

With Friends Like you...

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Lyric James – Can't seem to catch a break when it comes to finding a friend. Her friends give new meaning to T.R.U. – Trifling, Ratchet, and Underhanded. Lyric friends portray themselves to be ride or die, while making plans to ride over her, or so they think.

Nicole Macon – Lyric's BFF, they have big plans to start a company together. Nicole watches her best friend make all the moves and holds it against her. Nicole knows she could be doing the things that Lyric is doing, yet she just won't. She is not able to put old ways aside. Nicole sets out to manipulate and come up on her "Friends" coat tail all the while trying to sabotage what her BFF is working so hard for. However there's one move she never sees coming.

J'Miyah Miller – Knows Lyric would do anything to help her. Lyric has never let me down, yet J'Miyah holds envy in her heart towards her because of her relationship with Nicole. She knows the schemes that Nicole plays and feels it is her duty to throw salt on that relationship to make sure she isn't left out when Lyric comes up. Yet she will receive her just reward in the end.

Jason Thomas – Has done nothing but let Lyric down time and time again. He is a fair weather friend if there ever was one. Jason pops in and out of her life like a jack in the box. He really cares for her, but he knows her past, but never thinks about the fact that he played a part in her past. He strings her along to keep anyone else from having her. He doesn't realize the strings are frayed.

Bianca Kitchens – She sees the antics of Nicole and J'Miyah. Bianca hips Lyric to their games all the while she remains cordial to them. She helps Lyric devise a plan to remove them from her life once and for all. No one knows these two have formed a bond that will sever theirs.

Prologue

Lyric's party was lit. Rocking a dress that was actually butterfly design wrapper around her body, she looked like a queen. Her new short cut fit her face and brought out her eyes. Butterfly shoes encased her feet. She couldn't wait until it was time to make her announcements. There were going to be a lot of people shocked by what she would reveal.

She looked out among the crowd at her so called friends that had shown up. Nicole was going to be surprised by her announcement, and she hoped she wouldn't try to start a fight afterwards. J'Miyah was going to be beside herself, and Lyric knew what she was about to do would hurt her, but it needed to be done for her own good. She really wanted to see the reaction on Jason's face when she sprung her news. It would be worth it though.

"Hey Lyric, you ready to make your announcements." Bianca asked.

"As ready as I'll ever be." Lyric replied as she walked to the stage.

Nicole watched as Lyric walked to the stage. 'I know my BFF is about to announce the opening of our salon "Buttafly's". Nicole was smiling from ear to ear. She had come dressed for the occasion. The cream Donna Karan pants suit, mauve bell sleeved Vera Wang blouse she had one fit her to perfection. The Red Bottom shoes that donned her feet made her five foot three inch frame seem taller. Her quick weave was a short Halle Berry style with soft lavender highlights. Most would think this looked ghetto, but she actually made it work. Her dark complexion is what brought it out. Nicole loved the fact that she didn't have to any work but would reap the benefits. 'Lyric better not shit me out my money.' She thought as she watched Lyric take the stage.

'Man Lyric is going to announce me as her manager I know for Buttafly's, I just know it.' J'Miyah thought as she watched her friend walk to the front of the room. Looking over at Nicole she shook her head in disgust. She has tried time and time again to warn Lyric about her shady ass friend, but it was like the girl had blinders one when it came to that ratchet ass bitch. J'Miyah wished Lyric would open her eyes. She hated for her to get fucked over by that two-faced hoe. Lyric was always looking out for her and she had never had to worry about having a place to live. So she would keep trying to look out for Lyric and herself in the process. 'I can't wait to move to Atlanta. Maybe I and Lyric can become closer.'

Jason watched Lyric strut up the aisle. That dress showed off her fit body. He loved the way they connected when having sex. Lyric was a areal freak and he liked the fact that she didn't run her mouth. He and Lyric had been cut buddies sine the day he moved to Georgia. Even though he hooked up with Tawanda Lord, he and Lyric continued to hook up sexually. He would never leave Tawanda. Why would he? She was the mother of his daughter and never complained about his cheating. Tawanda let him have his cake and eat it too. 'I can't wait to get her in the bed tonight.'

As Lyric looked out at the crowd, she took a deep breath and stepped up to the microphone.

"Thank you all for coming..." a loud applause covered the room. She waited until it died down. "Thank you all for coming out and helping me celebrate my Birthday."

"We love you Lyric!!!" was shouted from the back of the room.

Lyric laughed and continued. "Tonight is about growth, maturity, and change. As you all know I have been striving to open my own business with the help of a very supportive friend."

Nicole grinned from ear to ear. J'Miyah looked over at her and rolled her eyes. 'Bitch' she said under her breath.

"Well one February 27th Buttafly's will have its grand opening in Atlanta. It will be an upscale restaurant that caters to the elite." Applause erupted.

'What the hell,' Nicole thought 'that's not the kind of business we talked about. It was supposed to be a salon.' She couldn't wait to catch up with this bitch and ask her what the fuck happened.

J'Miyah smirked and thought 'Damn she final listened.'

"It will be managed by my good friend..." Lyric paused for a dramatic effect.

J'Miyah started to stand, and Nicole figured being the manager was better than nothing.

"Bianca Kitchens. Bianca please come up and say a few words." Lyric looked out and found the two people she knew were blown by the news. To her delight they both looked devastated.

"That bitch." J'Miyah hissed. "She told me I would be manager. Damn now what am I going to do?!"

Bianca walked up to the stage shocked. She knew nothing of these plans. "Uh... Thank you. It will be a pleasure to work with you."

"You have been my back bone through all this, and have worked just as hard as I have and deserve to see it come to fruition. We are going to come up together." Lyric stated and hugged Bianca.

"Now, for my final announcement. I would like to introduce you to my fiancé."

Jason looked dumfounded. He didn't know she was seeing someone. That would explain why she had been avoiding him for the last six months.

"Terrance, would you please come up?"

"Happy Birthday Baby." Terrance said and then bent and gave Lyric a sensual kiss that brought applause from the crowd. Only a few stood in silence at all that had been revealed.

"Okay, I know I have shocked a few people."

"You damn sure did!" Nicole spit out.

"Well, let me enlighten you to my reasons. It is said that people come into your life for a reason whether it be for a life time or a season. Nicole you were one that was placed for only a season. You helped me realize that the saying "Not everyone that is in your corner is for you." Is true. I always wondered why it seemed I was getting nowhere with my plans. You tried to sabotage me by talking bad about me and even telling those I contacted that I was trying to get over one you. When in actuality you just wanted a ride one my coat tail. J'Miyah, I have always been there for you, and never let you down and made sure you were straight. Well,

baby girl its time you stand on your own two feet. Your free ride is over, at least from me anyway. Jason you toyed with my feelings and emotions long enough. I deserve better than what you have been offering and I found it in Terrance. So I just want you three to know with friends like you... I didn't need enemies. Thank you all for coming."