

## Chapter 184 Lacking a Girlfriend

Nicole hung up the phone without giving Eric the chance to retort.

That was her answer.

What did his birthday have to do with her anyway?

Eric's heart sank.

However, when Eric thought about what Keith told him earlier, that Nicole had bought a gift for him, she would probably attend. ●

He felt much better after some thought.

Eric's phone call yesterday did not affect the quality of Nicole's sleep.

It was raining last night, so the sound of rain was the best lullaby.

In the morning, the sky was still a bit cloudy. Nicole pushed open the door of the balcony and felt the cool morning breeze rushing in.

At that moment, Ian Carter called. Nicole picked it up at once and said, "Happy birthday, Carter! Wishing you a lifetime of prosperity and longevity!"

prosperity and long y!"

Ian laughed out loud. "Lil N, are you paying tribute to your grandpa?"

Nicole snorted. "Whatever! I would've beaten you up if you're not the birthday boy."

She turned on the speakerphone and went to get dressed. She put on some light makeup and picked out an exquisite, limited-edition dress with a gray-blue pearl inlay. She looked so gorgeous and elegant.

Nicole wore a pair of stilettos that instantly boosted her noble temperament. Her aura was so powerful, composed, and majestic.

"My Queen, what gift did you get me? I've been thinking about it all night..." Ian could not help but ask.

He had always anticipated Nicole's gift the most.

"What are you lacking?" Nicole asked.

"I'm lacking a girlfriend..." Ian said nonchalantly. His intention was very obvious.

Ian announced, "I'm going to formally pursue you!"

Nicole sneered. "No, I don't agree with it."

"It's my decision, and I don't need your consent! My love for you just flows in my blood and..."

Beep...

Nicole hung up on Ian without a second thought. 'What a psycho!'

She packed up and went straight to the office.

Logan placed the documents for the morning meeting on her desk and hesitated a little. "President..."

"What is it?"

"Ferguson Corporation sent you an invitation for Mr. Ferguson's birthday..."

Logan's voice gradually became smaller. He was wondering where Eric got the confidence to think that Nicole would actually agree to attend.

With their current relationship, it was euphemistic to say that they were incompatible with each other.

Mitchell paused for a moment and lifted his eyes. 'Nicole's excuse is really amazing ...'

"Got it." The man's voice was deep. His heart sank at once. It felt quite painful.

'She's not coming. Didn't she already say so yesterday? We're not even friends, so why would she come to my birthday party?' Eric thought.

In the evening, Keith and a few of Eric's friends arrived at the clubhouse. They chartered the entire clubhouse, so no one without an invitation could enter.

**They must celebrate President Ferguson's birthday grandly!**

Everyone was in high spirits. Soon, the venue was very lively, but Eric only sat in the corner, silently drinking mulled wine.

Eric seemed so out of place with the atmosphere around him.

Keith walked over with his wine glass and gently clinked it with Eric's. "Happy birthday, Ferg!"

Eric did not even raise his eyes and downed the wine in his glass. His eyes were so deep, like the bottomless ocean.

incompatible with e... other.

The office was silent for just a few seconds before Nicole let out a light laugh.

“He’s just making a fool of himself. Ignore it.”

‘Who the hell is he? Why should I attend his birthday celebration? He’s so full of himself!’

Logan breathed a sigh of relief. This was what he expected.

It was Nicole’s normal reaction.

Logan then found an excuse to reply to Mitchell, who went to the President’s Office with difficulty.

“President, Ms. Stanton’s assistant conveyed Stanton Corporation’s best wishes for your birthday, and...”

“What?” Eric’s eyes were dark and sunken. He looked upset.

“Oh... There’s an accident with Stanton Corporation’s project abroad, so Ms. Stanton needs to go over there to deal with it. She has already left the country...”

Mitchell paused for a moment and lifted his eyes. ‘Nicole’s excuse is really amazing

downed the wine in his glass. His eyes were so deep, like the bottomless ocean.

"She didn't come." His voice was deep and cold.

Keith was stunned and instantly knew who Eric was referring to.

His brain spun fast for an excuse as he went up to put his arm around Eric's shoulders.

"She's probably just shy. After all, both of you are in this awkward relationship now. It'll be weird if she's too proactive. Maybe she'll send you the gift tomorrow."

Keith was confident that his guess was not wrong.

Nicole had been so infatuated with Eric previously, so she would certainly know how much Eric liked Patek Philippe.

Thus, Keith was certain that the watch must be for Eric.

"Hey, isn't that Nicole?" Someone in the crowd suddenly shouted.

## Chapter 185 Deduct Your Bonus

Upon hearing this, Keith and Eric stood up and walked over.

There was no one at the entrance.

“What are you on about?” Keith scolded the person who broadcasted fake news.

The man who shouted earlier was startled. He saw Eric’s grim face and smiled apprehensively, then took out his phone.

“My friend just sent me a video of Nicole playing poker. She won a lot...”

Before he finished his sentence, his phone was snatched over.

Eric clicked on the video and saw several men and women gathered around playing poker. Instead of chips, there were car keys, jewelry, and even gold bars on the table. It was clear how intense this game of poker was. It was definitely much more exciting compared to this birthday party!

Everyone in the video was dressed in luxury clothes. Nicole’s limited-edition gray-blue pearl inlay dress made her look so stunning. It was impossible to look

gray-blue pearl necklace made her look so stunning. It was impossible to look away from her.

Ian Carter and Julie Nixon sat next to Nicole looking like they were feeding her cards. Nicole just sat there smiling so brightly and beautifully.

“Where is this?” Eric’s voice was extremely cold.

The man immediately answered, “Oh, it’s a newly opened bar...”

Eric’s breathing was rough. “That’s to say, she didn’t leave the country at all, nor was there any urgent business?! She’d rather play poker than attend my birthday party?!”

At that moment, Mitchell happened to pass by. Eric raised his eyes and swept him a glance. He threw the phone back to the man, and coldly said to Mitchell, “Deduct your bonus.”

Mitchell was baffled.

Except for the birthday boy himself, everyone else had a very good time at this birthday party.

Eric left his party midway. None of them



birthday party.

Eric left his party midway. None of them knew what was going on.

He could not control himself, so he went to the newly opened bar.

When he went in, Nicole and her friends had already left.

Eric went back to the car with a dull and uncomfortable feeling in his chest.

The cigarette he was holding burned in the night. Its ashes dispersed in the wind.

By midnight, Eric had received countless birthday wishes, but none of them were from Nicole.

This birthday was no fun for Eric.

Coincidentally, it was Ian Carter's birthday the next day.

Ian's birthday party was held at the Carters' manor.

It was shockingly extravagant with many of Atlanta's dignitaries on the guestlist.

Nicole wore a dark green bustier dress with a simple, elegant style that made her skin look so fair. She looked like she was

glowing.

glowing.

When Mr. Anderson came to pick Nicole up, he nodded appreciatively and praised her. "Miss, you look so stunning today."

Nicole hooked her lips. "Of course!"

She swept a glance at the car behind Mr. Anderson. If the chauffeur did not drive, Mr. Anderson would usually drive his own car.

Nicole knew that Mr. Anderson had more than a dozen cars.

"Mr. Anderson, did you buy a new Porsche? Why is it not the latest model? Is my dad being stingy?"

Mr. Anderson smiled helplessly and said courteously, "Of course not. Third Young Master said that I can't drive the same model as his, so I bought the classic model."

Nicole blinked. "Why do you care about him? Kai's always so unreasonable!"

Mr. Anderson smiled as he stepped forward to open the car door for her.

"Miss, get in. I'll take you there."

The butler also brought Floyd Stanton's

where are the others?

"They're all inside. I came out to get you."

Nicole waved goodbye to Mr. Anderson and went inside with Julie.

They had not gone far when a familiar voice made them stop in their tracks.

"Aren't you popular, Ms. Stanton? Why are the men around you getting older than the last?"

Nicole glanced to the side and saw that it was Luna, who was with Jenny Lynch that day.

'Hmph...'

## Chapter 186 She's Performing

Nicole said, "Ms. Luna?"

Luna proudly raised her chin. "It's rare that you can remember me, Ms. Stanton. I heard that marriage alliances here are made as long as both families are of equal backgrounds. Is that rich businessman just now your marriage partner? Although he's not very good-looking and a bit older, I guess he must be quite rich.

Otherwise, how could he match a noble and elegant person like you, Ms. Stanton?"

She did not pay attention to the dynamics online about Medianian gossip and trends.

Thus, Luna did not know about Kai's real identity.

Jenny Lynch only called Luna to tell her that Nicole had retaliated, so Luna came here in a huff.

Julie wanted to go up and say something, but she was stopped by Nicole.

Nicole's gaze was cold as she looked at Luna. "Don't think that I won't touch you because you're a foreigner. Stay the hell away from me. Listening to your voice

because you're a foreigner. Stay the hell  
away from me. Listening to your voice  
just makes me want to puke."

Luna's face stiffened. She felt so  
humiliated.

She took out the phone and waved it in  
Nicole's face, not willing to admit defeat.

"I just need to get someone to check who  
the owner of that car is to know the  
identity of that rich businessman just  
now. I know that it's a classic Porsche and  
its market price is around \$10 million. My  
father drives this car too. I think that  
everyone will be curious about Ms.  
Stanton's marriage partner, right?"

Nicole hooked her lips into a cold smile  
and snorted lightly. "Are you trying to  
threaten me with this?"

Luna thought that Nicole was scared and  
looked smug. "Hmph! I only want you to  
let go of Jenny. She's such a kind person.  
How can you get her arrested? Do you  
know that her acting career is ruined?!  
Why are you so vicious?"

"She asked for it, so she's the one who  
ruined her future. No one forced her to do  
those vile things," Nicole spoke

Nicole sneered.

“My butler isn’t afraid of such rumors. He has four companies of his own and more than a dozen luxury cars, so he’s more than capable of handling whatever you wanna throw at him.”

In an instant, Luna’s body stiffened. She stood there in disbelief. ‘A butler?! The person who drives the same type of luxury car as my father, who has four companies under his name and more than a dozen luxury cars, is merely a butler to the Stanton family?!’

After overhearing this conversation, everyone had a new understanding of Nicole’s power.

Nicole was someone who could just squander \$800 million in an afternoon, so how could she get married to a mere businessman?

Did the Stantons lack money?

Ridiculous!

Luna really knew nothing about rich people.

“You... What exactly does your family do? Isn’t it just a small company? You have a

Isn't it just a small company? You have a butler?"

'The butler even has his own companies? So rich?!

The corners of Julie's lips twitched. She snorted lightly and did not answer Luna's question.

"Ms. Luna, since you're so close to Jenny Lynch, didn't she tell you about Nicole's family? It looks like your friendship is just superficial."

Nicole cast a sidelong glance at the dumbfounded Luna and said nonchalantly, "Ms. Luna, since you're so concerned about Jenny Lynch, you don't need to waste your effort thinking about who to sling mud at. Why don't you just take the blame for her? Jenny Lynch will certainly be very grateful to you."

'What an admirable friendship!' Nicole thought sarcastically.

Luna's heart sank. She looked flustered.

Julie and Nicole's words made Luna inexplicably anxious.

'Is everything not as Jenny told me?'

Luna's lips turned pale. She trembled

'Is everything not as Lunny told me?'  
Luna's lips turned pale. She trembled slightly.

Before she could react, the Carter family's butler heard the commotion and immediately rushed over.

He greeted Nicole respectfully. "Ms. Stanton, you're here! The Old Master was just saying that the gift Mr. Anderson just dropped off is too expensive. Second Young Master isn't qualified for such a big gift. Old Master himself fancies it though ..."

Luna's tiny doubts were swept away as soon as she heard what the Carter family's butler said.

Sure enough, who she thought was a rich businessman earlier was merely Nicole's butler.

Her original intention was to pick on Nicole backfired.

"That gift is for Grandpa Carter. My father just used Ian as an excuse..." Nicole laughed.

"Ms. Stanton, Ms. Nixon, this way, please --"



those vile things," Nicole spoke  
indifferently.

She coldly swept a glance at Luna and  
smirked insouciantly. "Ms. Luna, you  
should just care about yourself."

After that, Nicole turned on her heels and  
was about to leave.

Of course, Luna refused to let it go.

"If you don't withdraw the lawsuit, I'll  
post those photos just now on the internet  
so that everyone will know that your  
marriage partner is an old man! In no  
time, you'll be known as the tramp that  
sleeps around with any man regardless of  
age!"

There were quite a few people around who  
heard this commotion, so they pricked up  
their ears.

Nicole paused in her footsteps. There was  
a bitter chill in her eyes.

Luna was startled by her gaze.

"Ms. Luna, go ahead and spread the news  
..."

Nicole sneered.

The butler also brought Floyd Stanton's gift to the Carters.

When they arrived, they saw so many celebrities and dignitaries. The manor was also decorated in a low-key luxury fashion.

Nicole was a little shocked because this was simply beyond the scale of a regular birthday party.

"It's just a birthday party. Why is Ian making it such a big deal?"

Mr. Anderson chuckled and got out of the car to open the door for her. He replied, "This is probably Chairman Carter's intention to use this opportunity to pick a girlfriend for Second Young Master Carter."

'No wonder!' Nicole was surprised and thought that it made sense.

"Nikki!" Julie waved at her. Nicole spotted her at a glance and walked over with a smile.

"Where are the others?"

"They're all inside. I came out to get you."

The butler bowed and extended his arm, then led the way.

Nicole was just about to leave when she suddenly paused in her footsteps.

She looked at Luna, who was standing on the side, and asked, "Why is Ms. Luna here?"

Luna, who had just debuted in Mediana, was not yet qualified to be part of Medianian high society based on her status.

Hearing this, Luna's face turned pale. Before she could make a sound, the Carter family's butler recognized Luna at a glance and responded, "Oh, she's here for a performance. The entertainment company recommended her saying that it'll be something new. If you don't like her, I can change her out immediately..."

Luna's agency had given her the best opportunity to be able to perform at Ian Carter's birthday party.

After all, the people who attended this party were all dignitaries and celebrities.

Jenny Lynch introduced Luna to this

Jenny Lynch introduced Luna to this agency so that Luna could get more opportunities to join these high-society events.

That was because if a rich person fancied her, she would no longer have to worry about her future.

However, Luna did not think it through when she actively provoked Nicole.

“Nevermind then. Ms. Luna, since you’re here for a performance, you should be at the waiting area doing your rehearsals. If you threaten to take pictures and defame the guests, who will dare hire you in the future?”

SURPERISE GIFT: 1000 bonus free for you, activity time is limited!

GET IT

## Chapter 187 Pollute Your Ears

The people around were stunned.

Nicole was not the only one in danger of defamation!

Everyone might get defamed at any time.

Since this was the Carter family's party, the Carters would also be implicated if something went wrong.

Thus, when the Carter family's butler heard this, his face stiffened a little. He looked at the two bodyguards behind him and said in a cold voice, "Take her backstage. Performers and crew aren't allowed to roam around."

Nicole and Julie glanced at each other and followed the butler inside.

The two ladies went to greet Old Master Carter before looking for Ian.

Second Young Master was surrounded by people toasting him. When he spotted Nicole, he looked like he saw his savior. "My pretty lady is here, so all you losers without girlfriends aren't worthy enough to drink with me..."

Ian's friends were all vexed with his statement.

However, when they saw Nicole, they dared not say anything about it and only smiled as they cheered.

Nicole wore a dark green dress that made her look so bright and outstanding. Her wavy long hair was effortlessly draped over her shoulders. No matter where she was, she became the focal point of the crowd because of her extraordinary temperament.

Hearing their cheers, Nicole glared at the group and turned to walk away. Ian Carter quickly chased after Nicole. "Did a goddess come down to earth to visit us, mere mortals, today?"

As soon as Julie heard this, she wanted to puke in disgust and left the couple.

Nicole laughed and looked at him with raised eyebrows. "If you wanna get beaten up, you can try being even more irritating!"

Ian smirked and leaned into Nicole. "But... I only ever speak the truth..."

He tugged on Nicole's dress playfully.  
Nicole grunted and took a step back from  
him.

In the eyes of outsiders, the two of them  
looked like they were a flirting couple.

Not far away in a corner, a pair of deep  
and dark eyes stared intently at the dark  
green figure.

The surrounding air turned cold and  
oppressive.

Keith stood by the side and kept his  
mouth shut.

The woman, who was supposedly abroad  
dealing with urgent business and who  
Eric had waited for all night yesterday,  
appeared in glory at Ian Carter's birthday  
party.

The parties were less than twelve hours  
apart, and both birthday parties were two  
completely different styles.

This was simply a slap in Eric Ferguson's  
face.

Keith looked at Eric's grim face and  
coughed slightly, trying to break this  
awkward atmosphere.

“Ahem... Ferg, don't you think that the Carters are being too flashy like some parvenu? It's just a birthday, so why such a big fuss? Do we even need to be polite and attend this obnoxious party?”

With Eric Ferguson's status, attending Ian Carter's birthday celebration was already showing a lot of respect to the Carter family.

Thus, Keith was surprised that Eric would attend.

Eric withdrew his gaze indifferently and furrowed his eyebrows.

His voice was deep as he said, “I'm just curious who would come to this boring party...”

.....

Keith almost choked on his drink. ‘I think he's just curious if Nicole will come, huh?’

Since their divorce, the frequency of Nicole appearing in front of them was remarkably high.

Suddenly, the stage in the banquet hall became lively with a performance. The music was very upbeat.



music was very upbeat.

Several popular singers and dancers took turns to come out on stage for their performance. In a moment, the bright and colorful stage lights and loud music attracted everyone's attention.

The event organizer knew that the guests for this birthday party were mainly a young crowd, so they picked pop music that youngsters liked. Thus, the good response from the crowd was not surprising.

Nicole and Ian stood closest to the stage. Nicole saw that the performer in the middle singing and dancing most actively was none other than Luna.

Luna swayed her hips in exaggerated sexy movements and danced like other popular K-pop stars. She even made a cute little heart gesture.

Her faces on and off stage were so different that Nicole found it very astonishing. 'How can such a two-faced person have any fans? Maybe they're fake fans?'

The music was loud and shocking, and the enthusiasm of the crowd was

The music was loud and shocking, and the enthusiasm of the crowd was overwhelming.

When a waiter passed by, Nicole casually took a glass of juice and sipped on it.

She shook her head as she thought, 'How noisy...'

Before she could say anything, a pair of large hands covered Nicole's ears.

Ian leaned in behind Nicole and said in a tender tone, "It's too noisy... Don't let it pollute your ears..."

## Chapter 188 Where'd You Get This Imbecile?

Nicole subconsciously looked up. When she heard what Ian said, she laughed unconsciously.

Two people on the second floor saw this scene. Eric's eyes became gloomy. He put down the glass of wine in his hand and went downstairs without hesitation.

"Ferg! Don't make a scene!" Keith hurriedly spoke. Otherwise, what could explain Eric's current behavior?

Coincidentally, the music downstairs came to a stop. The artists on stage bowed and everyone gave them a round of applause.

The other performers went down one after another while Luna stayed onstage. Luna looked at Nicole, who was not far away, and smiled meaningfully.

Julie sensed that something was wrong and approached Nicole. "Is Luna trying to make a scene?"

Nicole laughed insouciantly. "Since she's asking for it, don't stop her..."

Julie raised her eyebrows and was relieved to know that Nicole noticed it.

On stage.

“Hello everyone, my name is Luna. I’m truly honored to be here today. I’d like to wish Second Young Master Carter a happy birthday...”

Everyone cheered, to which Ian responded by raising his wine glass.

It was a courteous and cordial atmosphere.

The applause gradually quieted down, so Luna continued, “It might seem presumptuous, but I’d like to invite Ms. Stanton to the stage for a performance. Ms. Stanton, will you play a song for Second Young Master Carter?”

Luna was resentful towards Nicole. ‘So what if she’s rich? I’m the daughter of a business magnate too, so why should I put up with her?’

She was also envious of Nicole when she thought about how Kai treated her.

Nicole smirked at Luna, who was on the stage. ‘Where did she get the courage to invite guests to perform on stage? Does

invite guests to perform on stage? Does she think that I'm a performer too?

Perhaps she thinks that I won't be better than her, so she can highlight her strengths? Or that I'll chicken out?'

Ian's smile stiffened. He pointed at Luna and lowered his voice to ask the butler, who was by his side. "Where'd you get this imbecile?"

The butler's face turned pale in an instant as his forehead broke out in cold sweat. 'Had I known that this young artist was so clueless, I wouldn't have hired her!'

Luna said, "Ms. Stanton, do you think that you're too honorable to play a song for Second Young Master Carter? Or... I'm sorry, perhaps you don't know anything about piano?"

She even deliberately made a sympathetic face with regret and surprise.

However, her eyes carried a hint of excitement and a gloating smile.

Ian secretly cursed under his breath and said, "Nicole, ignore her..."

He was just about to go up to stop Luna when Nicole pulled his arm. She cast a

He was just about to go up to stop Luna when Nicole pulled his arm. She cast a sidelong glance at the woman on stage.

Nicole lowered her head and chuckled, then took a sip of juice and handed the glass to the waiter on the side.

She lifted her long dress with one hand and walked up onto the stage gracefully.

Under the bright lights, Nicole's presence overshadowed Luna, who had become a prop in the background.

Nicole stood there in the spotlight and seemed to be surrounded by a faint halo, which made her skin glow. She looked even more stunning on stage.

Luna stiffened slightly and wanted to say something, but Nicole suddenly reached out and took the microphone from her.

Her action was gentle and firm.

Nicole's eyes were cold as she swept an indifferent glance at Luna. "You can get down now."

In the future, Luna would not have a chance to stand on any stage again.

Nicole ignored Luna, turned her body sideways, and bowed slightly to the crowd

sideways, and bowed slightly to the crowd before she walked over to the piano.

Everyone held their breath and was a little surprised.

No one had ever seen Nicole play the piano on a formal occasion. Everything about Nicole was only known through the statement released by Stanton Corporation. The rest was a mystery to them.

Nicole sat upright in front of the piano and placed her hands gracefully on the keys. Everyone was caught off guard when they heard a string of smooth notes resounding through the hall. The crowd jumped slightly with surprise.

It was an adapted piece of Pachelbel's "Canon". Her fingertips created such smooth music with a soothing and orderly rhythm. It was a beautiful melody with such resilience.

Nicole had incorporated her own emotions and soul into this piece. It was not just a regular song, but a piece of artwork and an interpretation of her life.

She displayed her tenacity, patience, tenderness, and change.

She displayed her tenacity, patience, tenderness, and grace.

It was clear that Nicole had a deep foundation and amazing talent in piano. Otherwise, she would not be able to play such a soulful piano piece.

That scene was remarkable. When Nicole sat there playing the piano, she looked like a moving portrait. It was so beautiful that no one wanted it to stop. ●

The only sound in the hall was the piano music on stage. Everyone held their breath and even breathed quietly.

After the song ended, Nicole got up with a faint smile and winked at Julie.

Julie nodded and handed over the gift in her hand to Nicole.

Ian's gaze was so sweet and tender as he locked his eyes onto Nicole.

Nicole looked at Ian and took out the exquisite and expensive Patek Philippe watch from its box. Every diamond on the watch glimmered in the light.

"That song is for everyone, and this watch is for Second Young Master Carter.



watch glimmered in the light.

“That song is for everyone, and this watch is for Second Young Master Carter. Ian, this is my gift for you.”

Just as her words fell, a hand tightly grabbed Nicole’s wrist. “Nicole...”