ESCAPE FROM A SACTUARY FULL OF LIES

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Xavier seemed unable to process my final rejection. He continued to stalk me, calling out, "I don't accept this. We shared a life together.

Don't all those perfect years mean anything to you?"

"You swore you would love me forever. Why are you throwing it all away?"

Seeing his desperate, haunted face, I felt nothing but cold resolve. Without a word, I walked to the local police station and reported him for harassment.

Later, I sent one final, anonymous message to Jennifer's family, detailing Xavier's location in Greece and his last-minute abandonment of her transplant in Monaco.

From international news reports, I later learned what happened next. The family, furious and desperate, used the information to pressure Xavier. When he refused to cooperate, they leaked everything to the authorities—his financial crimes, the shell corporations he used,

and the entire plot to illegally harvest my kidney.

The scandal was explosive. Xavier was ruined, facing international prosecution. Jennifer, betrayed and without a donor, passed away a few months later. They had destroyed each other.

During this time, Jasper was a constant, steady presence in my life. Eventually, I learned that he had known of me for years.

It turned out a research paper I had published as a student had inadvertently helped his island community win a legal battle against a developer, preserving their ancestral fishing grounds. He had admired me from afar ever since.

Years ago, when he was struggling with a family crisis, he had come to a remote dive resort to clear his head. He had recklessly attempted a dangerous cave dive, getting trapped by a current where no one could see his distress.

I happened to be on a research trip nearby and noticed his distress signal, quickly alerting the local rescue team.

After that, I was gone. He told me he had searched for me for years, just to thank me in person. But I had seemingly disappeared, and despite his best efforts, he could never find me.

Years later, he finally saw me again—on the cover of a magazine announcing my marriage to Xavier. Not wanting to disrupt my life, he kept his distance.

Hearing his story, I was struck by the incredible serendipity of our connection.

Despite my initial hesitation, Jasper didn't give up. Instead, he became a trusted friend, often joining me on expeditions. His quiet strength and unwavering support were a comfort, and he slowly became an essential part of my life.

The news of Xavier and Jennifer's fate reached me two years later. After his arrest, Jennifer's family had abandoned him completely.

The ensuing legal battle exposed all his secrets. In his desperation, Xavier tried to blackmail the family, leading to further charges.

Jennifer, with her health failing and her family in turmoil, was left with no options. She passed

