

## [Duck, duck... oh you silly goose](#)

Published by: [Lilly Teal](#) on 14th Aug 2012 | View all blogs by [Lilly Teal](#)

It was time. One of those glorious times, that more often than not would end in some kind of entertaining havoc.

Grownups called it a play-date.

Rosa and Nikolai were more inclined to view it as 'team-up with less supervision' time. And to that end, Rosa greeted her friend with a happy wave, wriggling her legs to be put down as soon as she saw him. Yes, she could work her legs now! Walk on them, even! Being a toddler was an interesting experience. All these new functions for limbs. And words!

"Hai!"



## Comments

55 Comments



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

"lo!" Nikolai squealed happily. Unlike his Daddy and Female Caretaker he was rather fond of social interaction. At least when it came to his pink-feathered friend.

When he was set down next to Rosa - he balanced a full three seconds on his legs before he sat down with the satisfied expression of someone who just completed his day's work - he offered her a huge, already well-chewed carrot.

"Noms?"

Apparently his caretakers were still not quite on top of his fondness for biting things.



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

Noms? What an excellent idea! With a happy 'yei', she had a partnerly nom from the end of the carrot, and then perked up, moving around to reach her toys and pushing them all towards him with some effort.

"Plei?" she offered companiably, indicating the staples that were the wooden blocks and the rubber ball. And a new arrival, a fine pair of horses. "Wook Niko! Howsies!"

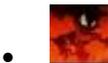
Just like Martinez, but chewable!



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

The horses were duly admired - Nikolai even scooped one into his lap so its head could be given a contemplative chew.

"Towboy hossies!" he declared happily. The duckling was rather fond of cowboys. As far as he understood they were people with horses and guns and awesome hats - mainly awesome hats. For some yet undetermined reason he had a thing for hats, the larger the better.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

Then, a shadow fell over the hossies. A shadow with bat-like wings, a pointed tail.. and fluffy cheeks.

Directly behind Nikolai, a glowing pair of eyes awaited.

"Wanna play?" Junior purred, leaning unnerving close to the other male duckling, all sharp teeth and high menace. Claws wriggling by his sides in anticipation, the half-demon had sensed a familial connection in the area and zoned in on the nursery, expecting to encounter his supernatural siblings who were MEANT to have left town.

But a Normal toddler? All squishy and vulnerable? This promised to be even more fun.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

Looking as thoughtful as a tiny fluffy duckling could manage Kolja half turned and looked the newcomer up and down.

"Da," he finally declared with a generous nod and stood to fully turn around. "Whatchoo wanna play?"

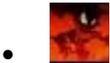


by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

First order of business, hastily hide the horsies. That taken care of, Rosa turned her attention back on her friend and the newcomer, narrowing her eyes a little. Where on earth had HE come from? She hadn't heard the door, that was certain, and she hadn't heard mommy, meaning mommy didn't know he was here...

Nikolai, why aren't you asking these questions?! But he had agreed to play, and everything seems alright so far, so...

"Who're you?" she asked nevertheless. One must know, after all.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

The second Junior saw the pink feathered chick, everything changed.

Nikolai was shoved aside, noting superstrength meant a 'shove' could be enough to fling a fluff ball clear over the other side of the room.

Running a claw through his head feathers, the demon sidled up to Rosa, all arrogant charm. Not even one year old and already a total player.

"That's not important." Because he hadn't yet thought of a better name than 'Junior'. "The question is... who are you, bweutiful?"

And in case that soul-searching stare didn't win her over, he offered her a toffee from behind his back. One that was as good as her Mamma's!

Because it was her Mamma's, as he had maybe helped himself to a few treats on his way up to the room.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

"Bwack!"

*Tumbletumbletumblecrash!*

A red rubber ball bounced through the scenery, not unlike the obligatory burning wheel after a car-crash as poor Nikolai tumbled headfirst into the toybox.

"Mwah..."

A little dizzy from the involuntary trip through the room he shook his head - but he immediately regained his focus when he noticed the demonling putting the moves on Rosa. His eyes narrowed.

*It's on, bitch!*

As quietly as possible (which was to say not very quiet at all) he climbed out of the toybox and stalked up to his newly minted rival, all righteous, fluffy indignation, and grabbed the distracted demonling's tail.

*Chomp!*

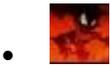


by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

Still looking suspicious, Rosa nevertheless accepted the toffee. There was no harm in toffee. And apparently the candy from strangers lesson didn't seem to extend to accepting candy from strange toddlers.

Before any name-sharing could be done though, or even considered, she was distracted by the fact that her friend had some back. "Niko!"

Sure, he was biting the other kid's tail. Priority was to check if he was bruised. "You hurt?"



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

With a screech like a stepped on cat, Junior shot into the air. Landing on his toosh, he clutched his gnawed appendage in pain, sulking. That Niko character had chompers nearly as bad as his own!

No blood. He wasn't going to lose anything, besides a few feathers. And his dignity.

Eyes narrowing at the biter, the demonling considered toasting the other mini-drake and being done with it. Rosa's presence, however, complicated matters; from what he understood, ordinary children weren't too keen on seeing their peers barbecued alive. No, this called for a different tack.

The bouncy ball was in Nikolai's court. Thankfully, showing up a Normal would *hardly* pose a challenge.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

His bill haughtily raised at the demonling Nikolai met the other's narrowed eyes. Rosa's worried question was met with a little wave and a dismissive "Naaah..."

And even if he was hurt, like he'd ever admit that in front of this meanie.

"Her name is Rosa," he informed Junior airily. *That's right, buddy, she totally told me!*

"She's my friend."



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

A friend to the point that she toddled forward a little to look Nikolai over critically to make sure he was fine. You never could tell with men, trying to be brave. Satisfying herself, she beamed and offered him half of the toffee Junior had given her.

"Here." You silly goose, you. Then turning back to Junior curiously. "You have a long tail!"

Well that was absolutely fascinating, especially for a child, as children were easily distracted. Looking as fascinated as a toddler could, she bent over the tail and prodded it gently. "Oooh..."



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

The prodding initially came as a shock, given his contemplative plotting, but Junior grasped the opportunity of Rosa's closeness to show off the prehensile abilities of that appendage. The tail wrapped itself around the frame of the little girl's face, its soft feathers running across her own enchantingly.

"Ima demon."

Spreading his wings open proudly to demonstrate.

"Beatcha seen nothin' as cwool as *me* before."

Oh dear lawd, let's add 'giant ego' to the list of unfortunate characteristics inherited.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

"I have," little Kolja said haughtily - or at least that had been the plan. What actually came out of his toffee-filled bill was a muffled "Ah hab" But it was the thought that counted.

Just in case it wasn't the thought that counted but rather the proper pronunciation he chewed furiously and swallowed before he continued.

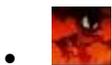
"Cooler *and* bigger."



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

"Mai auntie's a big, cool demon," Rosa said cheerfully, chuckling a bit as she batted the tail away. "She's not WEALLY mai auntie, but she's big. And cool. But no wings. Can you fwy?"

Because that would be SO COOL! So saying, she stuck her half of the toffee in her mouth, so her affirmation of 'that would be good to see. Right, Ko'ja?' came out very muffled indeed.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

"I wasn't askin' *you*," bit back coolly to Nikolai. But before he could get too snarky, beautiful Rosa saved the day again.

How strange, he hadn't heard of any other demons in this territory before. There was his mother, of course, but she was not 'cool', nor Auntie material, not by a long shot! There would be no lingering on that thought, however, as a far more interesting opportunity

presented itself. An opportunity to show off.

"Yeah, ewasy!" One, two beats of his wings and he was in the air, hovering effortlessly. Just to rub it in that extra little bit, he stretched out and folded his arms under his head, as if lounging on a bed.

A smirk in Kolja's direction. Let's see him top this!



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

"Meh!" Kolja made dismissively, but his sulky frown gave his true feelings away. The little guy still had some ways to go when it came to convincing lying.

Folding his chubby little arms he glared at the demonling. The gauntlet (or rather, the mittens) had been thrown.

"But I bet you can't fwy to candy-store and back!"

If he couldn't out-fly him, clearly some out-smarting was in order.



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

"Ooooh..." Clearly Rosa approved of this idea. Then again, any idea that involved a candy store was likely to be a good idea. Chocolate Factory, no, but candy store, very yes.

She clapped and chuckled, impressed, but sensing an air of sulkiness and hostility from her best friend, half turned to wave a tiny hand at him, a look of concern clouding her happiness.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

Not caring at all for the other's sulkiness, Junior rolled his eyes.

"Can too. Wai here."

Gearing up, he arched back and then... WHOOSH! Off through the window so fast, the very air was crackling as if he had literally burned a path through it.

Better get Kolja some sour death balls while he was at it, because he would be sucking on those for a long time to come.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

Oddly enough the duckling didn't seem too upset that his challenge had been met. On the contrary, the moment Junior was out of sight he perked up and with a little 'Ha!' he hurried to close and bar the window.

Apparently all the stories about crafty heroes who outwitted their foes Female Caretaker had read to him had not failed to make an impression.

"Rosa, come help!"



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

"Niko, what aw yu DOING?" Rosa asked in confusion as she toddled over. "What's the mattew wif yu?"

Apparently he really, really didn't want the other duckling to come back. Still looking concerned, she watched him struggle with barring the window for a while before helping. Might as well, given he was this close to slipping and smacking his beak if he pushes any harder.

"Wew?" she asked, after that was done. I'd like an explanation, please.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

About that time, they were interrupted by a *THUNK* as a speeding ball of fluff collided with what used to be an open window and bounced off.

Down to the pavement Junior fell, twitching on his back like a swatted fly. Visions of horsies spun around his head. Chocolates and lollies were scattered around him, jolted out of his clutches with the impact.

Far in the distance, a siren rang. Candy theft wasn't taken lightly, after all, and the police

were beginning to crack down on the little demonic terrors that had used the city as their personal playpen for too long.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

Rosa's demand for an explanation was met with a dead-pan look.

"He's mean," Kolja pointed out in a tone that pretty much spelled 'Well, duh!'

Further discussions were interrupted by the aforementioned *THUNK*. In the light of Rosa being oddly concerned about the demoning Kolja even tried not to look *too* pleased with himself.

"Hee..."

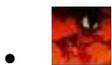
Well, you can only expect so much subtlety at his age...



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

"He pushed yew, yew bit him," she shrugged, not seeing why he was holding a grudge if he got his own back just as well. Give and take and the problem was over, wasn't it? Her friend could be surprisingly stubborn with things like this sometimes...

"I wonder if mommy knows he's hew?" she suddenly realised. "Should we teww hew?"



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

That thought interrupted by a particularly miffed demon shouldering his way through the barricade and snatching Nikolai up by the shoulders.

In a violent churn of wings, he was back through the window and hovering outside, which meant his flightless prey would likely find himself dangling in the air. With nothing but a pair of unpleasantly sharp foot talons keeping him from the unpleasantly hard footpath two stories below.

Junior grinned down at his captive. *How'd you like this, wiseguy?* Being the wiseguy he was, consideration for what threatened homicide would do to his charming, nice toddler act hadn't even crossed his mind.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

"Lemmego, lemmego, lemmeeeeep!"

The wingless wiseguy squirmed mightily - only to very thoroughly stop squirming once he realized that he was looking at quite the drop. Only his little hands kept flailing, reaching for something to hold on to, but they kept grasping nothing but thin air.

Luckily he had another way to firmly attach himself to something.

**CHOMP!**

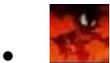


by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

(I SWEAR I WAS GETTING TO THIS  
butseriouslythankyouforremindingmeKI'dforgottenutterly)

"NIKO!" Rosa yelled, flailing out the window. It was about now that her father's genes became apparent, at least in terms of lung power. "YEW BWING HIM BACK IN WIGHT NOW. NIKOOOOO."

Now there was a voice any emergency siren would be proud of.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

(LILLAH. Oh sure ;)

"OOUCH!!!"

Rosa's extraordinary lung capacity would have little effect, for Junior was too preoccupied with processing the white hot pain shooting up his tail.

Processing which meant, unfortunately, he had forgotten to fly.

This would not be good for either of them.

A second of panic, before gravity took them both into an unrecoverable dive.

"YAAAAAAAAAARRRGGGHHHHH!"

One could only hope those trash cans beneath had not been emptied recently, else they could not hope for a stinky but cushioned landing.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

Arms a-flailing little Nikolai plummeted downwards, but unfortunately nobody in his family tree had thought to provide *him* with wings.

"MWEEEPH! MWE! MWE!"

*Get us up again you stupid stupidhead!*

Unfortunately Nikolai not only neglected to let go of Junior's tail, he also used everything else he had to latch on to other bits of him. Really, nobody could blame the demonling for not preventing their crashing into the trash containers. Or, given that said trash cans contained kitchen waste and it was a warm day, maybe a better word would be squelching.

Slightly dazed from the whole ordeal it took the duckling a few seconds to register his surroundings - specifically, the stinking waste and the fact he was still hugging Junior.

"Ewww!"



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

"What IS going on in there?"

At least someone was paying attention to Rosa's yelling. It was the work of a moment for Lilly to get inside and look out the window. "NIKOLAI!"

What followed was the duckette reaching the trash-cans on the sidewalk with almost frightening speed, and that slightly more frightening anger that only protective and worried care-takers can generate.

"What DO you think you're doing?! And who's this?!"

Well, an answer was not necessary, because there would nevertheless be PAYMENT. Specifically, being hauled out, still clinging to each other and marched inside to the tub while Rosa toddled after them.

"It wasn't his fault mami."

"I don't care whose fault it was right now, they're both getting a scrubbing."



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

**DOOM.**

"WWWWWWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!" wailed Junior. "No-no-no-no-scrubs! NO!!"

Like a feline faced with the prospect of a nice bubble bath, instantly the little demon was a flurry of panic, scrambling and scratching for freedom. Which, considering he was stinking to high Hades and covered in garbage, was less than pleasant.

On the plus side though, he was far too hysterical to burst into flame. Would have brought whole new meaning to the term stink bomb.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

Refusing to be outdone by Junior at *anything* up to and including temper tantrums, Nikolai immediately fell in with the wailing demonling and screamed at the top of his lungs.

"NOOOOOO~"

To be honest, he didn't mind bathing all that much. It just would be so much more fun without the soap and the scrubbing and the silly rules about splashing water everywhere.

Oh, and without Junior, of course.

"Lemme goooooooo!"



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

Some of that soap must have gotten into the woman's ears. Why else would she completely ignore all the plaintive screaming? With bloody-minded determination she

continued to scrub that any flailing limbs that came within reach. Nikolai was done first, thought she may have engineered that to keep him from getting scratched by his bathing partner, and she hauled the sopping-wet but much better smelling duckling out with one arm, laying him on a towel. Thank heavens it was warm weather.

"Don't move," she said in a baleful tone, turning back and scrubbing what was left of Junior. Arms, back, wings... wait, wings?

"You're one of Mal's, aren't you?" she frowned, setting his hysterical self on the towel next to Nikolai and rubbing them dry with unnecessary force before they could take in what had happened to them.

"There. Now. What are you doing in my house?" She half looked like she was going to pitch him right back into the bath if she didn't like the answer...

"Mami's wooking scawy Niko..."



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

Under the withering gaze, Junior shrunk. While the one thing a demon really couldn't stand was water, the power of motherly protection had to be right up there. But still, he refused to be scared of this tall wisp of a woman! He was tough! He was fearless! He was...

... fighting a trembling lower lip?

The dam burst, and he bawled, "I was jus tryin' to make some fwriends!"

Tail clutched in distress, big thick tears streamed out of big, sad eyes, threatening to soak the so recently dried Nikolai.

Many would go without realising, but somewhere, under all those claws and curtness, was a scared little duckling.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

This new development left little Nikolai rather torn. Obviously the demonly was still a big mean meanyhead, but... somehow it was much harder to dislike someone for being a big mean meanyhead when they were in tears.

Fairly confused he looked to Rosa and whispered, "But he was mean..?"

*That's not how to go about making friends, right?*



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

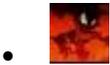
Lack of wings, too far from the window to have actually tumbled out, Nikolai being far too small to reach the windowsill and having far too much sense to do so... now we mustn't jump to conclusions, but CONCLUSIONS.

"Nearly getting someone killed is NOT how to make friends, child." Sighing, she picked up the demonling and produced a tissue, wiping his eyes. "There now. Calm down. We don't beak into houses, do we? No we do not."

Those who do get a metal bat to the cranium, because there are children to be protected.

"Kitchen, children," she said suddenly, patting Rosa and Nikolai's heads. "Hold hands and come along, you two." This one I'll keep holding, just in case. "I think everyone needs some juice. And we're all going to be NICE, yes?"

Or else.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

"Oh ARE we?"

That ominous rumble had not come from Junior, who was curled into Lilly, attempting to curtail his sobbing through a series of hyperventilated little breaths.

No, it came from his father, who had somehow mysteriously appeared behind them.

Quick, get the metal bat.

Taking no mind of the older children, his darkly disapproving gaze moved from Lilly herself onto the demonling. Tensing in her arms, the little one's crying ceased immediately; this was no time for warm, loving comfort.

Daddy would not be pleased with such things.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

While Negaduck was busy looking at Lilly and his winged offspring in dark disapproval, someone else did his fair share of glaring as well.

Whether it was his toddler-instinct or some vague, half-forgotten memories involving a blender and a very distressed Female Caretaker, Nikolai immediately decided that he didn't like this newcomer at all.

Letting go of Rosa's hand he stalked over to Negaduck, all fluff and righteous indignation, and fixed his right knee with a stern, intimidating glare.

...or something like that.

“Go 'way!”



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

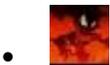
Lilly stiffened and automatically reached out to pull Rosa and Nikolai behind her, but the duckling had already gotten out of range.

"What on earth are you doing here?" she demanded, her arm tightening around the demonling. Not out of protection, but if the child was any good at picking up emotions like his mother, he'd be able to feel pure, red-hot fury building up inside the nice lady who'd been offering him juice.

-Why are you in my house? How DARE you? My house, my children, MINE- screamed some primal part of her mind that made her see red when she was angry enough. She was always a little afraid of that part.

"Nikolai, come back dear. Rosa don't..."

But Rosa, picking up on the combined dislike and indignation of her mother and best friend, had already filled up her lungs for an ear-splitting shout. "BAD MAN! GO 'WAY!"



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

The screaming toddlers were flatly ignored. For the moment.

"I'm here to collect *that*, obviously." A nod in the direction of spawn clinging to her

blouse. "Maybe if he wasn't wasting time here learning why breaking into dumps of houses is sooo wrong, he'd be doing the job I sent him out for in the first place - breaking into the 1st National."

Lowering himself to his level, the villain addressed his scion with a less than kind tone. "What're you doing here, Junior? Were your widdle hands too tired to melt through an itty bitty safe? Do you need a lie-down in the sooky la-la pen for widdle momma's boys who will never grow up to make *decent* criminals?"

Junior, for his part, replied with a very venomous hiss. Boy that juice was looking better and better by comparison.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

Whether Junior's hiss would end up impressing his sire or not, it certainly made an impression on little Nikolai. Not that he would be intimidated by that sort of stuff - as if, ha! - but it seemed that Junior wasn't a fan of the bigger, meaner meanyhead either.

Given the circumstances the duckling was prepared to forgive all former meanness and promote Junior to Second Best Friend Forever right on the spot.

In celebration of this new friendship Negaduck's knee received a little hiss as well. It wasn't nearly as venomous as Junior's, obviously, just unsavory at best, but the sentiment was there.



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

"Speaking of decent criminals," said Lilly, standing up straighter and lifting Junior just a bit higher. Considering their height difference, that meant the demonling was looking over Negaduck's hat now. "Do you really need his help to break into the safe so badly that you went out of your way to find him instead of going ahead with it?"

Oh, honey. Don't. But there, that should be a little self-esteem boost for you, Junior.

"Weave mai fwriends awone," declared Rosa, toddling up and taking Nikolai's hand. "Wai yu no go 'way?"

And wai yu dwopping shiny stuff? Well, since he didn't really seem to be paying attention, she picked up the pretty, shiny, probably valuable and more than probably dangerous thing, and popped it in her little pocket. YEI!



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

"You've got to be kidding," the drake continued on irritably, oblivious to any loss of shinies. "I don't need HIS help. He needs MY help, trying to find a talent for him other than being a big, useless waste of space!"

And to the ducklings, who would not cease prattling at him with their sickeningly adorable baby words, he knelt to deliver a sarcastically sweet reassurance. "Now now kiddies, you've got to understand that I'm a powerful genius who can do what I want, while your 'fwiends' are spineless losers who will inevitably be crushed and torn apart into tiny, helpless pieces."

If that wasn't enough of a punch in the gut, he completed the lesson by drawing in a deep breath from an - oddly already lit - cigar, and expelling the resultant cloud of tar directly into the toddlers' faces, losing them both under a thick, noxious grey smog. Ah, being evil. Tasty.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

What wasn't nearly as tasty was the foul-smelling cigar-smoke, at least if the coughing from under the cloud were any indication. Poor Nikolai sounded like a puppy with a bad bad cold - the duckling wasn't at all used to that kind of smog. Female Caretaker always took her smoking outside, after all.

What was it they said about good intentions making good pavestones again?



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

A hand snapped out, yanking the cigar out of his bill and dropping it, crushing it deliberately under a delicate shoe that shouldn't have had that much force.

"No smoking in my store," she said with cold fury, still struggling to hold down fear as she reached out again to pull the children away. "Come HERE, children."

"I dunno wat a genwus is but yu just jeawous because we wanna pway wit HIM an' nobody wanna pway wit YU," bellowed Rosa, as much as a sweet little girl could bellow. Ah, the logic of children. "He OWR fwend, so go 'way."

"Rosa, be -quiet-, dear."

Eep.



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

"Friend?"

It was like some curse word had been spoken.

Rounding on his son like a storm, the very shadows whipping across his face seemed to convey Negaduck's displeasure. The thunderous spite in his voice also helped.

"Is that what you were here for? To make *'friends'*?"

By this stage, the demonling had scrambled out of Lilly's grasp like a runaway cat, up and over her shoulder and down the backs of her legs. It was no use, however, there was never any escaping a thorough talking to.

"What have I told you, we're villains. We don't need friends. We need power, wealth, infamy, violence! Free run of all the best talk shows! How are your pathetic friends ever going to get you that, huh?"

By now, the little terror was backed against the wall, with the big terror standing over him, unimpressed.

"I expected so much *worse* from you."



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

Whether Junior's new friends could get him power, wealth and infamy would remain to be seen. Violence however... they certainly could help with that.

Rather fed up with being ignored and smoked at, Nikolai narrowed his big blue eyes at Mean Person, who was currently distracted scolding his SBFF. With an air of *Don't worry, guys, I got this* the duckling waddled over in determination and wrapped his chubby arm around Mean Person's leg.

Let's say it together!

**CHOMP!**



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

Another pair of big blue eyes widened, while a third pair, much lower to the ground, beamed in approval. You show him, Niko! Rosa looked around contemplatively, and spied a very heavy book perched on the edge of a shelf. Oh, that would do nicely! Looking pleased, she toddled away from the commotion and methodically began to put together her ascent. A chair here, a desk there...

Good thing Nikolai had such a strong bite. It gave her plenty of time to get all the way up, to push juuuuust there...

Lilly looked torn between grabbing Nikolai back and letting him have his way. He seemed to have things well in hand. Or mouth, rather. Finally she settled on the compromise of being ready to protect him from reprisals. For now, he seemed quite happy to pay back the rudeness with bites. And at least Rosa was...

What on EARTH was she doing over there? Her daughter waved to her, and gave a final push.

***THUD!***



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

The joy of villains. Providing someone for toddlers to beat up since 1991.

Needless to say, the chomp alone produced much yelling and frantic leg shaking and, when the latter in particular failed to dislodge the little bastard (in the proper sense of the term), it was promptly followed by much cussing.

But before he could drop too large a profanity -

- Rosa dropped something on him instead.

It was no KO, unfortunately, although it wasn't far off. The weight of the almighty novel had compressed him down into himself - like he wasn't already short enough - leaving the dazed drake to stagger around accordion style. The sight, combined with self-generated light musical accompaniment, no doubt the 'height' of hilarity.

Up until the point Negaduck shook it off. Then things got scary.

"That's IT." Now rounding on the terrible two, rolling up a sleeve. "I'm going to grind

you into such a fine paste, you won't know what --"

~~*ffffmmooooOOOOOMMMPPPPPPPPPP!!!*~~

There, behind the criminal turned crispy fried duck, was a satisfied Junior, flame in hand.

The three of them proving, beyond any sort of doubt, that small did not automatically equal defenceless.



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

If anything, the furious legshaking only seemed to encourage the tooting toddler. His caretakers sometimes wondered - only half in jest - if there was some doberman hidden in their founding's family tree.

Still, soon enough Nikolai lost his grip, due to an unfortunate logistical problem.

"Yay RooOOOO~"

**THUD**

"...ow..."

*Note to self: Cheering for book-tossing friends while biting someone doesn't work.*

On the up side, being flung through half the room meant he was safely out of the way when Junior took matters into his own clawed hand. If the demonling hadn't already gained the honor of being his second best friend, this would have meant instant promotion.

"Ooooh..."

...maybe there was such a thing as a one-and-a-halfth best friend?



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

Rosa clapped in delight as she slid back to the ground. If the position of one and a halfth didn't exist, then by god they would create it! "Yay!"

Waving at Junior, she shot him a tiny thumbs-up. "So cool!"

The problem now was, how soon before the crispy guy turned scary again?



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

Yeeeah... not long enough.

Crispy guy had in fact disintegrated into 'pile of dust and two every angry eyes' guy.

Like a phoenix rising from tobacco ashes, however, it was only a few seconds of enraged blinking before he burst up again, back to form. And even worse still, his suit was scorched.

"Oh, a wise guy, eh?" Negaduck thundered at his spawn yet again.

Then aimed an advanced-looking ray gun at the tiny demonling's head.

"Let's see how wise you are after this."

Rather than projecting an uber death beam though, when it fired, it shot an electrified leash around Junior's neck.

Struck, the duckling screeched and thrashed, but all in vein. The older mallard had clearly encountered this problem before. Secured, without hesitation, he began dragging his distressed son towards the exit.

"Come on-" As unfettered by Junior's scrambling as a new born pup. "We're getting out of here."

That was good news for everyone, right?



by [Kachka](#) 2 years ago

"Nooooo!" Nikolai wailed, not as much in answer to the narrator's question as in horror at the prospect of his new friend (they could sort out the numbers later) being dragged away by Mean Person.

Not quite on top of certain laws of physics yet, he latched on to the struggling demonling to save him from being carried off.

"NOOOOOOO!" he repeated with a good deal of frustration when it transpired that the

weight of one more duckling was not enough to as much as slow down a villain with ample experience in hostage-hauling.



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 years ago

Rosa followed suit. Not with the prolonged yelling, she might have shattered some windows if she'd actually screamed in frustration at her full volume, but she caught onto Junior's hand and tried to dig her tiny heels into the ground. "NO!"

Predictably, it did nothing.

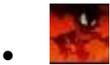
"Rosa! Nikolai!" At the very least YOU don't go with him!

It just looked so hopeless. She could feel sniffles coming on, but she had to be strong! Even if she was being dragged along on her stomach, she had to be strong!

"AWK!" she squawked, slipping off. No, no quick, something, anything, before they go!

Grabbing something small, something nice, something precious, she made a dive and grabbed Junior's hand again.

D:



by [Negaduck](#) 2 years ago

Buoyed along by his - dare we say it - friends, Junior kept fighting, peddling in the opposite direction of his father. But as the others found, it was to no avail. Negaduck's vast experience in unpleasant business included dealing with unruly demons, to which effect he had the foresight to use a Mommy's Little Horror restraint system, now with anti-superstrength technology (tm)! Junior was, for all intents and purposes, powerless.

Even the shop bell sounded distressed as the caped criminal threw open the door and stomped on out, coming to a stop at the base of one colossal and garishly painted monster truck, half parked atop a 'Free Transport for the Disabled' shuttle. It was only then he even noticed the extra ducklings picked up along the way.

"Ergh." Picking them up by the leash and shaking, as if they were bits of stuck mud, until Junior's pupils spun. "Little parasites..."

Assuming that successfully dislodged the two tagalongs, the demonling would be tied up in the back of the truck like a cattle dog. No, you do not ride in the front with people!

Settling into the driver's seat, Negaduck looked down on the motley crew gathered out in front of the store, or more specifically, at Lilly. "If I *ever* find you corrupting my DNA with your insipid 'niceness' again..." Threat left to hang; one would hope that livid growl and Lilly's own delightfully rich imagination could fill in the blanks there.

Meanwhile, Junior had slumped against the side of the tray. For all his struggles, he could not find a weak spot in the leash, nor the tray, nor his sire. All there to do was pout and plot. Oh the revenge he would have...

At which point, he opened his hand, which had been balled up in fury, and was surprised to discover something in there.

A tiny but beautiful brass horse, just like the ones they had been 'playing' with earlier.

Peering over the tray's side, Junior smiled at Rosa and Nikolai. Granted, it was a little sad, and it faltered on its way across out of disuse, but it was a genuine, appreciative smile nonetheless.

Damn, that insipid niceness was rubbing off after all.