

Outside My Shell

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My Shell

I am a little girl named Brielle Rose Jefferson. I always say I don't like the name Brielle, but I like it. I'm only 7 years old, but I am very mature, almost too mature. This story is about me breaking out of my shell. My shell is my comfort zone. My comfort zone is just my house, my relatives homes, and my school. Currently my school is on winter break. I get scared the most when it's winter, and since I live in Nome, Alaska, winter is not the thing you can avoid. It's mid winter in Alaska, and the scariest part is the animals. The scariest are the wolves, bears, coyotes, foxes, and worst of all polar bears. All these animals scare me, so I don't go outside much. Though I felt like I needed to do something. The saddest thing is I had only one friend. His name was Parker. He moved away 3 months ago. He was my only friend and the only one who understood me. Now, no one wants to be my friend. Even worse, my parents are divorced. I live with my rich father, but I want to live with my mother. She owns a cabin in the middle of the woods and my father has a modern house which is mainly made out of glass, and some wood. Unlike my father, my mother is single. My father is dating a stupid girl named Keegan. She wants nothing to do with me and doesn't even like my father, she just wants money so she pretends to like my father.

The date was January 14 and I just woke up. I went downstairs and saw stupid Keegan.

" Hello Keegan." " Please Brielle, call me mother." " You'll never be my mother. Where's father?" " He went out for a meeting with, well you don't need to know. Anyway he told me that after you eat breakfast we need to go clothes shopping. And he gave me \$1,000.00! So eat quickly." I hated when I went shopping with Keegan. She always made it about her. I never got anything, and she just gave me her hand -me -downs from when she was my age. " Oh and don't worry this time Maya, we're going to split it 50, 50." That was the first time she let me have some money. " Then when we're going to wait for each other by the door. You can check out yourself, right?" " Yes that won't be a problem." " Good."

Breaking Out

When we finally arrived at the store, I actually held Keegan's hand. " Why are you holding my hand? Oh wait, I know why. This is outside your shell, isn't it?" I growled at her as another way to say yes. " Ok listen sport, you go shop for what you need then meet me at that exact bench. I don't want to get in trouble with your father." I looked down and spotted a ring on her hand. I was in shock. " Oh yes. Chris and I are getting married. One other thing Ivy doesn't have." At that persists moment I wanted to kill her. Ivy was my mother's name, and Chris was my father's name. " Well what are you still doing here. Go shop." as she handed me \$100. I did as she said, I just couldn't believe Keegan Hartest was going to be my step-mother. I went into the kids section and saw everything I needed under 50 bucks. I had about 2 dollars left for tax. I went to the cashier and it turned out to be harder than I thought. I had to sign my name, but instead I signed Keegan's since I memorized it. " 49 dollars and 62 cents." " Here you go. Keep the change. I don't think 38 cents will make a difference." " Well thank you, Keegan?" " No. Um actually my name is Brielle, I just signed with that name." " Well have a good day." " You too." I went and waited at the bench. I felt depressed. I thought I needed to break out of my shell. My mother and Parker would've wanted that, and now I want too. I put on my coat and went outside. It was a blizzard. I went to a bench and sat down. I immediately wanted to jump back up. I heard everyone scream. They all ran inside. I immediately wanted to go with them, but I thought about my shell. I wondered what they were afraid of, but then I saw it. An Arctic Fox crept out of the parking lot. I started to move back, but the fox kept going. I finally reached the point where I couldn't move back anymore. I stuck out my hand and closed my eyes so I couldn't see my own death. But then my hand felt a snout. I opened up my eyes and saw a fox in my palm. I broke out of my shell.. The fox came under my arm. I started to pet him. He then tried to take me somewhere. " What no! I can't just go and leave Keegan behind." I looked in the window and saw Keegan looking crazy for me. " Ok. But only for a few minutes."

My New Best Friend

That fox wasn't so scary, but I still didn't feel like I would make it out alive. " So where are you taking me?" He didn't respond. " Well I guess that's what get for asking a fox a question. I should name you. I'm gonna name you Whitts. You can call me Brielle." The whole way we walked I had my hand on his back feeling his soft white fur. It took us like 2 hrs to walk to our destination. " What! I thought you were going to take me back to the store! My dad and Keegan are probably home." We were in my backyard. I was freaking out. " Whitts you have to go. If dad catches you, I won't be able to see you again. Now go run." All he did was stand there doing nothing. Then it hit me. I turned around and saw my father's cold dark stare. And Keegan just looking behind him, smirking. I suddenly froze like Whitts. I didn't want to move, yet I knew I had to. I slowly walked to the door regretting to leave Whitt's behind. I couldn't believe what I was doing. I knew it was insane, this whole day was insane. I went shopping with Keegan and got a little bit of the money, I made best friends with a fox, and I left my shell by risking my life, for that same exact fox. I walked inside and started to panic. My dad got on his tippy toes. His arms were crossed. They were only crossed when I crossed him. I looked down. He opened his mouth, yet no words came out. 3 seconds later words came out, words that were too scary to mention again.

Punishment

" You are in humungous trouble Brielle! You left you mother in great worry." " Keegan's not my mother." " Still you made her worry deeply! And leaving the store like that. And to come back with a Fox! You will be grounded for the rest of your young little life." " Dad I know that you're exaggerating and I'm really sorry, but Whitts isn't just a Fox, he's my best friend." " What did you just say about that Fox?!" " He's not just a Fox, he's my best friend. I mean I finally broke out of my shell. Dad, do you know what this means? I'm not afraid anymore. I can do things and I won't be scared." " Well I don't know what that Fox did to you, but will be grounded for three weeks. And that Fox is going to be taken from this town." " No!" I shouted " Don't hurt Whitts!" " Why do you keep calling that Fox Whitts?" " Because that's his name" " Chris maybe you're being a little too hard on her. I mean she is only 7." I was looking desperate on the outside, but on the inside I knew what angle she was playing . She was trying to be all caring even though she was a demon. She always does that, and everytime she does I die a little inside. " Maybe I was being a little too hard on Brielle. But not too hard on that Fox!" He marched outside and

took his snout. He called animal control. 10 minutes later Animal Control came. I started to run but Keegan held me back. " No No No! Keegan you don't understand. I need Whitts! Please." " I understand perfectly. It's odd to have a Fox as a best friend." I watched them take Whitts. It wasn't fair. I bursted into tears. My dad finally came back inside. " Why did you do that? He meant everything to me. And you just gave him up to animal control." " I did the right thing." " No you didn' t. You never care about anyone but yourself! And you didn't make anything better." I ran upstairs and flopped on my bed. I was just bawling the whole time. I only came downstairs when neither dad nor Keegan were downstairs. I just stayed in my room basically the whole rest of the day. I didn't fall asleep until 11:00 pm. I woke up at about 8:30 am. I went downstairs and saw my father and my future step mother sitting in the kitchen. There was an awkward moment of silence until I took my bagel and went to the dining room. I didn't feel comfortable with Whitts being gone. I felt like my shell was slowly growing back. After I ate my breakfast I headed to the kitchen. " Dad, I want to go live with mom." " Nope. You are staying here with me. I got you. We do not share custody with you." " What? I thought you and mom shared custody with me. I guess not. Jerk." I ran upstairs. I opened the door to my room. I slammed the door shut. I went in my closet. I grabbed a step stool and got my suitcases down from the top shelf. My family doesn't go on many trips, so my suitcases are on the top self. I only have 2 suitcases, but that was all I needed. I started to pack up all the stuff I loved the most. Like my clothes, my shoes, my school supplies, my piggy bank, and my favorite picture frames. My picture frames ment the most. The ones I packed were Parker and I were at the water park, my mom and I sitting on the swings, my father and I eating Ice Cream cones in a snowstorm, And last but still least me and Keegan at the movies. I don't know why I took the one of Keegan, but I think it was because I looked really nice in the picture. I wanted one of Whitts too. I put them all in the 2 suitcases. I got my parka and my snow boots on. " I'm ready." I was taking a big risk, but it was worth it.

The Escape

I walked down the hall. I leaned in on my father's door. I heard Keegan and him talking. The cost was clear. " Goodbye. " I whispered. I went downstairs and snuck out the front door with all my stuff. I walked down the road to animal control. " Hello. Um may I come in? I would like to take an animal home with me." " Sure come in." He showed me the way to the room with all of the animals. " Whitts! This is the one. I would like to take this one." " 200 bucks." " Um..." I wanted to charge it to my father's credit card, but I didn't. " Ok. Give me one second." I took out my piggy bank and dumped out about 1,00,000 dollars in singles. I took 200 dollars out. " Here you go." I put all my money back in my piggy bank. I put my piggy bank back in my suitcase.

He open the gate to Whitts' cage. " Whitts! He ran to me. I hugged him so hard. " Come on let's go. Oh thank you." We left animal control. " Ok Whitts we're going to go live with mom. Can you sniff this out?" I took out the picture of me and my mom. She had a special feather pen that I had attached to the picture. " So. Find anything?" He sniffed the feather pen then started to walk. I followed him. He took us to the woods. I felt my shell starting to deform again.

Lost Away

He started to sniff around. We weren't so close to town. We were in a quarter of the woods. The woods were covering 50% of Nome. There were a lot of woods, but I could feel it in my bones that this was the right one. " Where is she. Brielle has been gone for so long, Keegan I'm really worried." " Well we can always just have more kids." I know what you're thinking, and no I was born to my real mother, Ivy harrison. " What? I'm not forgetting about my first child. I don't want any other children until I know I can take care of one without losing her." Keegan huffed.

" Well then call a search party. They'll find her in no time." " That's a great idea. I'll go call the mayor of Nome." He did what he said, and the search party started searching. " Whitts are we getting closer? My feet are exhausted." Whitts just kept going. I almost fainted. A flash of light hit my back. I heard whistles. " I think we have some company." I whispered. It was the search team. " Search parties. Run!" We bolted forward. Whitts turned left, and I followed. " Ahh!" I tripped over a branch. The search party started to catch up. " Whitts! Help!" Whitts came and helped me up. He boosted me up a tree. I climbed to the top of it. I watched Whitts chase the search parties away. I climbed down. " PLEASE PLEASE ! I can't go back! I have to go find my mom! " the man from the search party looked at me and he let go of my arm. "Wait! Don't tell my father about any of this. Ok?" He nodded, Then headed out.

" Whitts I'm getting tired. How much longer." He lifted up his head. I was tired of walking. I looked around, yet I only saw trees. " Great you got us lost! Whitts I can't walk anymore. I trusted you. I guess we'll just wait until morning. Goodnight." We fell right asleep. Walking all day long was really exhausting. Soon enough morning came and me and Whitts woke up. I was trying to get up, but I couldn't. My foot was stuck under a big rock. " Whitts help!" Whitts didn't do anything except dig where my foot was stuck. When he was done he lifted up his head like he was saying something. " Whitts, I don't know what you're saying! I'm guessing you want me to try to get my leg out." I tried to wiggle my foot out, and it worked. " Whitts thank you so much!" I gave him a hug. We started walking. We walked for about 25 minutes, then Whitts stopped. " Whitts what's wrong?" Then I saw it. " What's that?"

Finding Home

It was a log cabin in the middle of nowhere. It looked like someone lived there. I didn't know what to do. " I'm scared, so scared, but let's go see who lives there." We walked up the stairs to the cabin I knocked on the door. We waited a couple seconds, then the door opened. " Brielle?!" " Mom!!" I ran to her arms. She picked me up and swung me around. " Ahhhh! What's that?" " Mom this my best friend, he's a fox." My mom looked like she saw an inside out pig. She picked up a shovel from the inside of her house and lifted it up over her head. " Wait, wait, wait! He gave me the courage to break out of my shell. And he's the one you helped me find you. So please don't hurt him. Also his name is Whitts." " Well thank you Whitts. Oh you two must be freezing. Come in come in." Me and Whitts walked inside. " Would you like some hot cocoa?" " Um sure. Do you have a place for Whitts to stay?" " Oh, um I just thought you were visiting, but staying is even better. Uh Whitts can stay right over here." She took us to an open space under the stairs that looked originally for a dog. " Thank you. You don't mind if Whitts stays inside, do you?" " Not at all. Here's your hot cocoa" " Thanks. Mom, dad doesn't really know that I'm here." " Oh. Well here. Call him." She handed me her phone. I dialed the number. " Dad." " Brielle. Where are you?" "Um I'm at mom's house. I've come here so I could live with her. I'll really miss you. And don't worry I'll come and visit so many times. Ok?" " Ok. What's important is that you're happy." " Bye dad. I love you." " I love you too." He hung up the phone. " I'll miss her." My father said. " Well don't think too much about her, and think more about us." My dad just walked up the stairs. He opened the door to my room. He found my notebook on my bed. He opened it up and read the first page.

Dear Dad,

I have recently been in touch with mom. She says that she still loves you. I think that it would be a good idea to remarry mom. Keegan is just an ignorant person. All she wants is to be rich and she doesn't even like you. Anyway that's my opinion. Please consider it.

Sincerely,
Brielle

He acted so surprised at the note. He went downstairs and broke up with Keegan. " Mom, I don't if dad's gonna be ok. I think that he will be lonely." " Well he does have stupid Keegan."

We both laughed. The next day when we were eating lunch, the doorbell rang. My mom answered it. It was my dad. " Ivy. I realized how much I miss you. And I hope that you will take my hand in marriage, again?" " Yes." I couldn't help but smiled. We all hugged. 3 months later their wedding came. " I do." " And do you Chris Jonathan Jefferson take Ivy Lea Harris to be your loftily wedded wife?" " I do." " You may know kiss the bride." My mother and my father kissed. I cried so hard. Whitts and I were hugging. " Chris I have to tell you something. I'm pregnant." My father looked like my mother when she first saw Whitts. I chuckled. My family was back.