

But on 7th March 1758, Marguerite wrote to Nicolas again to complain:

“In your letters you never mention your father. This hurts me greatly. Next time you write to me, please do not forget your father.”

Morieux discovered that, in fact, this man was Nicolas’ step-father. His biological father had died and his mother remarried.

“Here is a son who clearly doesn’t like or acknowledge this man as his father,” Morieux said. “But at this time, if your mother remarried, her new husband automatically became your father. Without explicitly saying it, Marguerite is reminding her son to respect this by sharing news about “your father”. These are complex but very familiar family tensions.”