

The Gamma's Revenge

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Category: Romance, Werewolf

Description: Born into a poor pack family, I worked my way up to Gamma and used my savings to treat my parents to a dream Italian vacation. But everything shattered when they told me I was adopted and began to treat me badly.

They gave my luxury cruise suite to their real daughter, forced me into the freezing cold despite my dangerous condition, and demanded the rest of my money for her.

Worst of all, my mate sided with them. So I canceled the trip, took the refund, and vanished. Now they're panicking. But I'm done being their doormat.

Total Pages (Source): 15

Source Creation Date: July 3, 2025, 7:17 am

I used most of my savings to book a fancy trip to Italy for the whole family. But my parents told me to give my top-floor cruise room to their biological daughter and sleep outside in the snow when we went north.

Our pack's family was poor and not very important when I was born. My parents didn't make much money, and they wanted me to drop out of high school so I could work and help the family.

But I worked hard and was determined to become Gamma in our pack.

My parents said they were getting old and wanted to see the world before their eyesight got worse.

I used most of my savings to book a fancy Italian trip for the whole family, which included a special cruise to see the northern lights.

After I almost died protecting our pack from a rogue wolf attack, our Alpha gave me the money as a reward. The injuries I got were bad, but I lived, and the Alpha knew how much I gave up.

I spent three months carefully planning the best trip for our family.

My parents were getting older and needed special care to be comfortable. I also had a 15-year-old brother named Robert who was on vacation from school, so it was best for everyone if the trip happened during his break.

My parents have depended on my income to live since I started college. I worked at a

diner in my town while I was in college to pay for my school and help my parents and brother pay for their living costs.

Since he was ten years old, I had been in charge of Robert's money. I didn't mind helping all of them. It was worth it to see my family happy.

The Alpha liked me because I was good at fighting. Wolves from all over the world looked up to and respected me, especially those who needed help.

And then there was my friend George. We met when I was 18, and right away we knew we were meant to be together, just like the Goddess wanted. We had been together for three years and were planning our wedding this year.

He wasn't a high-ranking wolf warrior like me; he was just a regular wolf warrior. I loved him very much and had been giving him money while he trained.

For another three months, I made all the trip arrangements. I made all the reservations and plans for my family so they would be comfortable. The rest of my family just stood back and watched while I did everything.

When Robert said he had never seen the northern lights before, I used some of my extra money to add a premium northern lights cruise to our regular Italian trip. It was worth the extra \$50,000 to meet their needs.

My parents told me, "Diane heard about our plans and wants to come along with her adoptive parents," just a few days before we were supposed to leave for our trip.

We've already made arrangements for you to sleep outside in the snow on our trips to the north. All of the rooms and bookings have been moved around.

They showed me the new schedule, which no longer included my name on the luxury

accommodations.

When I saw this setup, my blood froze. I have a rare condition that makes my wolf shift uncontrollably when it's very cold, and I could die from being outside in the cold.

"What do you mean? This is our family trip, and you're inviting people we don't know who just showed up?" I asked, trying not to get too angry.

My mother smiled, but it didn't reach her eyes. "She's not a stranger. She's our biological daughter. She wants to join us, so of course we're bringing her along," she said.

My blood ran cold. "She's your biological daughter? What do you mean?"

"You're just our adopted daughter. Diane is our biological child. We've raised you all these years, which was already kind enough. You've been taking Diane's place for too long; it's time to give it back to her."

My wolf stirred angrily deep inside me. "What about her adoptive parents? Last week when I wanted to invite my friend to come with us on the trip, what did you say? You said only family members could come, no outsiders. But as soon as she asks, you do what she wants?"

"Her situation is different from your friend's. Her adoptive parents raised her for a long time, and in our hearts, they're family too.

I could feel my claws getting ready to come out. "Then why do I have to sleep outside in the snow?" I'm also a family member, and the plans for the trip were made months ago.

"We don't have enough rooms now that Diane and her adoptive parents are here. We had to make room in your room for her. Your wolf is strong, so you can sleep in the snow by yourself.

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I checked the new travel plans again. They had chosen to leave me without a room, even though they could have booked me an extra standard room.

"So she gets the cruise room on the top floor that costs \$5,000 a night, and I have to sleep outside in the snow when you know how sick I am?""I asked, trying hard to keep my voice steady.

"You always say you want the family to be happy." "Now's your chance to show it," my father said with a wave of his hand.

I looked at my parents, who I had been there for for years.

Father looked away.

With a smile that said everything was okay, Mother said, "Darling, she was taken away from us when she was little." We have a lot of memories together, but she doesn't have any. Of course, she should go with us. You only have to give up a little comfort, but we'll always be family.

Robert said, "Sis, Diane is very fragile." She can't sleep outside when it's cold. "You'll be fine. You're strong and capable." I smiled bitterly. "Who are the real family members here? I paid for this trip, and now these strangers are getting better treatment than your Gamma, who is your provider. Someone you just met is more important than the person who grew up with you!"

My parents' eyes turned gold with rage.

"This is just a different way to sleep. Don't make a big deal out of it. She's our family, but we've been apart from her since she was a child. We can't be apart again and leave her behind. You only have to give up this one thing to show what family really means."

At that moment, George came in. I thought he would stand by me, my friend, the one the Goddess had chosen for me. But instead, he stood with my family.

"Diane seems really nice," he said, not looking at me. "And your parents are right—you can handle a little cold." We shouldn't leave out their real daughter on this trip.

His betrayal hurt more than my parents'. My wolf howled in pain inside me.

At that moment, the front door of our house opened.

Robert hurried to say hello to her. Diane walked in wearing designer clothes that cost more than my parents make in a year.

"I've been waiting for so long!" Come in, come in!"Robert helped her with her huge Louis Vuitton suitcase.

"I've missed you a lot! You should have stayed with us all along. You're my real sister and should have been living with us."

"Exactly!" said Mother as she grabbed her perfectly manicured hand. I've been searching for you for a long time. You are my biological daughter. You are the best person in my heart!"

They said this to my face, and they didn't feel bad about it.

George walked over to them and smiled at Diane. "Welcome to the family." I know a lot about you.

I saw my friend, the wolf who was supposed to be there for me no matter what, betray me for someone he had just met.

Diane was my parents' biological daughter, but when she was three years old, they ran into money problems. They lost their house to creditors, and Diane ran away from home.

She went to an orphanage by herself and used the fact that she was an orphan to get a spot with a rich family.

She didn't even say goodbye; she just vanished one night. My parents were heartbroken because they had planned a surprise birthday party for her that month.

Until recently, her adoptive parents lost all their money.

She got back in touch with my parents after hearing that we were going on a fancy Italian trip. She said she had been kidnapped back then.

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My parents found me after they moved to the slums. I was only three years old, but I was already showing signs of an early shift, which meant I could become a Gamma.

My impressive combat record showed that they were right.

I paid off the family's \$500,000 debt, and our Alpha kept giving me rewards for my great fighting skills.

My parents only liked me because I was useful to them. Other warriors made fun of them and called them dependents.

But I didn't care. I thought that as a family, we shouldn't keep track of who gave more; our bond was supposed to be family. In the end, this family owed me everything.

Since Robert was born, I had been in charge of taking care of him. I drove him to training, cooked for him, and washed his clothes. When I started college, I got a job at a diner to help pay for his school.

When I became a Gamma, I paid for all of his living expenses. Just the extra lessons for his private combat training cost \$5,000 a month.

I bought him designer clothes so he wouldn't feel less than the other young wolves in the pack.

He was 15 now, and I had been raising him for five years. I was his sister by rank, but I was more like his mother.

I gave my parents everything I had.

They didn't have any savings and their income was terrible. So I sent them \$5,000 every month from my combat pay.

I bought them a nice car to use every day. I also paid for their mother's rheumatism and father's heart problems.

I took care of all the bills and made three meals a day.

I also made arrangements for high-quality healthcare and special accommodations for their trip to Italy to make it more comfortable. The cost of travel insurance alone was huge, but I never complained.

Instead of being their daughter, I was their financial support, like an ATM that also cooked and cleaned.

The office building that the Alpha gave me helped the family make more money. Some of the most powerful wolves from three territories were on my tenant list.

Every time I won a fight, I got a lot of money. I worked hard to get better at fighting so I could support my family.

And then there was George, my friend. When we first met at the Moonlight Ceremony three years ago, he didn't have anything. His family was even poorer than mine.

I bought him his first real fighting gear and paid for his training. I helped him move up the pack ranks.

I gave him \$3,000 a month to help his family. I paid for all of his mother's medical

care.

Last year, I even put down money on a small house for them.

I never complained about helping him because he was my friend, chosen by the Goddess. I thought friends took care of each other.

I had done so much for this family and for George, but they still treated their biological daughter better than me. Diane smiled as she walked up to me. The bracelet she was wearing probably cost more than what my parents made in two months.

"I'm sorry, sister." I might have said no if I had known that my arrival would mean you had to sleep outside in the snow. I was going to back off, but our parents said they had a plan.

She went on, "I offered to take the standard cabin myself, but they wouldn't let me stay in the cold northern air because I'm more fragile." I hope you get it.

Robert clung to her arm like a hungry puppy. This was the Robert I had raised and spoilt myself.

"Of course! That cold weather is dangerous. What would happen if you had an uncontrolled shift? My sister looks like an angry she-wolf, but she doesn't. Even bad wolves are afraid of her.

Everyone laughed.

They knew full well that I was the one who had the condition that made me cold.

But they didn't think twice about putting their Gamma, their provider, in charge of

sleeping arrangements that could put all of us at risk.

George stood there without saying anything to defend me. Three months ago, during our pre-mating ritual, he had promised to protect me with his life.

My parents saw my face get darker and changed their tone. "Listen, I know this isn't ideal, but we had to make you sleep outside," they said. Go ahead and take that expensive combat course you've been looking at. Don't worry about how much it costs.

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I put my hand out and said, "Okay, give me the registration fee." \$50,000. Now."

"That much! You should be thankful that we're letting you spend your own money. Don't push it!"

I said with a sneer, "Since when do I need your permission to spend my own money?" What do you give to this house each month?"

My parents' faces turned red. "Do we really need to talk about this as a family?""

They gave \$3,000 a month, and I gave \$50,000.

They didn't even get me a gift to change.

I paid off \$500,000 in debt for my family and booked a trip to Italy that cost a lot.

My combat pay helped this family live comfortably.

Other members of the pack saw it and whispered that this family lived off their daughter's money.

Maybe she should help them out since they all loved their biological daughter so much.

Let's find out how long they could live the way they do on the money from a non-shifting Omega.

George stepped up and put his arm around Diane's shoulders, which made my wolf snarl.

He smiled at her and said, "Maybe I could help with the tour plans. I know some great places in Italy that aren't in the usual tourist guides."

I couldn't believe it when I saw him. The training gear he was wearing, which I had bought him last month, cost more than he had ever made in his life.

Diane's adoptive parents came in soon after and started talking about which tour options wouldn't be "good enough" for them.

Diane's adoptive mother said, "We'll need to upgrade these accommodations," making a face at the 5-star hotel bookings I had carefully chosen. "It's so... normal.

My dad nodded eagerly and said, "Whatever you want!" Now this is your family's trip.

I cleared my throat and said, "This is my trip." All the reservations have my name on them.

Everyone stopped moving. They hadn't thought about that small detail.

First, Mother got better. "Well, about that... We think it would be best if you gave Diane all of the reservations. After all, she is the one who will inherit from us.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. "You want me to give her my trip that cost a thousand dollars? The trip I almost died for?"

"It's the least you could do after all we've done for you," my dad said without looking at me.

George stepped forward and looked away from me. "Scarlett, think about it." It would mean a lot to everyone.

Robert joined in, looking serious. "Please, sis? For the family?"

I looked at the faces of the people I had given everything for and loved unconditionally. Now they wanted to throw me away for a stranger with the right blood.

"Of course Scarlett will give the trip to Diane," Mother said quickly. She loves her family more than anything else.

"Scarlett, go make dinner," Mom said before I could say anything. You should cook a big meal today to get ready for our trip.

I couldn't stand it any longer. I got up to leave. "Have fun without me." I'm going out to dinner.

"We're leaving tomorrow. Where are you headed? Did you pack your things?"my father growled.

"Are you Omegas so weak now that you can't even pack your own bags?""I lost it."

George tried to catch up with me. "Scarlett, wait—"

I turned to him and said, "Shut up." My wolf's eyes flashed.

When I left, my dad and George were both speechless.

I went to a spa by myself and spent \$1,000 on a beauty treatment. Then I put \$10,000 on a gift card.

This she-wolf had money to spend because she didn't have a big family to take care of.

I stayed out until the moon was high, and when I got back, everything was quiet.

There wasn't a single message, call, or text from my pack while I was gone. They were all sleeping soundly. As soon as I opened the door, my wolf snarled angrily inside me.

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Like trash, some of my clothes, shoes, training gear, Gamma medals and battle trophies had been thrown into the garden.

I went to my room, and sure enough, Diane was sitting at my vanity.

In front of the mirror, she was trying on my different healing gem necklaces while wearing my most expensive silk robe.

When I pushed the door open, she smiled at me in a way that said, "Sister, you will be sleeping in the snow on this trip." Why don't you go outside and sleep in the garden now so you can get used to it before the trip?"

She went on, "Your jewellery and clothes are very nice. Your premium travel reservations are also great. I let you have them for a long time, so I think it's time for you to give them all back to me."

My blood wasn't just boiling; my wolf was howling for blood. Everything I had learnt about how to control my anger went out the window.

Before I could even think, my claws were out and I was hitting her in the face, leaving a bloody scratch right away.

"Ah!""You dare hit me?" she yelled, glaring at me."

She lunged at me to hit me back, but as soon as my parents opened the bedroom door, she fell to the ground, covered her face, and cried, "Sister, I'm sorry, I didn't mean it." "Mom said I could stay in your room tonight."

"Now I'll go sleep in the yard if you're not happy." She covered her face and acted like she was upset.

Mom went over to comfort her with love. Dad looked at me like he was mad. "Scarlett, what's wrong with you?" Say you're sorry to Diane right now and then go to bed in the yard!

He went on. "This is for your own good! When we get to Italy, it will be very cold for you to sleep in the snow. Sleeping in the garden will help you get used to it ahead of time!"

I stood my ground and let my Gamma aura out, which made Diane and my parents' wolves shake. I said firmly, "It's not me who needs to go."

Diane cried on the floor, hiding her face. "I'm sorry, Mom and Dad. It's my fault. Let me go." She was acting like a victim. Normal behaviour.

Mom was almost crying because she was so worried. "Let me get you some herbs that will help you heal."

At that moment, George walked into the room. He looked back and forth between us, his eyes staying on Diane's face.

"What happened?" he asked, his voice sounding far away.

"My father growled, "Your friend attacked poor Diane."

George's eyes showed that he was disappointed in me. "Scarlett, how could you?"

So that was how it was going to be. My own friend is on their side.

I locked my bedroom door with magic stones and turned on the security system as soon as they left. A \$10,000 safety feature. Good use of money.

I took off all the bedding that smelt like her and threw it away. Then I went to bed after using herbs that block smells.

Mother knocked on my door the next morning. "Why did you do that? I spent hours trying to get into your room! You woke everyone up!"

"I was being nice by giving you more time with her. You should thank me."

"Are you out of your mind? She's your sister!"

"Oh, now you remember I'm family? I thought she was coming back to take my place."

George stood behind my parents, and I couldn't tell what he was thinking. "Scarlett, we need to talk."

"I don't have anything to say to a friend who doesn't stand by me," I said coldly.

Diane was the one who kept the peace. "Please don't fight. This trip should be fun. Don't let me ruin it—I'll feel bad." "See how understanding she is? Unlike you, who's just jealous!" my parents yelled.

Mom joined in. "Your behaviour is getting worse. Just give her your booking. Don't let this happen again; we'll let it slide this time."

Father growled. "We've spoilt you! A daughter of the pack should know her place—no daughter dares to refuse her parents' entry! Such defiance should be punished. That would teach you respect!"

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Robert laughed. "With your jealousy and temper, our parents might not want you as their daughter."

That brother I took care of and spoilt.

Diane looked at me with a look of victory in her eyes, as if she were already in my shoes.

My parents pulled their bags in front of me and said, "Hurry up, we have to leave soon or we'll miss our luxury airport transfer. Diane's adoptive father is waiting for us at the terminal."

"Mother said, "Our bags are in the hallway." "You'll stay home today and organise our stuff, making sure everything is packed right. When you're done, come get us at the airport lounge."

I smiled as I looked at the ten huge designer suitcases, five of which belonged to Diane and weighed more than fifty pounds each. "Of course. Go ahead. I'll come get you when I'm done with everything."

George thought about it before going with my parents. "Scarlett, don't take too long."

I watched them all leave. Let them wait.

I already knew what I was going to do.

I called the pack's travel agency as soon as they left.

They picked up the phone right away.

I told them, "Cancel all reservations with the number WP-58921. I want a full refund."

The agent was shocked. "Are you sure? These are premium bookings that can't be changed."

"I don't care about the fees for cancelling. I want everything cancelled: flights, hotels, the cruise to see the northern lights, everything."

I paid the \$10,000 cancellation fee and then saw the confirmation emails come in.

It's worth the money to have peace of mind.

Then I called the pack's banking centre to move my money to a different private account. Five million dollars safely moved to a place where my family couldn't get it.

Next, I planned a private vacation just for me to the beaches in the Southern Hemisphere.

My parents called me through the pack-mind link just as I was getting comfortable in my first-class seat.

"Why can't I see the details of our flight? Send me the tickets."

"Oh, right. I cancelled all the plans to travel."

My parents were very angry. "What? How are we supposed to get to Italy?"

"That's your issue now."

"Are you crazy? Why would you call off our trip? You did this on purpose!"

"Seriously, parents? You go out with strangers and expect your daughter to take care of everything? What would the other pack warriors think?"

"Everyone will make fun of us! Is that what you want?" They were desperate.

"Oh, now you care what other people think? When did you make your daughter sleep outside in the snow?"

My parents took a big breath. "Okay, whatever. Just change everything for us now. Book new flights, reserve hotels, and make sure we have everything we need."

I sent a vague "thank you" and then cut off the mind link.

My wolf purred with happiness as he thought about how scared they would be at the airport.

My parents got back in touch ten minutes later.

"Send us \$50,000 right away. We're stuck at the airport."

"Why do you need all that?"

"We need to book new flights—of course we need money! Send it now; I'm waiting!"

"No. You're too bold to ask your daughter for money. Is that how you live, off of your daughter's money?"

Their mental voices became threatening. "Don't forget who raised you when you first

joined our pack." "Raised me? I paid \$500,000 to save this family. You should remember that."

I cut off their mind link. I kept the block up when they tried again.

Before I could completely block George, his voice got through.

"Scarlett, what have you done? Your family and I need you."

"It's funny how you need me now but were on their side before. A true friend would never betray their partner."

I cut him off before he could say anything.

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Diane posted a picture of herself in the airport lounge an hour later, showing off a rare diamond necklace.

"Thank you, Mom, Dad, and dear George," she wrote in the caption.

The necklace cost \$50,000. My parents didn't have any money coming in after they retired, and George only made \$3,000 a month, but they bought it without thinking.

They did this because they thought I would pay for it like I always do.

Robert mind-linked me in a panic. "Sis, all our reservations have been cancelled! We're stuck at the airport with nowhere to go!"

"That's too bad. Have Diane pay; she can afford a \$50,000 necklace."

"That's not the same! Mom and Dad said they would pay her back."

"Robert, with whose money?"

He stopped talking.

The next day, I finally picked up the phone and talked to my mum.

"Where are you? Why haven't you come back yet? Everyone is waiting for you!"

"Why do you have to wait for me?"

"For dinner! Hurry up!"

"Go on without me."

"We're done. Now we just need you to give us money."

I laughed. Normal behaviour of someone who feels entitled.

"Dear mother, are you so poor that you can't even buy dinner? Did buying her necklace make you poor?"

They were very angry inside. "This is all your fault! We wouldn't be so tired if you had sent us the \$50,000! If you can't come now, send the money! We need to fix this!"

"Okay, I'll send it right away."

I cut off the mind link and completely cut off my connection.

Then I called my bank and put a hold on the joint account I shared with my parents.

Then I called the company that issued my credit card. "I need to report charges that weren't authorised and take away users who were."

Thinking about how mad my parents would be if their cards were turned down at the airport restaurant made me feel a lot better.

My family sent me a lot of messages on my phone:

"Darling, there seems to be a problem with the card," Mother said.

Robert: "Sis, this isn't funny! We're stuck!"

Dad: "You're a disgrace! How could you make us look bad?"

Diane: "Mom and Dad are so stressed out. If you were a good daughter..."

George sent a text that said, "I messed up. Let's talk."

I blocked them all and turned off my phone.

I watched the clouds go by through the window of my first-class cabin.

Don't help them; let them figure it out on their own. This she-wolf was no longer useful.

Finally, I turned on my phone after I got to my fancy beach resort.

My parents called right away.

"You finally answered! Why was your phone off? Why couldn't we reach you through the mind-link? I thought you were dead!"

"Listen to yourself! I was going to sleep outside in the freezing snow, and you weren't worried about my safety? You attack me like this? What kind of parents are you?"

"You just turned off your phone so you wouldn't have to send us money! You did it on purpose!"

"Yes, I did it on purpose. Parents, remember this: you'll never get another cent from me!"

My parents could hear how determined I was and freaked out.

Their mental voices got softer and more persuasive. "Don't be like that. I know it was wrong to make you sleep outside. We'll make it up to you. Where are you? We'll come get you. We got you a gift, a surprise."

I rolled my eyes in my head.

They never wanted to spend money on me, even though we lived together for years. When I was in high school and doing well, they wanted me to drop out early to get a job and help the family.

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They had never given me anything. I only had a wolf charm bracelet, which was a free gift that came with the training gear my brother Robert bought for me.

"Give me your location, and we'll come get you right away."

"Don't bother. I'm on my way."

My parents' voices got sharp. "Why are you going on a trip?"

"I changed my mind. I hope you all have a happy life without me."

"What's wrong? You made your daughter plan the trip, book everything, and then tried to make me sleep outside in the snow. You even brought a bunch of strangers to enjoy the fruits of my labour and celebrate. What's wrong with YOU?"

"We know you're still mad about that. You're so petty! It was just making you sleep outside; we didn't leave you behind. You should be thankful we even let you come."

I laughed. "Oh, so I should be grateful?"

"Please go wherever you want, but you need to send us money. And what about our hotel and flight reservations?"

"Oh, right, those reservations. All of them are gone."

"What? Gone?" My parents were angry and scared. "What kind of daughter are you? You ruined all of Diane's plans and cancelled our whole trip! Now what are we

supposed to do? We're stuck at the airport!"

"Not my problem. You put me in a situation that was impossible for me to handle on my own. I'm not a three-headed wolf; I couldn't handle everything."

Diane's voice came through. "Really? The trip is really cancelled? My plans to take pictures of the northern lights! And the spa treatments I was promised that were worth thousands of dollars! All my dreams!"

My parents quickly made her feel better. "Don't worry. She'll pay you back since she ruined your trip."

"Send the money right away! You have to pay for everything she cancelled. We all need new tickets and reservations. If we need more, we'll let you know."

I couldn't help but laugh. "Are you crazy? I'm not to blame for your disappointment; you left after putting your hopes on me. Remember what I said: you won't get another dollar from me. Did you think I was kidding?"

I cut the mind link, which blocked everyone—parents, Robert, and everyone else.

Then I couldn't stop George's voice from coming through.

"Scarlett, please. I know I messed up badly. I should have been there for you from the start."

"Too late, George. A true friend doesn't cheat on their partner just because someone prettier comes along."

"It wasn't like that! I was just trying to keep things calm..."

"Peace that costs me money isn't peace at all."

I also blocked his pack bond, and I felt a sharp pain when I broke the mate connection.

Let them all find a way to live without my money.

Other pack members started calling my phone.

"Why did the airport hotel turn down your parents' card?"

"Robert is crying in the pack house. Is it because you called off the family trip?"

"Is it true that Diane has a \$50,000 necklace on while the whole family can't even afford a taxi from the airport?"

My phone buzzed with a message while I was on the balcony sipping a tropical drink and looking out at the ocean. The headline of the pack news bulletin made me choke on my drink:

"JACKSONS FAMILY CRISIS: GAMMA'S PARENTS SAY THEY WERE LEFT ALONE"

When I opened the article, I saw that my parents were telling a sad story about how their adopted daughter had suddenly left them, leaving them stuck and broke.

Diane said, "My sister has always been jealous of me. Now she's punishing our parents for loving both of us the same."

But the quote from George that really made me mad was, "As her mate, I'm very worried about Scarlett's recent behaviour. This isn't like her at all. I'm afraid

something may be wrong with our mate bond."

That was his plan: to say I was the bad one.

I make a lot of money, so I'm one of the pack's highest earners. My family depends on my money to live.

Now everyone knows what my family really is: a bunch of weak people who can't take care of themselves and need their daughter's help.

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I looked at my schedule for combat training. Even on vacation, other warriors were willing to pay me \$1,000 for each session.

I could do video coaching sessions from my fancy beach suite. Why waste time when you could be making money?

I got a call from the pack Beta after two training sessions.

"Your family is making a scene at pack headquarters. They're asking for money right away."

"That's not my problem anymore."

"Your family is telling everyone you left them. Diane is crying because her trip was ruined."

"The trip my parents promised her with my money?"

The Beta let out a sigh. "This is getting out of hand. Your parents' reputation is going down."

"Good. They might learn to live within their means."

I got a text from my bank saying that my parents had tried to get into my personal accounts.

They had also tried to take the office building that Alpha gave me and make it their

own.

My wolf roared in anger.

I called my lawyer right away and said, "I need a restraining order." And begin the paperwork for ending a family relationship.

After that, I called the pack's most powerful female warrior.

"Lucy, do you remember when you said you owed me for saving your life in battle? I need your help.

"Anything."

"I'm going to end my family relationship. When I come back, I'll need protection. My parents won't like it.

Lucy growled, "They make \$3,000 a month, but they bought a \$50,000 necklace for a random woman?" While making plans for their daughter to sleep in the freezing snow? I'll get my best fighters together. Nobody will touch you.

Word spread quickly among the women in the pack.

Twelve wolf warriors had offered to protect me by nightfall.

They were all people I had fought with before. They knew what I had done for the pack.

George sent me a text that said, "Please talk to me." I've been trying to get in touch with you through our friendship. "I made a big mistake."

I deleted it without responding. A real friend would never have done what he did to me.

Diane started posting dramatic things on social media:

"Real family never leaves each other... Some people don't deserve to be close to family... "Parents need a daughter who is there for them."

My parents' pack status dropped a lot, and other warriors openly made fun of them.

What kind of parents spend their daughter's money on expensive gifts for someone who just got back?

I let myself relax and enjoy the beach spa and room service.

I hadn't had a break since moving in with my family because I was always fighting and taking care of things.

I had never felt so free before.

From now on, I would live by myself.

A strange mind-link connected to me after two weeks of living in luxury.

My parents' angry voices filled my head before I could do anything.

"You have some nerve getting the whole pack to turn against us!" What are you trying to show? Do you think you're above the law of the pack?"Nothing important? "I'm going to hang up."

"Hold on! We still have work to do! We've been back for three days. Where are

you?"

"Still playing." "Need more time."

"Two weeks isn't enough?" What time do you plan to come back?"

"Two months should be enough. I'll be back then.

My parents growled through the link, "Are you crazy? Who's going to pay for Robert's private school? Who is in charge of his college applications? And the money—how much have you thrown away? Come back now!"

"Money is mine, so I get to choose. Don't waste your breath. "I won't come back until I'm ready."

"What will happen to Robert in the future? Are you leaving him?"

"I'm his sister, not his mum!" I don't have to do anything. He said I wasn't paying enough attention to him, but now he doesn't have to worry about that.

"His tuition of \$50,000 is due next week!" The school has called three times!"

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"Sounds like a problem with the family." Diane should pay. "I'm just the stranger you picked up."

My parents' mental voices were hoarse. "You're pushing too hard." I will give you one day. We'll file for family relationship termination if you're not here by this time tomorrow!"

I laughed out loud. "Perfect!" That was what I wanted to hear. I've been treated like I'm not part of the group anyway.

"Only cowards give up!""

"Look at your email. My lawyer has already sent the papers to end the contract."

My parents' mind-link went quiet as they hurried to check. They found the papers exactly where I said they would be.

"You're serious!""

"Did you think I was kidding?"

My parents were so shocked that they couldn't think of anything.

"I know you're unhappy with the sleeping arrangements this time. You messed up our trip, and we haven't even punished you for it yet. Don't go too far! Come home now if you want to stay a part of our family."

"Is there something wrong with your brains? Can I make this more clear? I want to end our family relationship. Put your name on the papers. The house belongs to me. You have two months to look for a new home. If you're still in my house when I get back, I'll have the pack council kick you out!"

"The mortgage comes from the account we share!""

"An account that I paid for completely. Look at the records.

"You're really making us mad now!""

"Okay. Use that anger to sign those papers. Then we're finished.

I broke the mind-link, smashed my pack bond crystal, and got a new one with a different frequency.

A different mind-link tried to connect with George.

"Please, Scarlett. We need to have a conversation about this. You can't just throw away a mate bond.

"Watch me," I said, and then I cut that connection as well.

When my parents couldn't get in touch with me, they started bothering my friends who were fighting with me.

Not a good idea.

The strongest wolves from three areas were on my companion list.

They didn't like that my nominal family was trying so hard to find me.

Messages came in on my phone:

"Your adoptive parents tried to break into the building where you work."

"They're asking for access to your combat partner records."

"Diane is telling people that you are backing out of fights."

"George is telling everyone that your friendship is broken and you need help."

I called the pack council right away.

My parents got a restraining order within hours.

They weren't allowed to go into my office building or any of the combat command centres.

George was told by the Goddess's representatives that he would be punished if he kept making false claims about our bond.

The council made it clear that harassing a pack Gamma would have serious consequences.

Diane put more dramatic things on social media:

"A daughter using her power to bully her loyal parents... Not all things are money...
"Real family forgives each other..."

George added, "A friend who leaves their partner during a family crisis needs to remember the sacred bond they have."

The comments were mean:

"Parents who need their daughter to help them don't respect themselves!""

"Living off your daughter while buying expensive gifts for other people? Shameless!"

"My family would never make me sleep outside in the freezing cold!""

"A true friend stands by their partner instead of siding with others!""

The status of my nominal parents in the pack hit rock bottom.

George's family even started to stay away from him. No wolf wanted to be friends with a man who cheated on his mate.

At family events, other relatives would stay away from them, and they had problems in every area of life.

People didn't want to be around members who put their family at risk.

Robert's private school called me directly:

"About Robert's school fees..."

"I am no longer in charge of Robert's bills. Get in touch with his family.

"But you've always been in charge of his education!""

"Things have changed." Take me off his list of emergency contacts.

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I sent all of my bills to my nominal family:

Robert's \$50,000 in school fees

And one special bill for George:

\$150,000 for all the combat training, gear, and help I gave him over the course of three years

Let them work it out on their own.

I went back to my house after living in peace for a month.

When I opened the door, I saw that my family was still living in my house.

Mom ran over. "You're back!" Are you tired from your trip? Are you hungry? Would you like me to get you some fresh meat?"

Her never-before-seen excitement made my skin crawl.

"Don't worry, Elder."

"What did you say my name was? I am your mum!"

"I've cut off all ties with you." Elder is right.

Mother looked at Father with desperation, and he slowly came over.

"Stop making things hard. Look at how much Mother cares about you. Why mess up a good pack life?"

"Didn't you ask for termination? Said that anyone who backs down is a coward? Have you signed the papers for the ritual?"

Dad pressed his lips together and then took my hand.

"That's enough. You cancelled our trip and messed up our plans. I've forgiven you for all of that. We'll stop talking about severance pay now. Look how nice I am to you?"

I pulled away. "Stop wasting time." Put your name on the papers. "Let's finish this up nicely."

"Show her the gift we got her!" Mother told him."

Dad quickly brought a big box.

"You've always wanted this bracelet with diamonds, right? Dad even spent his retirement money on it!"

I looked at it quickly, and even from across the room, I could tell it was fake. These crystals didn't have any natural energy.

"Father, you paid \$50,000 for her real necklace. You bought junk from a flea market for me? At least spend enough money to get a good fake if you're going to lie. Did you think I wouldn't be able to tell the difference?"

Father's face turned red.

"It's not a lie! I got it from the jeweller in the North! I have proof!"

"Then let's go to their store right now. If they're selling fake goods, they'll have to pay a lot of money.

"That's... in the Southern area...

"Not a problem. I'll pay for your permission to travel. "Let's go now."

Robert came in and said, "Father, stop pretending!" You bought it for \$300 at the street market, so it's not real. She doesn't deserve real diamonds; she only deserves fake junk!"

"Shut up!" said Father."

"Just end the relationship! Diane is back with her family. We are still a happy family!"

"Adult pack business isn't for pups," Mother said as she pulled Robert. Get out of here!"

"Hold on, Robert. Let me explain why your parents don't want to pay you severance since you don't understand.

Robert crossed his arms and said, "Fine." Tell me more.

"How much money do your parents make every month?""

"They're done working." No money coming in.

"And what about your private school fees?""

"\$50,000 a semester, plus \$5,000 in extra fees every month."

"So your parents can't even pay for your needs for a month. The mortgage on this house is \$12,000 a month. I give your parents \$8,000 a month. You four will all be homeless.

Robert's face changed. "What? We have Diane! She'll be there for us!"

"Diane just lost her third job in the Northern Territory. I don't think she's passed any combat tests. The business of her adoptive parents went under. They can't help you.

Robert's face grew darker. "The house is part of the family contract—parents should get half!""

"I bought this house on my own after I turned 18. The pack law says that if you sever it, you can't claim it. "Little brother, learn the old laws."

Robert's face got darker because he couldn't argue.

"Don't be scared of her! We can start over after we break up! We can work it out!"

"Shut your mouth!" Dad yelled as he slapped Robert hard."

Mother angrily pulled him away.

"Get to your room!" Who told you to say such stupid things?"

Mother came back after locking Robert up. "Robert is young and stupid." Don't pay any attention to him.

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"Well, "I would not have paid his tuition if I had known he was so ungrateful." "I'll make him say sorry the right way!""

At that moment, I smelt something familiar. My wolf stirred inside me, recognising it right away. George stood in the doorway, looking both relieved and worried.

"Scarlett," he said in a soft voice. "You're back."

I turned my back on him and said, "I have nothing to say to you."

Dad saw a chance. "George! Okay, you're here. Make her see reason. Tell her to stop talking about breaking up with her family.

George carefully stepped forward. "This time, I'm not here to take sides. "I've learnt my lesson."

I laughed and said, "Too late for that."

He got closer, his eyes begging. "Our bond as friends is sacred." We were chosen by the Goddess herself. Do you still not feel the pull?

"Stop with the empty gestures. Father, if you don't sign the severance papers, we'll take this to the pack council."

I was about to leave when Mother grabbed me.

"Where are you going? You just got back."

"I didn't bring any luggage, did you?" I said with a sneer. "You really don't care at all, do you? I have a condition that gets worse in the cold, and you didn't even notice. Mother, you're even more disappointing than I thought."

I looked away. Dad ran after me.

"Can't we talk about this?"

Diane showed up right then, and her face was twisted with rage.

"You dare show your face! What kind of family leaves their pack elders behind? A few months in the wild, they would kill rogues like you!"

I hit her, and my claws drew blood.

"You dare to lecture me? At least I didn't leave my family to live a life of luxury, chasing after another pack's family and pretending to be an orphan to join their life!"

"You hit me again!" she cried as she turned to Father. "Are you going to let her hit me twice?"

"He has no right to get involved. Since you're here, help me get him to sign the papers to end the relationship. Don't make this last until I have to go to the pack council. We'll eventually break up, and making things worse will only make me think less of them."

George got in the way of us. "Scarlett, please. I messed up badly. I should have been there for you."

"But you didn't. A real friend always stands up for their partner, not just when it's easy."

I heard Diane yell as I walked away, "Just end things with her already! What do you even miss about that she-wolf? I can't believe it. Didn't you say you couldn't stand her? Why won't you agree to end things?"

"You don't get it. I might not like her, but I can't just end our relationship."

As I walked away, their argument faded.

George called out behind me, "Scarlett, this isn't over. A mate bond can't be broken so easily."

I didn't look back.

Three days later, my dad stood at the door of my office with a lunchbox.

"Daughter!"

He ran over and shoved the lunchbox into my hands.

"Come home. Both Mother and Robert miss you."

I looked at the lunch box. "This must have taken a lot of work for Mother."

"It did, but you're worth any price."

I laughed a lot. "Father, we've lived together for years, and this is the first time you've brought me food. I used to dream of feeling your care, but you never showed it. What's the point now? I don't want it anymore."

I threw the lunchbox back at him. "Stop pretending. We're no longer together."

"I know you're mad that Diane is with us and making you sleep in the cold. I was awful—I see that now. Give me a chance to make it right! She won't come to our house anymore. If you don't want to see her, I'll stop talking to her. I can't lose you!"

"You mean you can't lose my money? You can't lose your perfect ATM that pays your bills and feeds your family? You can't lose your money tree?"

"No, I can't stand it because I love you."

"Shut up! You make me sick! If you keep pushing, I'll tell the whole pack what Diane did."

Father's face went pale. "When did you get the bond memories?"

"Are you not so sure now? Don't you love me the most? I'm just telling the pack about Diane's past. Why aren't you happy?"

"Get rid of that memory right now!"

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"I'll delete it after you sign the papers to end our family relationship."

Father held his head in pain and said, "Can't we all just get along?""

I shook my head and said, "No."

"What about the politics of the pack? Other warriors are already making fun of me. "If we break up, my reputation will suffer..."

"Before you bought her a \$50,000 necklace with my money, you should have thought about that."

Father fell into a chair, the fight leaving him.

"The hearing with the council is tomorrow." I guess there's no way to avoid it.

"There isn't." I've already sent in all the money records. Everyone in the pack will be able to see every dollar I've spent to help this family.

Father winced. "Do you have to humiliate us completely?""

"I didn't start this, Dad. You did when you picked her over me.

George came to the door as Father was leaving.

He said softly, "The council hearing is tomorrow. I'll be there."

"Which side are you going to take this time? I asked in a cold voice.

"Yours. From now on, always yours. I was stupid to ever do anything else.

I looked at his face, trying to find a lie. "It's too late for that, George." I have also asked for a divorce from my partner.

His face went pale. "You can't." The Goddess herself—

"The Goddess would never approve of a partner who cheats on their partner. Long before my paperwork did, your actions broke our bond.

George's eyes were wide with fear. "No court will give that." It is important to keep mate bonds.

"Tomorrow, we'll see, right? Get out of my office now.

My parents agreed to sign the papers three days later.

Diane came to the relationship severance ceremony we held.

The diamond necklace my parents bought her was on her.

"Mom and Dad, are you going to live with Diane's family after you break up?"

"Of course," she said as she wrapped her arms around them. They don't have you anymore, but they still have me. "We'll be happy together."

I smiled at my parents and said, "We lived together for so many years, and I worked so hard, but I never made you happy. Now that your biological daughter is back, you can finally be happy. "How impressive."

"What are you talking about?" she screamed. Of course we'll be happy, because we're really family with blood ties!"

"Okay, if you say so. Why are you so defensive?"

The members of the pack council who were performing the ritual looked at each other knowingly.

They were all my friends in battle. They knew she lied all the time to get families to trust her.

George stood at the back of the room with a look of regret on his face. This hearing would be followed right away by the mate bond severance hearing.

After our family contract was broken, my parents took her right away to do their family ritual.

They saw me waiting outside. She smirked and said, "Still here?" Why?"

"To get my house back."

"House? You are no longer their daughter. That's where we live!"

"You look confused. My parents and your family have been living on my property. I told them they had two months to leave, but they've been living there like Omegas. So I'm sending pack council enforcers to kick them out.

She froze. "Is this true, Mom and Dad?""

"Why are you so mean? You have a lot of money. What's wrong with us living in your house?"

"Pay attention to what you say. You want to live in the house your ex-daughter bought, but you're with your new family? Don't you respect yourself?"

I called in pack enforcers to get rid of these shameless wolves on my property.

Mother cried and Father and Robert yelled curses.

She called the head of the pack council.

She cried into the phone, "This she-wolf is abusing her money and power and taking our home!""

I showed them my property deed and said, "Council members, I bought this house on my own before we broke up." We broke up, but they won't leave.

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After figuring out what was going on, the enforcers told this rude family off.

I made a loan agreement. "Elders, let's settle this in front of the enforcers." I lent you \$500,000 to pay off your pack debt, which is due in five years. It's time to pay it back!"

My fake family looked shocked. "You said we didn't have to pay it back!""

"I never said that." Give me money!"

They signed the loan agreement to look tough in front of other people.

I was glad I had the sense to keep it.

Diane almost passed out when she saw the huge debt.

"Hey Mom and Dad... You owe her \$500,000?"

"We can explain..."

"You said the family was rich!" You said you'd take care of me, so make it up to me!"

The pack council enforcers stepped forward. "Pack law says that all debts must be paid off during severance."

In the end, Diane and her family had to go back to their old small house with my

parents.

George came up to me as they were leaving, his eyes begging.

"Scarlett, the next thing is the hearing to end the mate bond. Please think about it again.

"There's no need to think about it. You picked your side.

"I really messed up. I should have kept you safe. "Let me show you again that I am worthy of being your mate."

"Too late for that," I said as I turned away.

I took everything out of the house I had already sold the next day to make room for the new owner.

I had the pack Beta help me get the money back through the courts.

After that, I went right to the hearing to end the mate bond.

The council members looked uneasy. Mate bond severances were rare; it was said that the Goddess herself chose these pairings.

"Scarlett Jacksons, you want to break a sacred bond between mates. Give your reasons.

"George was on my family's side when they tried to make me sleep in freezing temperatures that would make my condition worse. He turned on me for strangers when I needed him the most. A real friend looks out for their partner. He didn't do that sacred duty.

George stepped up and said, "I was wrong." I admit it. But mate bonds are supposed to be strong enough to handle mistakes. "Please give me another chance," I said.

The Alpha herself was there for this hearing. "George, did you know that by supporting your mate's family's decision to make her sleep in conditions that could make her medical condition worse, you were putting her in danger?"

He looked down. "I... I didn't think about it. "All I wanted was for everyone to get along."

The Alpha said coldly, "At her expense."

After thinking it over, the council decided in my favour. "The mate bond is broken." As a friend, George Dickson, you have not done your job. You are free from this bond, Scarlett Jacksons.

It hurt, like losing a limb, but it also set me free when I felt the supernatural bond between us break.

After that, I closed my combat coaching business and started looking into far-off places.

My friends who fought with me in close quarters would follow me anywhere.

Later, I heard that Diane and Robert had a fight that hurt her wolf so badly that it couldn't change into a werewolf or fight anymore.

Robert was kicked out of his private school without my help.

His ranking in combat training went from the top fifty to the very bottom.

George had been moved down in the pack's hierarchy. No one trusted a wolf who would betray his own mate.

Diane and her parents had to go back to their old jobs, where they had to work even when they were sick.

They were trying to get in touch with me through other pack members, hoping I would come back and make up with my parents.

My parents wanted to cut ties with Diane, hoping I would save the family.

These shameless wolves can howl all they want; I'm done with them.

Now I just want to run around freely in the open air and set up my combat coaching system in new places.

People say I'm cruel for ruining the lives of people who used to be my closest family.

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But family that makes you sleep outside in the cold when they know how sick you are?

A friend who leaves you for a stranger with a pretty face?

They got what they deserved.

It feels great to finally be living for myself.

Let the pack talk. This she-wolf is done acting.

I don't want to please anyone else anymore; I just want to live for myself.

As I drive towards the Southern territories, the weight of years of duty lifts off my shoulders. The road ahead of me is long and full of possibilities.

My warrior friend Lucy sent me a message that said, "The rumours are spreading fast." Your old family is telling everyone you left them.

I type back, "Let them talk." The truth always comes out in the end.

Another message comes in, this time from Robert: "Please, sis. We messed up. Diane tricked all of us. Can we have a talk?"

Then George said, "I know I don't deserve it, but I'm still here if you need anything."

I don't answer either of them. There's nothing more to say.

My new home is a modern cabin on the edge of prime hunting grounds. It's smaller than my last house, but it's all mine. There are no ungrateful dependents, no parasitic relatives, and no disloyal partner.

The Alpha of the Southern territory has already offered me a job as a combat trainer for their best troops. The pay is good, and they really respect me.

As I cross the line between territories, I can feel my wolf getting excited. She knows what I know to be true: this is our new beginning, our fresh start.

I stop at a scenic overlook and get out of my car. The valley below is wild and untamed, and it goes on for miles. I raise my head and let out a howl that echoes across the mountains.

Not a howl of loss or sadness, but of freedom. Of being born again.

For the first time in my life, I am only responsible to myself.

Both the woman and the wolf in me are very happy.