HACKER 2461

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2461-"That dude seems legit, but he vanished for three hours after passing through customs. No one knew his whereabouts during that time. When he returned, his behavior had changed," Max explained.

"Even Hanwick's assistant felt something was off. It's like, he'd become a different person," Max continued.

"So, Lawrence got someone to impersonate Hanwick just so he could administer fake meds on Nicole to prevent her from regaining her memories?" Jared asked.

"Possibly," Max replied in a low voice.

Jared's eyes narrowed, his voice hoarse and stern. "Have someone check on Hanwick. See if he's back to his old self. After all, he's here for a medical seminar. An imposter won't be able to keep the charade for long."

"You mean after the imposter's done, they'll bring the real Hanwick back?" Max asked, a sudden realization dawning upon him. "I'll get on with it. If he's back to his old self, we're on the right track."

As Max was about to leave, Jared instructed, "Also, further your research on Lawrence."

"Lawrence?" Max's eyes widened, having never suspected him.

"He's suspicious," Jared said, his voice cold. 'The more I think about Lawrence, the more doubts I have about him. Years ago, he saved Nicole. Yet, she believed he might've been one of the few who knew where she was when she disappeared. While many thought she was dead, those of us who remained hopeful were searching for her. So, who else could've orchestrated an attack on her at the airport?'

"But the people around Lawrence don't look like those hitmen out there," Max argued, feeling genuinely puzzled. 'Is he playing the hero or the villain? Are there two sides to him or something?'

"There are always forces and factors we're unaware of," Jared said. 'Lawrence has more to him than meets the eye. He has his secrets.'

"True," Max said, knowing Jared had solid reasons for his suspicions.

"For now, let's not jump to conclusions," Jared said, a flicker of concern evident in his eyes.

"Don't worry, Mr. Johnston. I've got it handled," Max replied.

After Jared had given Max a small nod, Max left. Jared then strolled up to the window, and gazed out into the night sky. When Nicole walked in, she remembered seeing Jared in the very same pose right after her return.

"Something on your mind?" Nicole whispered, walking up to Jared's side.

After turning to face her, Jared said, "Hanwick might be an imposter."

"Mm-hmm," Nicole muttered, her expression somber.' Lawrence really did pull all the stops out.'

Then, Jared wrapped his arm around Nicole. "Let's take a moment to look at the night sky. The stars are pretty tonight, n

Noticing Jared's attempt to cheer her up, Nicole smiled." Sure. Let's stargaze."

Jared kissed her forehead, his eyes filled with warmth, and proceeded to make her a promise in his heart. Til keep her safe.'

The next day arrived, sunny and bright. After breakfast at the Johnston family manor, the couple proceeded to bid Maximilian goodbye and drove off. They then dropped Nolan and Lana off at preschool, after which Jared took Nicole to the headquarters of Riddle Corporation.

As Nicole approached the building, a familiar voice called out, "Nicole!"

When she turned, she spotted an excited Lulu running up to her with a small bag. "Got it!"

"So soon?" Nicole responded, surprised.

It was then that she realized it was the new medicine Martin had gotten her.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2462-"Yeah, I picked it up early today from his research room," Lulu said, handing the small bag to Nicole. "Take this. It's really important."

Nicole grabbed the medicine and replied, "Right. Let's get in."

"Sure," Lulu said, linking arms with Nicole and flashing her a big smile. "Samuel invited us over for dinner tonight. You in?"

"Absolutely," Nicole said.

After the cryptic call from Samuel insisting that she came, she decided that it was not an invitation that she could decline.

"What's he planning, being all secretive like that?" Lulu asked, her face brimming with curiosity.

Nicole shrugged. "Don't know, but judging by his excitement, it's probably something great."

"He did mention that he'd treat us to a meal after he has completed his recovery," Lulu said after a moment of consideration. 'Is this his way of making good on that promise?'

"Well see when we get there," Nicole replied.

"True that." Lulu laughed.

As soon as they arrived at the office wing, they got busy with their work right away, and just like that, the day went by

in a flash. When it was time for them to go home, Lulu burst into Nicole's office.

"Come on, let's get going!" Lulu exclaimed, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

Nicole raised her brow, smirking. "What's the rush?"

"I've got this feeling that something great's about to happen. I wanna be there first!" Lulu said, sticking her tongue out playfully.

"Okay, okay." Nicole laughed, getting up to head out with Lulu.

By the time they made it to the entrance of the headquarters, Jared and Spencer were already there, waiting forthem.

"Spencer!" Lulu called out joyfully, and ran over to him.

Nicole, on the other hand, looked up at Jared with a faint smile on her face.

"Didn't expect to see you here," she said, recalling that he had mentioned that he had an important virtual meeting earlier in the day.

"I just got done with it," Jared answered, gently taking Nicole's hand as they strolled off to his parked car.

Nicole's smile wavered for a second. 'He was supposed to be having a meeting with a multinational company abroad. With the time difference, he must've gotten them to start much earlier than scheduled. Bet they weren't thrilled.'

Then, in a low voice, she said, "You know, it's just dinner with Samuel. Not sure it is something worth shuffling your whole day around for."

Indeed, she was genuinely surprised to learn that he had rearranged his plans for this dinner.

"It's okay. I just wanted to spend time with you," Jared said, his eyes softening.

Nicole could tell that the dinner was not what mattered to him. Feeling touched, she smiled as a surge of warmth radiated from within.

Soon after, the car pulled up outside the restaurant Samuel had picked. As Nicole and Jared walked in, they noticed that everyone else was already there: Samuel with June, Spencer hanging out with Lulu, and Stanley all by himself.

"Let's enjoy ourselves tonight. I've rented out the entire place," Samuel announced.

"Going all out today, Samuel? What's the occasion?" Lulu teased.

Hearing that, Samuel feigned offense. "You make it sound like I'm always tight-fisted."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2463-"It's not that." Lulu shrugged. "It's just you seem rather different today. That's all. Anything up?"

Samuel avoided her gaze. "I'm just in a good mood and thought that it'd be fun to hang out with everyone."

"Sounds like fun!" Lulu playfully remarked, oblivious to Samuel's change in mood.

"Everyone, please take a seat," Samuel said, and once everyone had settled, he gave a nod to the server to start bringing the dishes out.

Needless to say, they all enjoyed their meal so much that they lost track of time. And when Samuel noticed that most of them were finishing up, he subtly nodded at a server.

Then, the ambient lights dimmed as soothing melodies filled the room. A lone spotlight highlighted an empty area, giving it the look of an impromptu stage.

"Did you plan something special, Samuel?" Lulu asked with her brows raised.

Standing tall, Samuel then leaned forward and proffered his hand.

"June," he said, his voice smooth and deep. "Would you honor me with a dance?"

June's cheeks flushed red at that instant. "What are you up to?"

"Go on, June!" Lulu nudged her, and that was when June found herself standing up.

Samuel quickly grabbed June's hand, pulling her into a graceful twirl and straight into the spotlight.

As they danced, June whispered, "I thought this was just a casual dinner. Why all the theatrics?"

In response, Samuel flashed her a soft smile. "I'm just really happy tonight,"

Then, he continued leading her across the floor.

Watching the two dance, Lulu leaned in to whisper to Nicole, "Is it just me, or is Samuel acting a bit odd?"

To that, Nicole nodded in agreement, and they exchanged a knowing glance. Just as they did, the lights in the restaurant suddenly went out.

"Whoa!" June gasped in surprise.

Seizing the opportunity, Samuel quickly reeled her in and reassured her by saying, "It's okay. Just stay calm."

"Why did the lights go out?" June wondered aloud, scanning the room.

"Over there," Samuel said, pointing to the right.

Turning her gaze to the direction he was pointing at, June spotted the soft glow of candles illuminating a cake atop a rolling cart which was headed their way.

"What's this about? It's not anyone's birthday today," she asked, puzzled.

Before she could ponder further, however, Samuel presented her with a bouquet of roses.

Dropping to one knee, he then looked up at her with sincerity in his eyes and asked, "June, will you marry me?"

At that moment, it all clicked for June; everything Samuel had done throughout the entire evening had been leading up to this proposal.

"Who would've guessed Samuel had this side to him?" Lulu said, nudging Nicole forward. "You've got to say yes, June!"

June always imagined that a proposal would be a special moment, but never in her wildest dreams had she ever expected Samuel to plan something so heartwarming for her.

"June, will you marry me?" Samuel asked earnestly. "In front of everyone we love, I promise to cherish you, always."

With tears in her eyes, June whispered, "I do."

Joyfully, Samuel handed June the bouquet and, without missing a beat, lifted her into the air with a whirl. "June, you've made me the happiest man today!"

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2464-"Hey, put me down!" June said, her cheeks turning bright red from all the eyes on her.

Once she was on her feet, Samuel produced a small velvet box from his pocket, within which was a dazzling diamond ring.

Without hesitation, he put it on June's left ring finger. "Do you like it?"

"I love it," June said, her eyes fixed on the ring.

It was the exact style she adored. As she was taking it all in, Samuel went on to produce another small box.

"What's this?" she asked with a hint of surprise in her voice. "Help me put this on," Samuel said, passing the box to June. She opened it to find a men's ring; a perfect match to hers. With a warm smile, she slid the ring onto his finger, filling her with all the warmth and fuzziness that the moment had to offer.

The lights flickered then back on, drawing everyone closer. "Make a wish and blow out the candles," Samuel gently said. June took a moment, looked at the faces of everyone present, and asked, "How about we all join in?"

"Alright, let's make a group wish and blow out the candles," Lulu suggested. "Here's to happiness everlasting."

Nicole, sharing a glance with Jared, added, "And to lovebirds never parting from one another."

With that, they both smiled at one another.

After each person had shared their wish, they all came together to blow out the candles, whereupon cheers erupted from the group. But when they returned to their seats, they found that the main dishes had been swapped out for fruits and dessert.

Lulu, with a grin, remarked, "Who knew you had this sneaky side to yourself, Samuel? So you've been cooking up this surprise the whole time?"

"Of course I couldn't spill the beans early. It wouldn't be a surprise anymore if I did that, would it?" Samuel replied with a cheeky grin.

Then, after turning over to look at June, Lulu teased, "You got June so choked up. Her eyes are all red. Everything is as it should be now, huh?"

In response, June shot Lulu a playful look and retorted," You're just poking fun at me now. Weren't you all misty-eyed when Spencer proposed to you?"

Lulu chuckled, and a touch of red appeared on her cheeks at once.

After chatting for a while longer, they all stood up and left the establishment, as it was getting late.

"I'll drive June home."

"Right, I'll drop Lulu off."

As Spencer and Samuel left the place with Lulu and June, Nicole turned to Stanley. "So, what's your plan?"

"I'll just head home," Stanley replied with a shrug.

He was genuinely happy for his brother, but he could not help but feel a little left out in the process.

Did Samuel invite me here on purpose, knowing I'm always the single one?' he wondered.

"We're heading home too. Want to join us?" Nicole offered.

Stanley quickly shook his head after shooting the pair of Jared and Nicole a glance. "Nah, I'm good. Thanks."

Deep down, he remarked, 'Singles and couples don't mix well, do they?'

Watching Stanley walk away, Nicole sighed and shook her head.

Seeing this, Jared raised an eyebrow. "Something on your mind?"

"Just thinking... With all of us paired up, Stanley's gonna get all the 'when are you settling down?' questions now," Nicole smirked. "Kinda funny when you think about it."

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2465-Nicole remembered how things were easier for Stanley when Spencer and Samuel were still single.

Jared looked at Nicole, his eyes full of questions. "You feel a lot more stressed out now, don't you?"

"Shouldn't I be off the hook now? I have you, Nolan, and Lana," Nicole replied, her voice tinged with uncertainty.

Jared smirked in reply. "Maybe, but it seems like your parents are even more anxious now, don't you think?"

Nicole shot Jared an annoyed glance, unable to deny that he did have a point. "Let's head home."

Then, she sighed and thought, 'How did I even end up becoming the center of discussion?'

With a warm smile, Jared took Nicole's hand and led her to the car, and after a short drive, they pulled up at the Riddle residence. Nolan and Lana, still awake, were watching TV with Gloria in the living room.

"Mommy!" The kids exclaimed and rushed over as soon as they spotted Nicole and Jared.

Nicole gently tousled their hair. "Still up, huh?"

"We were waiting for you," Nolan said, tilting his head to look up at her. "There was something I didn't understand, and I wanted to ask you about it."

Nicole's eyes narrowed as she realized Nolan was probably referring to a task on The Hunters.

"Daddy, can you tuck me in?" Lana asked, reaching up for a hug.

"Of course," Jared replied and lifted Lana into his arms.

"They insisted on waiting up for you guys, so I allowed them to watch a bit more TV before going up," Gloria said with a warm smile.

"We've got it from here, Mom. You should head to bed too," Nicole said.

After sharing nods of understanding, everyone headed upstairs. Once Gloria had retired into her bedroom, Nicole entered Nolan's room with him in tow.

"You want to go check on them, Daddy?" Lana asked Jared, clearly knowing what Nolan and Nicole were up to.

"Let's get you tucked in first," Jared replied, giving Lana's nose a playful pinch.

"Okay," Lana replied.

She was worried for her brother and mother, but she also understood she could not do anything to assist them in this matter.

In Nolan's room, both Nicole and Nolan had sat down, looking at his computer.

"Mom, I think a hacker's trying to break in," Nolan said in a serious tone of voice. "I shut it down right after I caught what they were doing and haven't turned it on since."

"A hacker?" Nicole's face hardened as she powered up the rig.

"The firewall you installed detected and stopped it," Nolan explained. "I might've been hacked otherwise. They seemed skilled. Without that layer of protection, my computer would've been compromised."

"Let me see," Nicole said, her fingers quickly darting across the keyboard as she traced the hacker by the trail they had left.

After a moment, she let out a sigh and stopped.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2466-"What happened, Mom?" Nolan asked, noting Nicole's hesitation.

"Someone was trying to break in," Nicole said with a touch of regret. "They were really careful. I almost managed to trace them, but they slipped away."

Nolan sighed, looking disappointed. "They're pretty sneaky."

"If they didn't get what they wanted this time, they'll definitely try again," Jared added, walking over to the computer. "They won't back down. They're definitely after something you're getting."

Nicole bit her lip, realizing she was not the only one after the five crests. Since her announcement, others had been attempting to get their hands on them as well.

"You know, maybe it's time to set and arm a trap instead of just a firewall," she said.

Nodding at Jared's idea, she added. "Rather than always being on the defensive, let's invite them in."

With renewed focus, Nicole began typing away on the computer, safeguarding crucial information before laying her digital trap, and once she was done, she turned to

Nolan. "Just use it like you always would, okay?"

"Got it. I'll let you know if we catch anything," Nolan replied, grinning cheekily.

Nicole affectionately ruffled his hair. "Alright, go rest up now. n

"Okay." Nolan said, and took a shower before heading to bed.

After Nolan had been tucked in, Nicole and Jared turned off the lights and left the room.

"Even though we couldn't trace the person, do you have any suspects?" Jared whispered.

Nicole shook her head. "The only thing I can confirm is that they're somewhere in San Joto. Finding a hidden hacker in such a vast city isn't an easy task."

Hearing that, Jared comforted, Take your time. They'll slip up eventually. If necessary, we can ask Preston and others like Ryder and Gary for help."

Nicole raised an eyebrow at Jared, and then, she beamed." Good idea."

A hint of amusement flashed in Jared's eyes as he led her back to their room.

Three days later, Nicole arrived at her office as usual.

Soon after, Lulu entered and whispered, "Nicole, I heard Dillion's selling off his assets."

"Selling his assets?" Nicole creased her forehead in puzzlement. 'With the company gone, what other valuable assets does Dillion have other than that mansion? Could it be...'

Reading Nicole's expression, Lulu shrugged. "You're right. He's selling the mansion."

"Any idea what they're up to?" Nicole wondered. 'Maybe they're planning to leave San Joto?'

"No clue. They've just listed the house for sale, waiting for offers," Lulu replied with a perplexed look on her face. "It's odd."

"They haven't shown any signs indicating that they'd be leaving San Joto or moving somewhere else?" Nicole pressed. 'Where would they go after selling the house? What's their plan?'

Lulu paused, trying to remember. "I think they just rented a hotel room."

"A hotel?" Nicole frowned. 'They're selling the house to stay in a hotel? What is Dillion and Karen planning?'

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2467-'So, Snow's in a vegetative state and James is in jail. Raine has vanished, and no one knows where she is. Meanwhile, Dillion and Karen seem to be doing alright. But now, they're planning to sell their house and move to a hotel?' Nicole wondered.

Lulu's expression then shifted to one of seriousness. "I've gotten some folks to watch them. We are trying to figure out their plans."

"Alright," Nicole responded. "We'll just have to watch and see what Dillion and Karen are planning."

Then, she paused, picking up the phone to call Preston.

"Nicole, what's up?" Preston's voice blared out once he answered.

"Did you know your parents are selling the family house?" Nicole asked directly.

Preston paused, clearly taken aback, before replying, "No. What happened?"

"No major reason." Nicole said, filling him in on what Lulu had discovered.

"I see," Preston sighed. "Guess we should let them decide."

Nicole hesitated. "You know, if you want to keep the family mansion, I can buy it back for you. It's part of the reason why

I called. I'd like to help."

In return, Preston thanked her. "I appreciate the offer, but I think I'll pass. If I need a house in the future, I can buy another."

In truth, he was done; he did not wish to bother with the family drama any longer.

"Alright then," Nicole replied, noting Preston's feelings.

"Thanks for having my back," Preston said with gratitude, aware of Nicole's genuine concern.

Nicole smiled. "No problem. The initial setup for your tech company is almost ready. Lulu will send the details over. If everything's okay, just follow Lulu's plan."

"Sounds good. I trust your judgment," Preston replied with a tinge of excitement.

"It's your company, so you'll get the final say. I asked Lulu to help since you've been busy helping me," Nicole teased.

Preston chuckled. "Thanks for all the help. I'll treat you guys to dinner soon."

"A feast," Nicole joked.

"No problem," Preston agreed.

After ending the call, Nicole softly laughed and told Lulu," Once everything is ready, send it over to him."

"It's almost done. I'll double-check everything and send it over to him once it's done," Lulu replied.

"Wait." Nicole hesitated before adding, "Also, find him a couple of skilled and reliable assistants. With the new company up and running, he'll need some competent, helping hands."

"Got it," Lulu agreed with a smile. "You've really got everything thought out for him."

"He's been there for me, now and in the past." Nicole said." Remember? I can't turn my back on someone who's been nothing but kind to me. Sure, Dillion's family has been a piece of work, but Preston? He's never wronged me."

"I haven't forgotten. I'm on it," Lulu replied with a grin.

Then, she turned around and walked off.

After Lulu had left, Nicole leaned back against her chair.

Her eyes grew distant as she thought, 'Dillon and Karen are selling the house, and Raine's gone missing. Is there some sort of connection between the two?'

Preston, having just hung up, was then asked by Gary, "What did Nicole want?"

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2468-"Just some family related stuff," Preston said.

Gary shot him a look of doubt, though he decided against prying. "How's things going on your end? I've got some updates here."

"I'm almost there." Preston's focus intensified, and he began working even quicker.

Then, in a tone of triumph, he declared, "Got it!"

"Nice job!" Gary exclaimed, grinning. "Keep it up. If we manage to crack the next one, well be able to discover who this person is."

"Alright, let's do this."

The two then continued, driven by their determination.

Near the end of the workday, Nicole received an email from Preston. The email in question contained an address and a name, though there were no photos or any solid identifications. Seeing this, Nicole instantly realized this was the identity that Preston, Ryder, and Gary had been working on discovering. Impressed by their quick progress, she replied with a 'thanks' and forwarded the information to Max for further investigation. She preferred to keep Lulu out of such covert matters, reserving the more routine and mundane tasks for her whilst leaving the secretive operations to Max.

After she had sent the message, Nicole began accessing a hacking interface on her computer, whereupon she quickly found the person's ID. The individual seemed oblivious of the fact that he was being tracked too. Swiftly, Nicole crafted a tracking program and discreetly implanted it, aiming to uncover more about them.

All of a sudden, a soft knock echoed through the room, and Lulu peeked in through the slightly ajar office door. "Time to head out?"

Shutting down her computer, Nicole stood up and replied," Let's go."

As they made their way to the elevator, a voice halted them in their tracks.

"Nicole," Steve called out.

Turning to face him, Nicole asked, "Is there something you need, Steve?"

"Are you heading out?" Steve asked, glancing at the waiting elevator. "Mind if we chat while we walk?"

Once they were inside the elevator, Nicole looked at him and asked, "What happened?"

A shadow of concern and anger flashed in Steve's eyes at once. "It's about Everett."

Nicole's eyes narrowed.

"What's Everett up to now?" she asked with a hint of frostiness in her tone.

She had hoped that Everett would keep a low profile ever since Harvey ditched him.

"Well," Steve began, gritting his teeth. "After Harvey booted him out and James got arrested, Everett took another blow. And now that he's heard you're in charge of DillCorp, he's lost it. He's planning to go after the company."

"Is he still at it?" Lulu blurted out, her eyes wide in disbelief.' After all the losses he has sustained, he still thinks he can seize DillCorp!?'

Steve shook his head and shot Nicole another glance. "The guy's seriously unhinged now. Your team...Are they ready for whatever he throws at you?"

Drawing a deep breath, Nicole replied, "I'll head over and see how they're doing soon."

She had confidence in her team's ability to manage DillCorp, but for them to deal with Everett's tricks was a different story altogether.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2469-"I'll come with you," Lulu said, eager to accompany Nicole, who raised her brows right away.

Noting Nicole's hesitation, Lulu quickly added, "I can help, you know."

Hearing this, Nicole replied, "Alright. Well head there tomorrow."

"Great." Lulu smiled in relief.

The elevator reached the first floor, and the three of them stepped out.

"If anything happens, let Sean and I know," Steve said.

"Don't worry," Nicole replied with a confident edge to her voice.

'Even though Everett has lost his mind, I doubt he'll dare to mess with me,' she thought.

Outside the company building, Lulu noticed that Spencer had not shown up yet, and that was when she stated, "You should go ahead. Don't keep Mr. Johnston waiting."

"Alright, I'll see you later."

After saying goodbye to Lulu, Nicole walked over to Jared's car, and once she was seated, she leaned back and issued a quiet sigh.

Jared glanced her way and asked, "Tired?"

"Not really. Steve said Everett is targeting DillCorp. They just eluded bankruptcy and are starting to stabilize, but they're not back on track yet," Nicole replied, her face creased with worry.

"Thinking of checking it out?" Jared asked, catching on to her concerns.

Nicole nodded. "Lulu and I are heading there tomorrow."

"I'll send some backup," Jared offered, recognizing her resolve.

Nicole considered refusing, but after she met Jared's gaze, her words escaped her.

She hesitated for a moment, biting her lip, and then she nodded. "Alright."

Having recognized his concerns, she decided to accept his aid. With that, Jared's eyes lit up, and he gave her hand a reassuring squeeze.

Smiling, Nicole told him, "Rest assured, I won't let Everett just waltz in and take DillCorp. He'll be sorely disappointed if he tries."

After picking Nolan and Lana up, Nicole and Jared headed back to the Riddle residence.

As Stanley was coming in, Gloria announced, "Time for dinner. Samuel and Spencer won't be joining tonight. They're out again."

"Another date?" Stanley remarked as he made his way to the dining room.

Gloria playfully retorted, "Yep, and when's the last time you went on one?"

Exasperated by the comment, Stanley shot back, "Mom, haven't you had enough planning for their wedding already? Can we take a breather before diving into my love life?

Besides, what about Nicole?"

Knowing what his brother was trying to do, Nicole teased," Trying to shift the spotlight to me? We're talking about you!"

She had been dreading this conversation, and of course, Stanley just had to mention it and throw her under the bus.

After hearing Stanley's remark, Gloria turned to Nicole. "You two need to think about settling down as well."

"Alright, Mom," Nicole replied, using her past experiences to navigate the conversation. But as for the timeline and specifics, those were her decisions to make.

Gloria sighed. "You might brush off what I have to say, but think about Nolan and Lana. People will soon know about them. Isn't it time to make things official?"

"We've already made it official, Mom. Even if we didn't hold a grand ceremony, we're still legally married. Nolan and Lana are very much a part of our recognized family," Nicole retorted, her frustration evident.

'Why does she make it sound like I've let Nolan and Lana down?' she wondered.

MY WIFE IS A HACKER CHAPTER 2470-"So, since the ceremony is the only thing that is missing, why not have it soon?" Gloria suggested.

Feeling really annoyed now, Nicole replied, "Mom, I'm already married. And hey, at least I'm not in Stanley's shoes. He doesn't even have a girlfriend. Maybe you should focus on him?"

With that said, Nicole took Jared's hand and made a beeline for the dining room, wanting to distance herself from the subjects.

Feeling that the spotlight was back on him, Stanley sighed." Alright, I'll post an ad on a dating app tomorrow."

All of a sudden, there was a thud, and someone gasped. Everyone's eyes then centered on Tia, who was walking in with a plate of snacks.

"Hey Tia, what's up?" Nicole greeted, giving her a once-over.

Tia quickly set the plate of mini muffins down. "Mrs. Wallace was feeling good today. She made these since she knows how much you love them and asked me to bring them to you."

Nicole's eyes lit up at the sight of the muffins. "Thanks, Tia. How's Grandma been lately?"

"She's doing well. I should get back to looking after her," Tia said, her voice hurried.

As she rushed out with her head bowed, it became clear to everyone watching that something was bothering her.

Nicole saw Tia's limp as she made her way out and could not help but glance at Stanley, who was observing Tia with a grimace on his face. She sensed there was more to the story than she knew.

"Alright, let's dig in," Gloria announced once Tia had left.

"Sounds good," the group chimed in, and everyone settled into their seats at the dining table.

Nicole stared at the mini muffins, a rush of nostalgia washing over her. She remembered Tia's words about how they were her childhood favorite, and that had prompted Mrs. Wallace Sr. to whip up a batch for her. After biting into one, a genuine smile crossed her face.

"This takes me right back to my childhood," she murmured.

Memories of lazy summer afternoons with her grandmother, picking berries and laughing under the sun danced in her mind. Those simple days, full of love and joy, were some of the bests she had ever had.

Snapping out of her reverie, Nicole found all eyes on her, wide with surprise.

She paused, becoming a little flustered, and said, "I think a childhood memory just came back to me, but the rest... it's still foggy."

"It's a good start, Nicole. Don't worry. All your memories will return someday," Gloria said, her eyes getting wet.

'At least Nicole's beginning to remember,' she thought.

"Yes, just take your time," Daniel added.

"You should visit Mrs. Wallace more often. It might help jog your memories," Stanley suggested.

"I will," Nicole said, feeling comforted by their words.

"Mommy, can we try some?" Nolan and Lana came over from the living room, their eyes set on the mini muffins.

Nicole smiled gently. "Of course. Here, have some."