wailed.

As for Skylar, he looked like a normal person, with a placid expression, standing with his hands behind his back.

What...

The crowd of onlookers was dumbfounded.

No one even caught onto how he had put the vicious men on their knees.

To think he was skilled to this extent.

Is he even human?

Anderson, who was among the crowd, was shocked but the resentment in him only grew.

When Katherine asked for him to say a few words, he felt that his chance to show off had come. Yet, Skylar once again stole his thunder.

The man with the golden chain, seeing that all his subordinates had been taken out in seconds, was so frightened that he was trembling. He couldn't care less about the severe pain coming from his hands.

Skylar walked up to him, glared down, and growled, "Why don't you repeat yourself one more time?"

"No... Please, sir. I was just speaking out of my ass. Please forgive me. Spare me!"

Iron was now begging for mercy.

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Skylar stared down at him condescendingly, "I would've reported you to Hades just based on your words alone, but my wife doesn't need to witness such a bloody scene!"

Iron felt a biting cold rush over him.

He had no doubt Skylar would do it.

"Let's go, Yulia."

Skylar took Yulia's hand and left for a private room.

Katherine trailed after them.

The girl hung onto Yulia's arm as she stared at Skylar with great marvel. "Your husband is amazing, Yulia!"

Yulia was proud to hear such great praise for her spouse. "He serves in the military. Of course, his skills are far superior to street punks."

"I know a few people who also served but none of them are at his level!"

Katherine was puzzled.

Skylar smiled and said nothing.

Candy and the others who were behind them had a sudden epiphany when they heard he served in the military.

"Serving in the military? Isn't that just a nice way of saying he's just a soldier with nothing to his name?"

Candy snickered.

Anderson was also giving Skylar a look of disdain, reinforcing the narrative in his head.

They fooled around for a while before Skylar and Yulia took their leave early to pick up Lola from school.

At the entrance to the kindergarten.

Lola cheered when she noticed both Skylar and Yulia waiting for her.

There was a twinkle in her eye when he picked the child up into his arms. She earnestly asked, "You play while I was at school?"

"You must have had good food too!"

She pouted, looking upset.

Skylar and Yulia shared a look.

Wasn't she a little too smart?

"What makes you think we were off to play somewhere, Lola?"

Skylar asked, amused.

"Because only Daddy always comes for me. But Mommy is here today. She's dressed so pretty. You went to play!"

She said clearly.

Skylar had to nod. "You're so smart, Lola. You're right. Mommy and Daddy were out to play."

"Daddy will prepare crabs for dinner to make it up to you, okay?"

"Bring me next time!"

She clung to his neck.

"Alright. Alright. Daddy won't forget our precious baby next time!"

Skylar couldn't help but kiss her cheek.

Yulia watched it happen on the wayside. It was such a sweet sight.

She soon received a call from Naomi Fuller after they piled into the car.

Naomi was her assistant at the company. It was not yet the end of the day. Could something have happened?

She didn't hesitate to answer the call.

"Is something the matter, Naomi?"

"The production department is here to report that the first batch of the anti-blemish cream is ready. We're waiting for your signature to distribute the goods."

Naomi spoke through the phone.

Yulia was overjoyed to hear the news. "That's great! It's just in time!"

"Have the production department send a few samples. I've contacted the supervision bureau in advance. Have someone go expedite the process. Once we pass the test and receive our certificate of conformity and sales permit, the goods can be distributed to the market."

"Yes, Ms. Yulia."

Naomi answered respectfully.

Yulia was now her sister-in-law-to-be but she still stuck to company etiquette.

"Have the marketing department make preparations. We're inviting the media and holding a press conference once we receive everything we need. Whether Kareem Fashion will see a good turnaround will depend on it!"



Yulia added.

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"Yes, Ms. Sue. I'll do as you said." Naomi hung up the phone.

"Don't worry. The anti-blemish cream I reformulated will be fine," Skylar said, sensing Yulia's worries.

Yulia smiled. "I'm not worried about the inspection. I have faith in our product. It's about the press conference. Our strategy is to draw the crowd in to boast the sale, but this could be a double-edged sword. When it is executed well, not only will it clear our name, but it will also bring in more customers than conventional advertising. However, it could also get out of our hands easily..."

A warm hand held Yulia's hand before she could finish her words.

"Don't worry. I'll be with you," said Skylar softly.

Yulia immediately felt calmer.

Yulia went to the office the following day. Skylar also drove to Kareem Fashion after dropping off Lola at school.

Skylar wanted to check on the anti-blemish cream products. However, he did not expect to see a large crowd of reporters and bystanders before he reached the entrance of the building.

It seemed like someone leaked the news about the anti-blemish cream and had caused some rumors.

Yulia also did not expect the speed of the internet to spread the news. The reporter came unannounced before the press conference.

Yulia had no time to find the culprit who spread the rumor on the internet. She quickly explained the effect of the anti-blemish cream to the reporters and bystanders,

However, the reporters began to whisper after hearing Yulia's speech.

"An anti-blemish cream that can remove deep scars? She was bluffing."

"I wouldn't put that into my article. A small company like Kareem fashion came out with a product that none of those international companies could achieve after many years of research?"

"Exactly! It could be a scam. They probably want to get some money before they fold."

"I think you're right. I had to put this in my article to warn the readers!"

Everyone, including the bystanders, could not believe Kareem Fashion could produce such a miracle product.

"Ms. Sue, there's a rumor on the internet saying that the skincare products by Kareem Fashion contain cancer-causing ingredients. We believe that the new anti-blemish cream also contains cancer-causing ingredients." A male reporter interrupted Yulia.

"We also heard that victims were threatened with violence when asking for compensation. Can you explain this?" The male reporter asked again before Yulia could respond.

"Also, you were suspected of having some immoral transaction with an officer. How much can we trust your quality inspection certificate?"

All the questions made Yulia speechless. It was not because she did not know how to answer but because these questions were unfounded and slanderous.

The reporters would twist her words no matter how she answered them, and the crowd would believe them.

Yulia felt so helpless, just like when she was confronted by the cancer patients last time.

"Yulia!"

Then, she heard a familiar voice. Skylar was walking through the crowd to her side.