

It was a cold winter morning when Emma received the news. Among the usual work updates and promotional offers, one subject line caught her eye: "We're thrilled to offer you the opportunity of a lifetime." It was from a prestigious wildlife conservation program in Africa—a dream she had chased since she was a teenager. They had selected her for a year-long position working to protect endangered elephants, something she had long believed was her true calling. But then her phone buzzed. It was a text from her sister, Clara. **"Mom's doctor called. She was sitting by the fireplace in her tiny New York apartment, sipping coffee and scrolling through her emails. She thought of the elephants she had dreamed of saving since she was a child, the vast savannahs she had always wanted to explore. "This is your dream. You've spent your whole life preparing for this