

[Baby books](#)

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Two people trading a few years of age due to a magic accident was not hugely uncommon in St. Canard.

Two other people in competition to discover the cause of said magic accident was also not hugely uncommon.

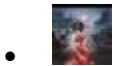
The two happening at almost the same time, however, was a little less normal. Especially when the competition involved Morgana and Malicia who as a rule didn't partake in friendly competitions with eachother. It was just as well that it wasn't a friendly one, then.

Rosa was pleased, in any case, as she skipped along behind Morgana in high spirits. Javert followed much more slowly, so the sleeping Lilly wouldn't slip off.

"So who's going to take care of us, aunty Morgana?" she asked happily. "I promise we'll be very good and quiet." Unlikely, but they would try. "And we'll be safe from the scary inky things, right?"

Comments

96 Comments



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Morgana couldn't answer because at the moment, she had no idea. Who would be able to take care of two wildly adventurous girls *and* be capable of warding off a possible evil threat?

And just like that, the light-bulb flicked on.

"I have a very good friend who can help." She smiled at Rosa. "One who fulfills all the resume requirements."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

She was just about to ask 'what's a resume?', but excitement won out over curiosity.

"Yay!" she squealed, wrapping her arms around Morgana for a loving, crushing hug. Lilly had taught her well. "You're awesome, aunty Morgana! Let's go go go!"

Probably not a moment too soon, if the book had really been telling the truth about them being more of it's toddler-hungry self.

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"All right then, looks like I have a phone call to make then." She smiled.

Back at Macawber Mansion, she had dialed the number and waited for her hero to pick up.

"Hello? Dark? I... have a favor to ask of you."

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"What kind of a favor?" After Darkwing had answered the phone. "It isn't going to be anything weird---" There's a sound of something breaking in the background. "I'll be over after I deal with an unruly daughter who for the 1000th time ignored the rules about not playing field hockey in the house!"

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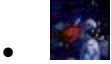


by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"Well... not weirder than usual?" She said hopefully.

"It's just... you're the only parent I know, so I figured you're better prepared for handling this situation..."

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"What situation? Is there something you're not telling me?" Darkwing sounded very confused. What would she need him for that required his parenting skills? Well, if you can call them parenting skills. "I'll be over in a moment. We can discuss this farther when I get there." He said his goodbyes before hanging up the phone.

Moments later he showed up at the Macawber Mansion on the Ratcatcher and of course in his usual crime fighting gear. Hey, had to come in style you know.

"Morgana, my lovely creature of the night, you wanted me for something?" Darkwing called for her once he was on the doorstep.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

(OOC: Sorry for cutting in but I thought this was the perfect place for a good first impression.)

"HI." The pink-feathered teenager who opened the door before Morgana could get to it greeted him with loud, child-like enthusiasm. "Who're you? Aunty Morgana he called you a creature! That's not nice, is it?"

Whether it was nice or not, she didn't stay to hear the reply. Instead she zipped right past him as soon as she caught sight of the Ratcatcher, opening up the way for him to actually get inside the house and speak to a grown-up.

"Oh my God is that a motorcycle?!"

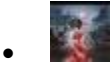
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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"I am---" Darkwing barely had the words out when she zipped on past him. He frowned from annoyance that he had been brushed off like that. He was about to go in when he heard the teen behind him. "Yes it is. No touchy!" He darted after her. He didn't want her to suddenly decide to take a joy ride with his motorcycle.

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by [Morgana](#) [\[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"Dark Darling!" Morgana appeared at the doorway.

"I see you've met Rosa already."

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"I suppose I have." Darkwing was still trying to herd said Rosa away from the Ratcatcher before he went to Morgana.

"Looking beautiful as ever." A blush spreads across his face as he gives her a kiss. Apparently he had doused a little bit of that cheap cologne of his since he reeked of it.

"So. About that favor you needed..."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

(OOC: I swear I'm still alive. Just not very. Have this very tiny post to not at all compensate.)

"Is this the guy?" Rosa asked happily, abandoning the Ratcatcher to follow him to the doorway and attempt to take his hat. "He looks just like weird guy! Only different colours."

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Weird guy?" Then Darkwing huffed and seemed almost offended. "You mean he looks like me." After realizing that she was talking about Negaduck. He tried to reach up to get a hold of his hat but she seemed to be much faster and snatched it as she went on by.

"Hey!" The drake eyes Morgana. "I see this Rosa is trouble and she's trying my patience." He says through gritted teeth in an annoyance. Somehow he got the feeling he was going to be dealing with this teen soon enough. If that was the case it was going to be a long night.

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

((OOC: Aww it's okay! KILL THOSE EXAMS LILLY. WITH FIYAH.)) "Ah, yes, about that..." She bit her lip.

Leading Darkwing inside she presented the much younger and far more timid Lilly.

"This is Lilly Teal. She owns a bookstore downtown."

Then she motioned back to Rosa.

"This is Lilly's *daughter*."

Quirking a brow at Darkwing to see if he'd catch on to the big discrepancy in this particular introduction.

"And I need your help to deal with a rather unfortunate magical mishap."

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Magical mishap? What did you do now?" Knowing Morgana anything was possible with her since he had been the subject of many magical mishaps himself. He stood there for a few moments to let everything sink in when it suddenly dawned on him.

"Let me guess. You didn't call me here to fight off evil. I'm the baby sitter."

What else would she need his parenting skills for? Yup, it was going to be a long long long night.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"I'm not Trouble! I'm Rosa!" she chirped as she skipped back to him and planted his hat on his head again. It was nice, but she preferred daddy's hat.

For the first time since Darkwing had arrived, Lilly spoke, finding this statement a little unfair even in her five-year-old mind.

"Please, sir, Miss Morgana didn't do anything, sir," she said timidly. "It was the bad book, sir."

"It was CREEPY," Rosa added, with great wisdom and observation. "You fight evil? Awesome! There's an evil scary inky thingy trying to take mummy!"

Flails and gestures to emphasize just how scary, evil, and inky the thingy was.

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

Darkwing adjusted his hat and huffed in annoyance again. "So let me get this straight. I am to watch these kids while fighting off a haunted book that plans on kidnapping?" He rubs his forehead. "I think I need to sit down."

Every time he got involved with something that dealt with his girlfriend it always seemed to end up weird. But he put up with it because he was madly in love with her. This was beginning to look like yet another weird incident.

"So...What does this scary book do then?"

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Morgana could only grin sheepishly at his rather accurate skills of deduction.

"Well, it's not *just* to have you baby-sit. It's because this is a rather dangerous task, and I felt you were the only hero capable of handling such a job. But if you really don't want to do it, I suppose I could ask Gizmoduck for his help..."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"Scary book goes... it makes GOO, and it's ICKY and it has a creepy voice and it says it like taking little kids," Rosa said helpfully. "But because it's inky I don't think Javert can bite if it comes out. Right boy?"

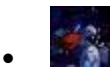
Javert, who had been sitting silent and relatively unnoticed until now, so as not to disturb the little duckling, gave a low growl that indicated that he wouldn't be averse to trying. Lilly gave a great yawn, still exhausted, but all the conversation had already woken her up and she wasn't sure she'd be able to sleep again. Hugging Javert around the neck, more at ease now with what she thought of as the strange creature that was following her around, she looked up at Darkwing, her eyes wide and hopeful.

"Are you a hero, sir? Are you going to keep us safe?"

"COURSE he is!" Rosa enthused. "He has a cape and everything!"

Did Gizmoduck have a cape? Did he have an awesome hat? I THINK NOT!

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Who do you think you're dealing with? Of course I'm a hero. I am Darkwing Duck!" He proudly boasts. They just fed that ego of his. The very thought of asking Gizmoduck to do his job for him was insulting.

"I'm sure I can handle a book. I've been up against a lot worst things."

Although the whole creepy voice and kidnapping thing was pretty creepy. Maybe he better stay awake all night just in case.

"Now. If I'm to be watching you children there will be a few rules." Darkwing's dad-mode was kicking in. "Because I don't want any trouble."

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• by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Ah, reverse psychology. Works every time.

"Thank you so much, Dark. I really appreciate this! Especially now that Malicia is privy to the situation and has decided to 'compete' with me to find a solution... she will go out of her way to sabotage my progress just to get the upper-hand, no doubt. This is going to be the Grade 9 Frankenscience Fair fiasco all over again..." She shook her head gravely. "They never did find all the body parts."

"I'm concerned this 'ink creature' is a bigger problem than originally anticipated, so we need to be very careful with how we approach this."

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• by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Malicia is involved? Oh great. This will make things difficult. You should really tell me what's going on. So I know what I'm exactly dealing with."

Because I don't want any missing body parts.

Darkwing was wondering exactly what got himself suckered into. Dealing with an ink creature while baby sitting some kids and possibly having to face Malicia sounded like trouble.

"I guess it's another case for Darkwing Duck."

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• by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

Rosa suddenly perked up, struck with the most brilliant idea in the history of brilliant ideas.

"Aunty Morgana! Would it be good if we find out who gave mummy the book? She

writes down all the names in a big, big book under the table."

That would help, right? Am I being useful? I like being useful!

Oh, right, other grown-up. Turning to Darkwing, to whom Lilly was already nodding sincerely, she tried to look as un-troublesome as possible.

"Kay..."

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• by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Morgana was enthused by this suggestion from Rosa. "That's an excellent start. We'll head over there now, then."

She could only shrug apologetically at Darkwing. "I know Dark, I'm sorry. She just sort of has a habit of... cropping up when you least want her around. Which is always. But you've put her behind bars a few times already, I'm sure you can do it again if it comes down to it."

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• by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Tell me about it." Darkwing grumbled. The demoness had a habit of getting under his skin. In more ways than one.

"I suppose I could handle her. But what about this ink creature? Just how much trouble or dangerous this ink creature is?"

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• by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

Rosa shrugged, picking up Javert's leash again and looking at Lilly quizzically. She still looked exhausted. Would she even be able to walk back to the shop?

"... should we pick her up?"

"I'm okay..." the duckling said quietly, looking very much not okay. If she was being entirely honest, she was very scared. Hugging Javert again, she buried her face in his neck.

"... it's okay! We won't let the inky thing take you!"

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Oh no. You're not going out there alone. If we're going anywhere, we're taking the Ratcatcher." Darkwing put his hands on his hips after resuming dad-mode. "And I'm coming with you. I'm supposed to be keeping an eye on you and you're not leaving my sight."

Hopefully they would be better listeners than Gosalyn. He really wondered if anything he said just went through one ear and out the other.

"Now. I need to know where we're going."

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Morgana sighed. "Well if Lilly is really tired, I could always stay here and watch her while you take Rosa. That is, if you can find this inventory book with all of the names by yourselves."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"I can't read. But it's a really really big book and I kind of know where it is?" she said helpfully. "We just have to find the biggest, heaviest book under the desk!"

That sounded like it was going to be FUN bringing back on the Ratcatcher.

"B-but what if the scary things are there?" Lilly asked softly, holding onto Morgana's skirt and looking up at her for solace and advice. It was plain the quiet duckling had been worrying herself sick while everyone had been talking. "What if they get hurt...?"

She didn't seem to have understood that whatever these creatures were, they didn't concern themselves overmuch with anyone over ten years old.

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Well these "scary things" will have to deal with a master of Quack-Fu and my trusty gas gun." Darkwing said proudly. "We'll be fine. Don't worry." Turning to Rosa. "Now then. I'll need to know where we're going."

Then he started for the door. "We'll be back soon. It shouldn't be a problem. We'll be in and out in a flash."

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"Don't worry Lilly darling. Dark is right, he's handled far worse things." Morgana reassured the child.

"And while they're gone, we can cook them a special treat!"

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

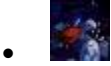
"Can we?" The girl beamed up at this lovely woman, feeling a little better. Or at least, temporarily distracted by the pleasant idea. "I'd like that."

Rosa pumped her fists, delighted that everyone seemed to be optimistic about this. "Well I made it here once, I bet I can get back," she said to Darkwing.

... reassuring.

"It's really close, come on!"

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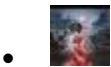


by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Alright. I'm coming." He lead her out to the Ratcatcher. "Wait. Safety first." Darkwing stuck a helmet on Rosa's head before putting his on. "I don't want your brains scrambled."

Darkwing revved up the motorcycle after climbing on. "I need directions on where we're going."

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Back in the kitchen, Morgana had laid out what seemed like a myriad of cooking utensils that could have potentially doubled as medieval torture implements.

"Now then." She finished tying on her apron and flipped open her massive cookbook.

"I wonder why we should start with... a casserole perhaps? Or something sweeter, like a dessert? What do you think, Lilly?"

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"Kay!" Rosa said happily, patting her helmet in delight. Hats! She loved hats.

Not having ever been on a motorcycle before, she decided to treat it very much as if she was on a horse, which she knew meant that if you couldn't hold the reins, you held on to the rider because there wasn't much else to hold. Settling her hands on his shoulders, and looking rather comical given she was taller than him, she urged him forward to the end of the street and started giving directions as he drove, having no idea of street names that would give him any advance warnings on where to go.

"Now down THAT one, where the white car's going!"

~~~

Lilly thought about this very seriously, her tiny face grave as she weighed this decision.

"My mummy was teaching me how to make casserole. Can we make that? I can practice and then when I find her she'll be so proud!"

That sounded like an excellent idea! She brightened up at the very thought.

The book shifted a little, left and right, like an animal in a hamster-ball, until the protective orb rolled right off of whatever table Morgana had put it on, settling innocently on the floor near a few other highly innocent looking books.

The orb was starting to develop black spreading veins, but so far it seemed intact. It was probably hoping nobody would notice for now.

Javert looked up from where he had settled, sniffing suspiciously. Unfortunately there was so much magic around that a little more was hard to detect. Maybe if he just looked around a little...

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

Darkwing barely had enough time to the turn when she had yelled at him about the white car. "Cutting it a bit close. Sheesh."

He followed the white car wondering where they were exactly going and hopefully next time he'll have a lot more time to react if he had to turn again. He was still pretty clueless about what exactly he was dealing with and how much danger they were all possibly in.

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"You've made an excellent choice." Morgana nodded in agreement.

"I'll even share with you a secret trick to this recipe my Aunt Nasty showed me when I

was your age." She grabbed a metal canister from the counter and opened it.

"It's all about evenly spreading the spider legs into the mixture." She explained.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"There!" Rosa practically shouted. "The shop!"

Well, it looked relatively harmless at the moment. As it was Rosa had already jumped off of the motorbike and raced inside with no regard for whether it was legitimately harmless or not. All that mattered to her at the moment was that they were on a search!

"Look for the biiiiiiiiigest book you can find," she advised.

~~~

"I've... never had spider leg casserole," Lilly said slowly, in the measured, very polite tones of a child who has been very firmly and repeatedly told never to be rude to any grown-up. Ever.

Managing to finally poke a little hole in the protective shield, by no means large enough for the viscous ink to force itself through (and even if it could it couldn't drag the book it was shackled to out after it), the... creature cleared it's throat and adopted a different voice, a very young, scared sounding voice.

It was, in fact, a voice that sounded very remarkably, very genuinely, like a little child.

"He-hello?"

Pausing a moment to suppress a snicker, the voice continued again, making an effort to sound faint and confused.

"Can anyone hear me?"

Javert put his ears back and whined, not liking this voice with no body attached to it. He couldn't quite work out where it was coming from.

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Wait! Argh!" Darkwing wasn't expecting her to jump off after he had barely stopped in front of the shop. He dashed after her hoping the place was safe. After the talk about some ink monster he was a little on edge at the moment. "Next time wait for me."

He looked around making sure it was safe before going to look for the book. There seemed to be a lot of books. It was going to take awhile as he wasn't sure where to exactly start looking.

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"Trust me, you'll love it." Morgana reassured her cheerfully.

"I know you Normals are a bit shy when it comes to trying my culture's unique brand of cuisine, but it really isn't all that different. In fact, where I come from the monsters are horrified to hear that Normals use flour as a food ingredient, because we use it to--" She paused, tilting her head.

"Did you hear someone just now?"

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"I think it's under mommy's desk," Rosa said helpfully, ducking under the desk to look, and nearly falling over something massive. "I can't read, is this it? Help me drag it out!"

"Hey, hey!" came another voice, unmistakably from one of the bookshelves. "I've seen you before! The duck with the mask! Eldritch Academy right?"

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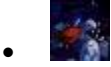
Lilly tilted her head as well. "It's the... doggy thing, I think. Is he hurt?"

"... help..." sounded out very clearly in the silence as both ducks paused to listen.

Her eyes went wide. That was very definitely not the doggy thing. In fact the doggy thing had come back to check on the both of them, all his hair standing on end and his tail

between his legs, but still growling a low-key growl of suspicion towards the general area of the large room where the sound was coming from.

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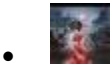


by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Are you sure it's a book and not a cinder block?" Darkwing had gone over to try and pull out what he assumed was the book but it was pretty heavy. He jumped when he heard the voice from some where in the store. "Who's there?! Show yourself!"

Since he was paranoid and on edge, he had drawn out the gas gun ready to fire in case whoever the voice belonged to wasn't friendly.

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"Stay close to me, Lilly." Morgana warned her. She had studied enough ancient magic to know a trap when she heard one.

"What do you want?" She called out. "Speak now!"

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"I'm already showing myself!" The voice sounded a little offended. "Call yourself a hero, can't even see what's in front of your big bill."

"Oh, it's one of the BOOKS," Rosa said in interest, having no natural scepticism whatsoever. "That's the stack of magicky books someone left here. The bad book was in there."

"That's what I want to talk about! I was on the same shelf as that one. All the magic flying around woke me up."

The voice paused, and when it continued again it sounded a little embarrassed.



"Honestly I wasn't supposed to fall asleep in the first place... but I can help out, hero-guy!"

~~~

Damn this woman. The scared quaver took on a tinge of hope, quite marvellous acting.

"People! Oh, bless. Where are you? Where am -I-? I was playing in the street and then I heard, oh I heard a marvellous sound. I followed it and then... I don't remember."

True, as far as the voice went. But the child who remembered that, who the voice had belonged to, would never go back to that street.

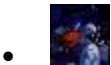
"Did you see them?" The voice went on, a little more excited. "The lovely lady with the long black hair? The big man, a wall of a man with the bluest eyes I ever saw! I ran after them but I must have gotten lost!"

It was so difficult not to laugh when Lilly's own very blue eyes widened further at this familiar description, torn between stepping forward and tightening her grip on Morgana's skirts.

Ah. I listen to a lot more than you know, little one.

"W- what?"

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"I am not going to be insulted by a book!" Darkwing huffed. He really wasn't used to all the weird magical things he tended to be exposed to when he was involved with anything dealing with Morgana. And how dare the book call his bill "big" even though it was true.

"Argh! What am I saying?"

Arguing with a book. Yup. He felt like he's gone completely crazy now.

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Morgana's grip tightened on Lilly. "Don't." She said more sternly to the little girl. "Let me handle this."

Setting Lilly behind her, the sorceress stepped forward carefully, her hands ready to cast a spell at any given notice.

She followed the voice down the hallway, having a general idea of where it was coming from -- the library where she left the book on the table.

"Listen, I've played this game before many times and I will tell you that I have little patience for these shenanigans." Morgana called out as she moved ever so cautiously.

Really, it came with the job description.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"Listen," the book said more slowly. It was clear it didn't think Darkwing was very intelligent. Its tone all but said 'I'll use small words now.'

"I can help you. I'm a reference book. I know all about the book you're after."

"Oooh, the scary inky one?" Rosa asked?

"That's the one! It's got a child-stealer locked in it."

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*What a very annoyingly intelligent woman this is.*

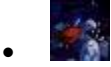
Well, that was fine, even if the child didn't come running. The book grumbled to itself a little, but kept up the charade as it widened the opening and snaked out one long tendril. It had found another of its kind, one who was deep asleep, but a brother or a sister it could recognise. it just needed to keep the with distracted for long enough that she might not sense the another book's magic being woken up. The ink hissed softly to get the other book's attention, and then quickly made the child's voice sound very hurt indeed.

"Cruel, that's what you are. Cruel. Nobody feels sorry for me, stuck here in the dark for so long."

Lilly kept behind Morgana as she'd been asked, but it was obvious she was dying to ask if the 'child' had really seen her parents.

The other book started to stir a little. Javert, walking next to Morgana, suddenly gave a fierce snarl, but he wasn't exactly sure what he was responding to. Yet.

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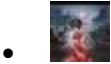


by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

Darkwing twitched from annoyance. "Listen, book. If you're going to help could you do it without insulting me?" He didn't like that tone it took with him. He felt like he was being treated like a small child.

"I do need to know about this ink monster that apparently is attached to a haunted book. I keep hearing how it wants to kidnap children. How dangerous is it? How do we deal with it?"

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

She signaled Javert to stay next to Lilly as she moved closer to the book.

"How about you quit your belly-aching and tell me exactly who, or what, you are." She demanded.

"Anything less, and I'll hand you over to my cousin Malicia for toilet paper; I assure you it's a fate worse than coffee damage."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"Take me to that lady who picked it up," the book said, trying to sound more helpful now. "I'll tell you stuff on the way, but she needs to the info. She doesn't know what she's getting into. I know one of them's in her library too. You're not supposed to bring them together!"

~~~

"What are you talking about?" the book grumbled, switching back to its normal voice and pretending it had no idea what was going on. The deed was done, anyway. Now all it had to do was get this woman closer, out of the child's line of sight. "This stupid bubble is making me so sleepy. I doze off for five minutes and you're threatening me with violence. I didn't DO anything."

The implication being that the kids' personalities were maybe still aware inside... wherever the book spirited them off to. Patently untrue, but nobody else knew that for certain. ... maybe.

The ink in the other book, hidden away and outside of any protective bubble, started not just to seep out, but take on a vaguely humanoid shape.

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Morgana?" Darkwing picked the book up. "Rosa, come on! We need to leave now!" He suddenly had a bad feeling that sent a chill down his spine that made him shudder. "I swear if anything bad happens to her I'll turn you into a door stop!"

Dashing out he tosses the book into the side car as he hops on to start up the Ratcatcher. Darkwing couldn't shake off the sense of dread he was feeling. Like something bad was about to happen.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"You're making a whole lot of racket is what you're doing." Morgana sauntered across the room and lifted the orb from the floor, placing it back on the table.

"But since you claim not to be responsible, then perhaps you'd be kind enough to assist me with the reversal spell for this age-swap hex."

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"Bringing them together makes the seals break down faster. But don't worry, your lady'll be fine. Those things only take kids. First thing they'll do once they're out is head for the nearest child to do... whatever they do to them."

"Mommy's there!" Rosa said urgently, hopping onto the motorcycle.

"Oh right, the one who got turned into a kid?"

"Yes!"

"Oh well. Yeah, she's probably doomed."

"AHHHH!"

~~~

"I don't know how that happened," the book said a lot more genuinely. Morgana was juuuust out of Lilly's sight now, with a shelf in their line of sight. Perfect. "I was trying to take the child, but there were other magic books there who don't... agree with what I do." Understatement. "The age-swap must have happened to stop me taking her in the last second. It knocked me out of the shelf, too, you saw me get buried by books."

The ink finished its transformation, and turned to admire itself in the nearest window. A tall, slender duck with her hair piled up in a fetching updo smiled back. It wouldn't last long, but it just had to last for long enough.

Positioning itself carefully, it stepped towards Lilly as if it had just come back.

"Miss Morgana? What was it?"

"Nothing important," it said. Its voice mimicking was really wonderful. "Come, we have to get you somewhere safe before those books start waking up properly."

It took her hand with a comforting smile, quite enjoying how worried she looked.

"O-okay. Come on doggie."

Javert growled, hackles raised. This woman didn't smell like she was supposed to.

"He can't come. We have to leave someone behind so the others can find us when they get back, right? They might not see any note I leave for them."

"Right... but..."

"Come with me, darling child~" It started to pull the uncertain child away, deeper into some shadowy area of the house, and Javert went entirely mad, howling and snarling loud

enough to shake the house, hoping Morgana would come running. He gave the 'woman' a vicious bite, bite she didn't even seem to notice it.

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Is there any way to reverse the spell then so she won't be taken?" Darkwing asks as they zoom back to Morgana's. "How do I stop it if can't be?"

He was not liking this one bit. It sounded like once this ink monster got its hands on a child there was nothing that could be done. "Hehe. If I was a child it would be distracted and come after me." Darkwing nervously joked. He was unsure what to do. And Morgana had entrusted him to protect the children.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Indeed Morgana's attention was summoned, and her eyes widened in realization. "You're just a distraction!" She snapped angrily at the book. Damn it all!"

She rushed back down the hallway where the familiar was raising a cacophony, only to see that Lilly was nowhere in sight.

"Which way did she go?!" She asked the honey-badger. "Lead me to Lilly!"

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"You can reverse it," the book said thoughtfully. "It's not very hard. The only problem is if you do that this one" by which he meant Rosa, books weren't the best at gesturing, "will be a kid again. And we don't want kids near them. That is bad times. They trap them in some weird hallucination-thing that they will make them happy, but they don't know kid's got to eat or sleep or drink or anything."

This was probably not something to be saying in front of Rosa, but luckily 'she's doomed'

had horrified her enough that she wasn't listening anymore.

"And I won't agree to de-aging you. You don't know how crazy about children they are. But if, IF you can yank the kid out while one of them's making the hallucination and kick it inside instead, it'll cancel itself out."

Needless to say, easier said than done.

"You might need a spell to be able to see the plane they're trying to drag her to. Let me see if I've got anything to help."

~~~

The book just cackled. "Not so high and mighty now!"

Javert threw his head back and howled again, dashing off into the darkness in the hope that Morgana would follow quickly enough to keep up.

"Doggie!" came Lilly's voice, high with worry. "Let GO! Stop pulling me!"

The child had already come to the conclusion that something was very wrong with the tall lady right now, but the grip on her wrist was like iron. So she did the next best thing, and started to scream.

The creature shrugged, wrapping an arm around Lilly's head as its eyes started to glow, busy with making an illusion to distract her. Some children always made a fuss at first. They stopped fighting eventually.

She was already starting to sag as Javert burst into the scene and flung himself at the creature, but the ink was impossible to physically harm.

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Do the two need to be in the same room to do the reversal? If we put Rosa somewhere safe where the book can't get to her, then she won't be snatched when she becomes a kid again." Darkwing's tone sounded more serious than earlier. "Hit me whatever spells you got that would help. Let's get dangerous!"

It wouldn't take them long to get back to Morgana's with the speed he was going and all of the shortcuts he knew that would get them there faster. He barely had stopped in front of the mansion when he leapt off the Ratcatcher. "Rosa. Stay here. It's not safe inside. Please, do this for me, alright?"

Darkwing grabbed the book from the sidecar. "Ok. Cast away with your spells." As he dashed into the mansion.

[Delete](#)



• by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

When Darkwing entered, he would be encountering a swirl of chaos accented with Lilly's screams and Javert's snarling.

Morgana was standing in the center of a self-conjured whirlwind, her eyes glowing bright as books, cups, tables, picture frames, and vases were pulled from every corner of the room. Energy crackled from her fingers which she tried to direct at the ink without harming Lilly.

"Leave her alone!" She bellowed darkly.

[Delete](#)



• by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"Yes, they need to be together," the book said hurriedly, as Rosa sat outside, impatient and worried and very close to just dashing inside anyway. "So let's worry about that later."

As the entered, the helpful book whistled, impressed by the show of power. It pushed itself open and riffled its pages a little. "This one. It'll let you see the door its trying to make. You have to get the kid OUT and kick the thing IN. Then toss me to your girlfriend, I'll help her shut the door on it. We'll at least get rid of one of them."

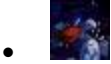
Pressing its pages flat, it held an inscription under his bill. "Read it carefully, don't forget."

~~~

The creature jerked a little, at least a little vulnerable to magic even if it couldn't be physically harmed, but it refused to be distracted. It had one thing to do, and it was going to do it no matter what.

[Delete](#)



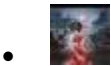


by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Morgana! Hold on! I'm coming to help!" Darkwing dodges the tornado of flying objects that she's created as he dashes towards the ink monster. He tries reading the inscription. "How do you even pronounce some of these words? Sheesh."

By some miracle he managed to actually get the spell to work and as soon as he saw the door he made a dive for it to see if he could nab Lilly before the ink monster got her completely after tossing the book to Morgana. "Let go of her you slimy ooze!"

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"Dark?!" She was surprised to see him so soon, and even more surprised when the door suddenly appeared.

She caught the book in her hands, and the swirling vortex around her came to a sudden stop, causing various objects to hit the ground.

"Quickly!" She urged the book. "Tell me what I need to do!"

[Delete](#)



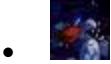
by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"This, THIS," said the book half-frantically, trying to flip through pages and talk at the same time. "As soon as she's out, and he kicks it in, you need to shut the door on it. It'll cancel itself out and be gone. There won't be another chance like this!"

~~~

Javert managed to latch his powerful teeth onto Lilly's skirt and yanked, in an effort to help Darkwing out. The creature let out some kind of horrific screech as the half-unconscious girl was tugged in the opposite direction, out of the carefully prepared door. Panicking, it held tighter and tried to pull the portal closed on both of them.

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Let go of her!" He was still trying to pull Lilly out while at this same kicking at the ink. "Argh. Yuck." Darkwing didn't like the slimy feel against his foot. He pulled harder but the ink had held on tight. He had to think of something fast since the creature was trying to pull the portal closed.

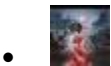
"Lilly! Cover your mouth!"

Darkwing had no idea if it would even work but he had to try something. He pulled the neck of his turtleneck over his bill before pulling out the gas gun.

"Suck gas evildoer!"

The gas canister hit the creature before exploding into a cloud of blue gas. Even if the gas itself didn't effect the ink he was hoping it would at least distract it for a moment.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

"Is... it is in?" Morgana was fretting. She could hear Darkwing at least, but what if he didn't have Lilly? She couldn't risk closing it now!

"DARK!" She called out. "Do you have her? Can I close it?"

[Delete](#)



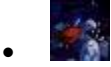
by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

The fight had, thankfully, distracted the creature enough that the canister smacked it fairly hard in the side of the head. And while it couldn't feel pain from bites, it could certainly feel force. Enough force that it staggered back and loosened its grip.

Lilly gave it a kick and disentangled herself fully. Then she ran forward and clung to Darkwing with arms and legs, one hand still firmly over her mouth and very scared lest she get grabbed again. But Javert and Darkwing were having none of that, clearly.

Javert, for his part, growled at the creature and tried to nudge both ducks out of the door as fast as possible. Out! NOW!

[Delete](#)

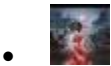


by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"Go back to where you came from!" Darkwing gave the creature one swift hard kick to make sure it went flying into the door. With the nudge, the drake dashed out of the way of the door while carrying Lilly. He drew his cape around the both of them to shield her from the creature if it tried to make a grab at them.

"It's ok. You're safe now." Darkwing gave the frighten child a nuzzle and held her close. "'I'm here..Shh..'" His tone soften and was the same one he used with Gosalyn whenever she was afraid.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

The moment she caught sight of Darkwing and Lilly, she followed the spell the book had given her.

"Be gone, foul creature!" She shouted, her eyes glowing brightly as she pointed at the door.

[Delete](#)



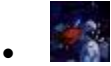
by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

Lilly clung tighter to her saviour, hiding her face as she tried not to burst into tears after the whole ordeal. Javert just managed to tumble out after them as the door snapped shut with frightening suddenness, all Morgana's power slamming into it like a brick wall. The creature gave a howl as it disappeared, and one arm that had been outside the door when it shut turned into fine smoke and blew away as it fell to the ground.

Even the one trapped in the book seemed very shaken, making an agonized noise as the orb of magic around it repaired itself. It had no more strength to fight it, or even to speak.

"MUMMY!" Rosa practically screamed, racing over. Obviously she hadn't stayed on the motorcycle when there were things happening. But at least she'd had the sense to stay near the door. "You're okay!"

[Delete](#)

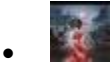


by [Drake Mallard](#) 1 year ago

"It's ok. It's gone now." Darkwing was still trying to comfort the scared Lilly. He could feel her clinging to him very tightly as he rubbed her back.

He hoped it was gone since Rosa came charging in after he had told her to stay put. "I thought I told you stay to wait by the Ratcatcher?" He scolds Rosa.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 1 year ago

Morgana sighed with relief. "That's the end of those horrible creatures... right?" She asked the book in her arms.

"Because if it is, I'm sure I can reverse the spell on these two, now."

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 year ago

"I was being good!" Rosa objected. "I waited near the door, but everything's okay now so you can't make me stay out."

"One of them's gone," the book confirmed. "And the one in the force-field's out of energy. It'll only wake up if it gets near another one of itself again, and as far as I know you got rid of the only other. Nooot too sure how else to deal with it. Maybe you can just set it on fire?"

It couldn't hurt, I guess?

"Hey, you're from Eldritch, aren't you? Maybe you can keep it in lock-up. Safer than leaving it with a Normal. That was a bad idea from the start... Ahem. Anyway, it's all clear otherwise. You can switch them back. I can help if you like."

[Delete](#)



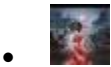
by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

Darkwing still scolds Rosa. "You still disobeyed me." To him she was just as bad as Gosalyn in the not listening department. Except he couldn't ground Rosa to her room.

"Please don't start a fire in here. What if it can't be burned and you set the entire room ablaze instead?" That had disaster written all over it. "I can always dump it in the bay later where no one can find it." He shifted a bit so that it was easier for Lilly to cuddle him.

"But I'll do that later. She's still not calm yet."

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 11 months ago

"That sounds like a good idea." Morg nodded to the book. "The lock-up part, not the fire, that is."

She flipped open the pages and gave her fingers a wiggle. "Let's get mother and daughter reunited then, shall we?"

And thus began the incantation!

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 11 months ago

Mid-incantation, the book's pages started to ruffle.

"Aaa-"

Oh no.

"AAAAAAA-"

Oh *no*.

"-CHOO!"

As far as the Normals were concerned, the magic puffed out the way it should, but any magical expert could tell you that the magic actually puffed two degrees to the left of where it should.

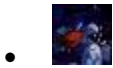
Teenage Rosa abruptly telescoped down to a toddler, who squealed a giggled when the transformation was over, so apparently all was well. What a relief.

The smoke enveloped Darkwing and little Lilly, who was just calming down and detaching herself. There was a... complicated movement.

When the smoke cleared, a very confused young woman was holding a little drake in a very large hat.

"... um..."

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

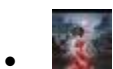
Lilly wasn't the only one confused. The duckling just stood there staring at her wondering who she was in a wide eyed stare. Right before he tried to run off that is.

But Darkwing's jacket that was now too big for him caused him to trip mid-run. He fell onto his face with a squawk which was followed by crying.

Oh dear. This was bad.

Very bad.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana](#) [\[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 11 months ago

Morgana blinked. For a second she couldn't figure out who the duckling was, until realization caught up with her.

"D...Dark?" Horrified look.

"Oh for Pete's Sake!"

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 11 months ago

"I'm sorry!" wailed the book. "It came suddenly, I couldn't stop it!"

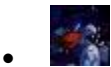
At least it just looked like just an age reversal instead of the more complex age-switching hex. Shouldn't be TOO difficult to reverse even without the book's help, hopefully, which was just as well. The sneeze had taken a lot out of it and it sounded a little strained.

"I think I need a little bit to recharge..."

Lilly quickly picked up the wailing child in a panic. "Shhh, shhh, it's okay. Are you hurt?" Eyes flicked towards Morgana in worry. "... you can fix this?"

"HI LITTLE DUCK," Rosa said in friendliness.

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

Darkwing snuffles a little as he rubs his bill against the sleeve of his jacket after having face planted on it. He pouts a bit until Rosa spoke.

"Hi." He mutters shyly and snuffles again. Little duck indeed. He was a very small duckling and his costume was now engulfing him. His mask had slipped off and hung around his neck.

"I hurt my beak." Darkwing went back to pouting again.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 11 months ago

"Ah... er...." Morgana was completely flabbergasted. What was she supposed to do with a toddler-fied boyfriend?!

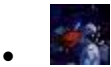
"Dark? Darling? Do you recognize me?" She leaned forward, smiling gently at the child.

"Everything will be alright soon enough."

Then to Lilly she added. "We'll have to wait until the book has recovered. Until then, I suppose we better keep an eye on him..."

But I won't be changing his diapers. That's just *weird*, even by Macawber standards.

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

He blinked in confusion and then stared at her wide eyed when she leaned forward. Darkwing squeaked before hiding himself under his hat.

Oh boy would they have to keep an eye on him. Because as soon as the adults were busy talking he squirmed his way out of Lilly's grasp and slipped out from his costume.

One now naked toddler Darkwing dashed off to go hide somewhere away from all of these people he apparently no longer recognized.

[Delete](#)



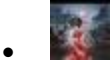
by [Lilly Teal](#) 11 months ago

"BABY. WAIT," Rosa said loudly, getting up to toddle after him in concern. "Don't get lost!"

"Oh no..." That was a bit of an understatement. Just how many magical books and artefacts did Morgana have lying around at child-level? "Javert my darling, can you smell where he's gone?"

Javert certainly could, but first Rosa had a brainwave. "You want cookie?"

[Delete](#)

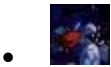


by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 11 months ago

Morgana groaned. "I'll take that as a 'no, I do not recognize you'." She murmured miserably, massaging her temples.

"Speaking of trouble..." She turned to Lilly. "There's something I've been meaning to ask you, Miss Teal."

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

The little Darkwing had hidden himself under a small end table. He would have hidden under a bed but there was monsters already there and they scared him when he had ducked under it. The poor duckling was crying from fear.

"Cookie?" He sniffs but didn't come out though.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 11 months ago

"Yeah, cookie," Rosa said, beaming with friendliness as Javert trotted up curiously. At least the kids would be safe with him around. "This is my doggie. He scares away monsters. Wanna pet him?"

Javert made an attempt to look friendly, but decided not to crowd the crying child by moving forward.

"If you don't wanna come out, I'll bring you a cookie and we can all eat together!"

"Ask me, Miss Morgana? Anything you like. Is everything alright?"

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 11 months ago

"I'm just curious about something, is all..." She said slowly.

"What exactly is your connection to Malicia? When we ran into her, Rosa was referring to her as an 'aunt'." Her bill furrowed in thought.

"How in the world does someone as quiet and kind as you get mixed up with something like *that*?"

[Delete](#)



by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

He wasn't coming out. Not with those monsters out there. In fact seeing Javert only made him move back farther into his hiding place.

Darkwing hides his face in his arms as he laid on his belly and sobbed from having been frighten. "Scary things.."

He was going to be a pain in the butt that's for sure.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 11 months ago

Javert looked disappointed. He was trying SO hard to be friendly. Look, all of his teeth were showing in his best smile!

... that may not have been the best idea.

Rosa decided to take this in hand, crawling in after the smaller duck.

"Hi. What's your name?" Aside from 'FRAIDY CAT AM I RIGHT?'

"We're... friends." Lilly paused for a moment, having to rethink her statement. "Or were. At least I thought we were. We may have had a fight."

It's been so long I barely remember how I even met her. It feels like we've always known each other.

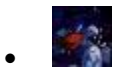
"She mostly drops by to talk, give the children presents, sometimes take me shopping. But then there's times where it seems she just wants someone to be standing there so she

can be... Malicia at someone." Which is most times. "So I... don't exactly know. She helped me get Javert. That was... kind of her. But then she burnt down the church I was getting married in and nearly killed me. She spoils my children and makes them happy. But she took my mother's necklace, the only thing I have and didn't understand why I was upset. Or couldn't understand. Or didn't care. Which made me very upset because I thought..."

I don't know what I thought. Lilly suddenly looked incredibly young and confused. She wasn't geared for any of this.

"So I presume I'm not mixed up with her anymore."

[Delete](#)

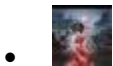


by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

Darkwing rubbed his eyes and peered at her from the dark space under the end table. Those monsters had really scared him since he was still trembling.

"Drake." He muttered and sniffs.

[Delete](#)



by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 11 months ago

That was when Morgana embraced Lilly in a hug.

"Oh Lilly." She breathed. "You don't know how nice it is to meet someone who *understands* what it's like with Malicia. How incredibly *frustrating* it is to have such a self-centered destructive narcissist in one's life... yet to still feel some confusing sense of affection for them."

Releasing the poor, befuddled girl from her surprise hug, she smiled widely.

"I think the fact your library is still standing in one piece is a fairly good sign that she doesn't hate you entirely."

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 11 months ago

"Hi Drake. I'm Rosa," she chirped, reaching out to take his hand in all friendliness. "Don't be scared. Mummy and aunty Morg will keep us safe. They're super brave. We can be brave too! Like..."

Hm...

"Heroes! Then nothing will ever scare us. Nothing scares super-brave heroes."

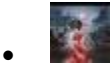
"... you really think so?" Lilly asked in genuine astonishment. Apparently she hadn't ever realised just how close to disaster she had been all this time. It was like a tiny bird sitting in a crocodile's mouth. "I thought... well, she was so angry at me when I tried to explain that her having to keep up her villainous image was all very well but if it was going to endanger my children we couldn't keep doing this. I'd assumed she was absolutely livid. Probably loathed me."

No darling, a livid Malicia means things on fire. Then again an excited Malicia also means things on fire...

Wait a minute, so YOU'VE gone through this too?

"... oh, Miss Morgana I had no idea. It is a RIDICULOUS relief to find someone who gets that," she said with a weak laugh, taking the taller duck-lady's hands. "Well, at least you now you'll always have someone to vent your frustrations to! I think this adventure ended up well if it brought you that. How... how do YOU know her?"

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by [Morgana \[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 11 months ago

"You... didn't know?" She seemed surprised. All this time she had assumed Lilly was aware of Morgana's connection to the hot-headed demonness.

"Malicia is my cousin. We've known each other since we were babies and grew up together. We used to be inseparable."

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

"Hi." He said shyly again and stayed in his hiding spot. "Like super heroes? Do they wear capes?" Drake seemed to remember having one on before he slipped out of it.

"I'm not very brave. Those monsters were scary. And ddd-dangerous."

He wasn't about to face those fanged, clawed, hairy things that drooled and snarled as they hid under the bed waiting to gobble up a kid again.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 11 months ago

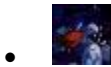
"Capes, masks, AWESOME hats." Rosa LOVED hats. "It's okay. I can be brave with you! I'll share." Bravery was a quality that could be shared, right? "You can have half!"

"She never talks much about... much." Anything that's not herself, anyway. "You and I met separately, I don't think I ever made the connection. But that suddenly answers a lot of confusing questions."

Aside from the following:

"So what happened between the two of you?"

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by [Drake Mallard](#) 11 months ago

"I had a hat too." Little Drake beamed a little. "Does that mean I'm a brave super hero then?" Then he frowned a little. "Or maybe not. I don't want to meet those monsters again."

Then he sniffed little and a few tears fell again.

"I don't know where am I. Or my mommy is. I want her."

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by [Morgana](#) [\[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 10 months ago

Morgana let out a long-drawn sigh.

"Malicia being Malicia, of course. When we were in high school she was doing something reckless that was going to get her hurt and I stepped in and stopped her... and it led to her expulsion from the Academy. She's never forgiven me for it. I truly never meant for the Council to take it that far, but I also don't regret my actions. Had I left her to her own devices, she would have hurt not just herself, but everyone around her. Her resentment is a small price to pay in comparison."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 10 months ago

"Sure," Rosa said companionably, giving him a pat. But it seemed the little duckling had other problems.

"You're at aunty Morg's house!" Helpful. "You want me to help you find your mommy?"

It didn't occur to her for a moment that that might not be a good idea. In her baby brain looking for mommy was always the most important thing.

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"Well I think you were very brave to do the right thing," she said flatly. "And if she can't see that she's... she's..."

She stopped, making vague hand motions as she tried to think of something suitably damning. But because she was Lilly she settled with "... silly."

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by [Morgana](#) [\[\[On Hiatus\]\]](#) 6 months ago

((Might as well try and finish up this blog while I catch up on everyone!))

Morgana couldn't help but chuckle at Lilly's ad libbing. Yes, 'silly' didn't begin to describe it.

"She's a narcissist. It's in her nature to think only about herself and to disregard the feelings of others. She was like that long before she became a hardened criminal. Though sometimes I wish if I had been more proactive in our childhood... maybe things would

have been different." Casting a wistful glance across the room, where there was a family portrait hung up featuring the entire Macawber family, and a significantly younger Morgana and Malicia.

"But enough fretting on the past. I have a boyfriend to fix, before I end up on a rather indecent offender's list."