

# CHAPTER 1

## A Complicated Relationship

**M**y mother is coming.  
This knowledge brought mixed feelings.

Our relationship had only gotten slightly less complicated as we aged. So while I was glad she was coming, I'd learned to expect trouble.

She laughed when I told her I quit my job. "That might not be the smartest thing you've ever done. In fact you've made some pretty iffy decisions before, but law school at fifty? Are you kidding? Can you study that well?"

In actuality, she didn't have a problem with law school. Leaving the security of a six-figure corporate job to study animal law, of all things, is what made me gossip material for her and her friends.