

Because of Peridot

By Tara R.

First of all, do not think we are rich, well at least not entirely. OK we are rich, but not evil. We were not always rich. My family has 11 members: Mother, Garnet. Topaz the smart one. Pearl the pretty one. Jett the obedient one. Opal the weird one. Sapphire the wise one. Jasper the strong one. Emerald the kind one. Diamond the selfish one.

Ruby and Jade the twins are the immature ones. You might have realized our names are gems. And what is our last name, it is Jewel. All my life I have been Opal Jewel.

My mother had 10 children, she had 12 gem names picked out. She was planning on 12 until father died in the wreck of '09. I was so sad when Daddy died. But anyway I am not poor anymore but still awkward. You might ask why I am not poor any more well it is a long story, get comfy.

I was at school eating lunch (nothing much, sandy bread, thin ham, and old cheese). Pearl came rushing towards me along with Mother, Jett, and Topaz.

“Grandmother is in the hospital!” Before I can say anything I am rushed toward the door to get Sapphire, Jasper, Emerald, Diamond (who said that she would rather learn about the WW2 versus going to a hospital and sitting in a waiting room forever), and Jade and Ruby. In our 1988 Audi 5000S Sedan Jade and Ruby were screaming that they wanted to go back home and that we could go to the hospital. I was thinking how they would burn down the house that only had 1 bathroom and 3 bedrooms. I realized I was humming *You Raise Me Up* by Josh Groban, my dad’s funeral song. I looked

around the car and I saw Emerald crying and everyone else just staring at me. That is why I am weird.

When we got to the hospital we waited in a waiting room for about 20 minutes. Then a nurse named Tabitha came and told us in a Brooklyn accent that we could go to room 503. We went to the fifth floor and walked to 503 and saw my grandmother smiling at Grandfather. Grandmother jumped out of bed and tried to hug us before she was ushered back down to her bed. Grandfather looked worse than Grandmother. He had circles under his eyes, wrinkles creased his face, and his kind eyes were dull with tiredness. Grandmother just looked weak and she was happy as can be. In fact, Grandfather should be in room 503 not Grandmother. The doctor named Dr. Hampton said, "Your grandmother is in frail condition. She and your grandfather will be out in three days minimum. In the mean time you need to help yourself by distracting you and your family. After you get back she will be here, she and he will go in a nursing home if you don't take them in. Now we doctors heard about you status and we paid for all of you to go to Amelia, Virginia about one hour from here. The Morefield Gem Mine is a mine you can find topaz, amethyst, garnets, and other gemstones. Have fun." The doctor winked and went next door.

I woke up in the 1988 Audi 5000S Sedan when I saw that we were pulling into The Morefield Gem Mine. We got out at a dusty site. It did not look like a place I could find beautiful things at. We walked in a small shack and saw a man sitting on a bucket. "Well, howdy there. You must be the Jewels, are you not?" "Yes, we are the Jewels", said Jasper. "Well the looks of it is you each have a pickaxe, shovel, bucket, and a pan sifter", said the cowboy looking at his clipboard. "Oh, my name is Tom. Now you just

head straight on out and head in any direction and start digging.” We walked out and started digging and we found nothing. Every now and then we found a rock but nothing else. We sat there forever digging. Pearl found a blue rock. But not a sapphire. We were getting bored until I found a sparkling rock. It was brown, yet it was like many rocks stuck together. “This is the closest to a gem next to Pearl’s blue rock”, Mother said. I tried to crack the rock apart but it didn’t budge.

After a while we got hot, sweaty, and dusty so we went to Amelia Lake. It was fun swimming and laughing and splashing. On our way back I snoozed off again. I woke up in the hospital parking lot. I was alone in the car and I saw Grandfather and Grandfather and my family walking towards me. Once Grandfather and Grandmother were in our car (tightly) we went home and took a nap. My mother was now living in the girl’s room and Grandmother and Grandfather were in Mom’s room. We woke up to see Grandfather and Grandmother inspecting my rock. There was a knock at the door and in came Uncle Barney. He had a rock smoother and a pointed tool. He is a Petrologist and a Mineralogist. He took my rock and started to bang it on the table. Then he started to chip tiny pieces away. Soon a transparent, sparkling rock. It was lime green and was huge. “Is it a gem?” I asked with anxiety. Uncle Barney smiled, “Yes, in fact it is a six carat Peridot.” I jumped when my mom screamed. Everyone saw and gapped at the Peridot.

The next day my mother cashed in the gem and we became famous and rich. My mother bought each of us girls rings with our names in the inside of the gold rings with our stone as the middle. As for the boys they got watches exactly like our rings, but watches.

So now we are living in a six bedroom house with three bathrooms! By the way, my Grandmother Peridot is doing so much better. And I am the Popular one now. But every now and then I like to be weird so I can stay Opal Peridot Jewel.