

before the systems, the cost

every scar has a story. every story has a purpose. i am proof that you can rise from anything.

before the recommendations and the résumé, there was a longer road. this is the part of the story that doesn't show up on the homepage.

1. rejected, discarded, failed. i've been rejected more times than i can count. discarded by people who never saw the work. failed at things i was certain about. for a long time i thought the "no" was the verdict. it wasn't. each one moved me one step closer to the work i was actually built for.

2. cried a lot. there were nights of silent tears and days when carrying anything felt heavy. i'm not going to pretend i was always composed. i wasn't. i kept showing up the next morning anyway. that part is the only part that matters in the long run.

3. isolated to focus. when other people went out, i stayed in. when others rested, i studied. it wasn't discipline as a virtue. it was the only way i knew to close the gap between where i started and where i needed to be. i lost some friendships to it. i don't regret the trade.

4. experimented a lot. i tested. i tried things i had no business trying. most of them did not work. a few of them did, and the ones that did paid for the rest. growth lives outside the comfort zone — that part is true. it doesn't tell you how many failed experiments are buried under each working system.

5. burned a lot of money. i invested in ideas. i burned money — not on luxury, on theories. some of those theories proved out. some of them taught me what was wrong with my model. a few taught me both at once. expensive lessons compound faster than cheap ones, in my experience.

6. took on what scared me. i kept saying yes to projects i wasn't sure i could finish. each one was a problem too big for who i was when it landed on my desk. by the end of it, i was someone who could carry that weight. that's the only reliable way i've found to grow capacity — accept the project before you're ready.

7. hit rock bottom. there were stretches with nothing left. no resources. no support. just me and the next morning. rock bottom isn't a metaphor — it's a floor. once you stand on it for a while, you stop being afraid of falling. that quiet was the start of the rebuild.

8. felt unseen. for years i felt misunderstood, underrated, missed. i carried that quietly because explaining it would have cost more than it was worth. eventually i stopped trying to be seen and started letting the work be seen. it's a slower path, but the proof is harder to argue with.

9. bet on myself and lost. i bet on myself when no one else would. i lost a lot — money, time, relationships, certainty. what i kept was harder to measure: a clearer sense of what i could survive, and a clearer sense of what was worth the bet next time.

the long road

1. **TESDA Scholar (2002 era)** — trained, learned, found the part of work that felt like mine.
 2. **Supermarket Stock, Ever Grand Central** — first job. learned discipline, hard work, and humility, in that order.
 3. **Bagger, SM Supermarket** — no job is too small. every role teaches something the next one needs.
 4. **Sales Supervisor, JAG** — started as stock, worked up. learned that leadership begins as service.
 5. **BPO career — TSR 2 (Etelecare, JPMorgan, ADP, OpenText, HPE, ShoreSuite, FPS)** — each company shaped a different part of how i operate at scale.
 6. **Consultant** — took everything from the road behind me and put it to work for other people's problems.
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a letter, if you're in the middle of something hard

the pain you're carrying is real, and it isn't permanent. where you are right now is not where you stay. your story is still being written, and most of the chapters that matter haven't started yet. you are stronger than the version of you that is reading this can see. keep going. keep building. one day, the road you're on will be the thing that makes you useful to someone else who is exactly where you are now. that's not a small thing. that's the whole point.

i'm not lucky. just determined.

— Diosh Lequiron