

RP: The Daily Grind



By [Negaduck](#) 348 days ago [Comments \(67\)](#)

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Sometime after Lilly's spectacularly successful go at Supervillain for a Day...

It had been peaceful. So peaceful. The sort of peace that a bookstore with a cute little cafe was meant to have.

Then a swamp monster slammed open the door.

No wait, that was no swamp monster. That was Negaduck. So just a regular monster then.

A swamp monster would have been an improvement.

Most of the marshweed trailed off his person as he stepped inside, and much of the muck and grime had dried, but the damage done to his usually pristine costume - and his mood - was obvious.

The news stations would be abuzz with explanations. An impossible escape from a prison transfer vehicle. A supervillain simply dropping out of custody sometime while crossing one of the westbound bridges.

All that mattered for Lilly, however, would be the living, breathing reminder taking a seat at one of her little tables that nobody, nowhere, ever, found it easy to be rid of Negaduck.



[Lilly Teal](#) 343 days ago

So we've gone from 'supervillain for a day' to 'take your supervillain to work' day?

That's not a good tradeoff. Let's swap back.

She stepped out of the kitchen with a big smile.

Smile drops. Eyes widen. Steps back into the kitchen.

She came back out five minutes later with a mop and bucket.

"Hello," she managed to her credit, beginning to clean. "What's all this?"



[Negaduck 343 days ago](#)

Glare moved, very deliberately, across the cleaning supplies, up the mop handle, to the server in question. Don't be expecting to use those bubbles in anger now. It won't end well.

Then, in a manner so similar to his first visit except this time with a public bank heist and arrest under their metaphorical belts, Negaduck gave a guttural, near undead response.

"Coffee."

On the plus side, it wasn't a death threat; on the negative, there was no please. Whether Lilly cared to push the latter depended how much she cared for the first.



[Lilly Teal 335 days ago](#)

Given how the last meeting went, it was for the best to just quietly make the coffee. There was a brief period of silence, broken only by the coffee pot and possibly a low, constant snarling from her sole customer.

But when she brought it and set it down in front of the grimy, grumpy mess, she wasn't quite able to help herself.

"Biscotti?"



[Negaduck 335 days ago](#)

Said biscotti crushed in one hand before it had even properly entered his orbit, the sugary crumbs exploding like so many pieces of broken heart.

Aww, he appreciated it so much he had made a special effort to destroy it.

All the while scooping the other cup with the other hand though, because hey, priorities.

"So," Negaduck began once caffeine intake had stabilised him as human, by the loosest definition of the word possible. "How about I strike you a deal."

Not again.

"You serve me up coffee," Adding as a second thought even as he poured another brew.

"*Without* being a pain in the tail feathers; I serve you a guarantee this dump won't turn into a smoking crater in the earth..."

Here comes the actual serious bit.

"And nobody ever mentions anything about you pulling off bank heists ever again."

Fair. Surprisingly so. It was if there was a secondary goal there he was failing to mention.

... like the glowing cross dimensional one in the closet back there.



[Lilly Teal](#) *335 days ago*

She wasn't stupid, but naivety can do a very good impression of dangerously tempting fate.

Looking a gift horse riiiiight in the tonsils.

"That's... very nice of you, actually! Thank you."

You didn't HAVE to threaten me to get coffee but I suppose it's force of habit.



[Negaduck](#) *335 days ago*

A quirk of the brow, fingers drumming on the tabletop.

"Nice'?"

Someone was testy today, wasn't he.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *334 days ago*

Speaking of nice, the bell above the door tinkled as someone entered.

"Lilly!" Ariana's sweet voice rang. The blonde searched the interior of the bookshop, and she didn't have to look long before she laid eyes on her friend. She made an excited beeline for her. "You'll never guess what I found lying around in my sisters..."

The enthusiasm died on her lips as she noticed Negaduck slurping coffee. She cast a sideways glance between them.

"Oh...*you're* here..."



[Negaduck](#) *334 days ago*

Having heard the arrival of a new customer, Negaduck had indeed gone back to slurping. Partly to blend in amongst civilian life - St Canardians were not the most savvy bunch - and partly to stem any angry outbursts that may have violated the two-minute old pact over misuse of the 'n' word.

Which was lucky, because it was then he realised who had joined them.

"Ari-" *Choke cough splutter.* "-ana."

Smooth recovery from near inhaling his drink there.

"What a *lovely* surprise."

Was that a nervous tic there he couldn't quite hide?

"Lilly and I were having a peaceful, civil discussion with absolutely no limb removal or need for magical intervention, weren't we, Lilly?"

Smiled with a discreet, peaceful, civil elbowing of the shopkeep in question.



[Lilly Teal 334 days ago](#)

"As long as I serve him coffee," she beamed, too pleased that things had worked out to realise how it must sound combining the phrases 'everything is fine' and 'as long as I cooperate'.

Come here Ari let me give you a hug. It's been so long!



[DarkwingPsycho 332 days ago](#)

Ariana accepted Lilly's hug, but she was tense. Her eyes were still on Negaduck - suspicious and annoyed. "As long as you serve him coffee, what?" she prompted, catching the hint of some deal that was struck. Likely wouldn't be in Lilly's favor, the way Ariana saw it and what she knew of Negaduck.



[Negaduck 332 days ago](#)

Quick, blurt out something before she mentions anything about smoking craters!

"I'll do an in-person story time reading!"

No. No. Why.

Too late to cram the words back into his oversized bill though.

"Hearing their favourite adventures read out by one of St Canard's most notorious characters?" One of? Only the worst. "Kids love that garbage."

And afterwards I can bash my own head in with the book. Would make a real dramatic ending.



[Lilly Teal 330 days ago](#)

"You will?"

He will?

That sounds like a TERRIBLE idea.

"Well I guess if you're offering and don't burn down the place in frustration that sounds nice!"

STOP SAYING NICE.



[Negaduck 328 days ago](#)

Hah hah. Hah hah hah hah.

"Of *course* not!"

Lower, specifically to Lilly, "Cerebral mutilation isn't out of the question for any real whiney brats though, right?"

Realising that may not have been too low, hearing wise, for Ariana.

"Just-" Kill me now. "Joking!"

Coffee. There had better be a literal vat of coffee.



[DarkwingPsycho 327 days ago](#)

"Oh! That *does* sound lovely...provided you can actually behave yourself," Ariana remarked. Part of her did think - at least momentarily - that it was a sweet gesture. Then she remembered who was making it.

"In fact, I'd like to see that for myself."



[Negaduck 326 days ago](#)

"Goodie goodie."

Was that low enough to avoid sarcasm detection?

Regardless, one week later, beyond a chalk sign reading *Story Time with 'Negaduck', 11am*, because let's give the people room to assume it is not the real wanted felon, the children were excitedly gathered around the chair of one less than excited supervillain.

"Alright-" Chattering! "Now listen-" Clambering! "**HEY!**"

Insta-silence.

Continuing with the sort of calm that usually indicated horrible violence was not too far off, Negaduck addressed the world at large, "So what lovely story book are we reading today, kiddies?"

Someone, presumably, had vetoed his book choice. What a load of rubbish. Since when was *American Psycho* not Elementary School material?



[Lilly Teal 319 days ago](#)

"Somethin with dinosaurs!" said a child from the back.

"EATIN EACHODDER."

"Don't be GROSS."

To forestall any burgeoning argument and ensuing scuffle, Lilly nipped in and dropped off 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. It was a nice kids story. And presumably Negaduck would get a kick out of all the children being nearly sent to their deaths with one-liners and indifference.

Surprisingly her kids weren't at the party. It's almost as if she didn't trust him to be nice.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 318 days ago

Ariana watched from the back, the sea of children's heads between herself and the public enemy. She sipped at some hot chocolate, watching with reservation - waiting for this to go south.



[Negaduck](#) 317 days ago

A sharp look sent Lilly's way.

"Would've preferred dinosaurs."

You're trying to dissuade kids from gross? What is wrong with you?

Besides, his Tyrannosaurus impression was to *die* for.

Accepting his fate, however, Negaduck duly propped up the book with the standard enthusiasm of a crook commencing community service. Which was pretty much what this was.

"Right, so, what've we got here? 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'."

A pause, then to the crowd,

"How many of you screech demons like chocolate?"

Presumably a few hands shot up because he acknowledged with a conspiratorial follow up of,

"And did you know I, Negaduck, once ran my very own chocolate factory?"

Did you also know I, Negaduck, was inevitably going to put my own spin on this because I am a billion times more interesting than some crusty book?



[Lilly Teal](#) 313 days ago

Interesting is a relative term.

A few children seemed interested, all the same. Cries of 'Really? Really?!' and 'What happened to it?!' mingled with 'Boo, read the book!' and 'stick to the script!'

Bit of a high vocabulary for their age on that last one.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *313 days ago*

Ariana cleared her throat loudly, shooting Negaduck a pointed look.



[Negaduck](#) *308 days ago*

A look right back.

Nothing came of it, however. Negaduck pressed on at his own lazy pace like he owned the place.

"Can you imagine?" Rhetorical, they were kids. "An entire warehouse full of sweets, vats overflowing with every kind of coating, huge, spinning, whirling machines, the sweet smell of sugar floating through the air like grandma's rat poison brownies. And the best bit is, it's all yours. You don't have to share with your stinking sister, not your parents, not even the Customs Service."

Enjoy that fantasy for a moment, but if any of you drool on my cape, I'll be ironing it out with your face.

None of them did, thankfully, and he continued.

"What if you wanted someone there though? Maybe you were bored, maybe you didn't want to do all the work. How would you chose?"

The witchy girlfriend of your archenemy is, let it be noted, a fine choice.

"You could do what this Wonka guy did, and hid five golden tickets in thousands of bars. Let me tell you, even the cops would've found it harder than finding a diamond in a chocolate stack."

On this and this alone, you can trust me.

"What do you think that would have looked like, had I given tickets to my super secret Negasweets in our very own St Canard? Who would've got the first ticket? The greedyguts, obviously! Whatever pig was capable of hoovering up the fastest amount of gear. You, who's the fattest slob in this city?" I'm talking to you, random kid in the front, but I do approve of shouting.



[Lilly Teal](#) *305 days ago*

"Taurus Bulbous?" said someone from the back, prompting a squeal of laughter. "What? He must be fattish. It's even in his name."

"It's BUBLA."

"Oh. That makes more sense."

"Um. Er. Eh... Tuskernini?" Offered the random kid in front.

"Yeah!"

"Yeah!"

"I bet he steals cinema snacks!"



○

[DarkwingPsycho](#) 304 days ago

"I don't think the children want to hear about your dangerous and immoral exploits," Ariana cut in, trying to be stern. Little did she know she was inadvertently making his story sound *sweeter*. "Besides, you're here to read a story, not make one up." She eyed Lilly for help.



○

[Negaduck](#) 292 days ago

Rather than go with the obvious 'why else would they come to see me, duh', Negaduck took the high ground. If only to be annoying.

"I'm simply describing it in a way the children can relate to," he said to Ariana in a manner that any five year old would gleefully recognise as playing the technicalities.

Back to the book, or his loose interpretation of it,

"Yeah, Tuskernoknees sounds about right. And so..."

He went on to paint the story of the other 'winners' of the 'competition', all of whom bore a striking resemblance to various members of St Canard's rogue gallery.

Except one random civilian brat and their dad or something, who got it by pure luck. What a rort.

Anyway, the fateful day and the doors opened to the magical land of chocolatey wonder and maybe a smuggling operation that the boss let them do whatever they wanted with.

"And do you know what happened?"

Aside from dangerous and immoral somethings or other.



○

[Lilly Teal](#) 284 days ago

"As long as he stays to the story for the most part," Lilly sighed. "Just... don't go out of control."

Ha. Ahahahahah.

"... free chocolates?" Someone hazarded.

Oh if only. But Lilly did perk up at that, suddenly remembering that she'd bought chocolate biscuits. Opening the packet, she passed it around to everyone, including Ariana. Not Negaduck. He'd make the book all greasy.

As if he wasn't greasy enough already.

"Thanks Miss Wonka," a biscuit-filled mumble sounded in the background.

- [DarkwingPsycho 284 days ago](#)

Ariana smiled at the comment from the youngster and took a tentative bite from the biscuit. Then a larger one. She instantly felt better for whatever reason.

An enthusiastic - and now sugar-filled - youngster raised his hand violently. "Oooo, OOOO! The fat one fell in the chocolate river!"



- [Negaduck 252 days ago](#)

Violently, eh? That he could get behind.

"Bingo! And got sucked up by the pipes too. Real gory. You don't want to picture that. Who am I kidding, of course you do."

And oo look, illustrations.

"After that, one of the nuttier ones got *Splattered* by a bunch of squirrels, a fruit-" Likely Bushfruit. "Turned into a giant blueberry after helping themselves to weaponised gum, and some bright spark-" Looking at you, Megavolt. "Tried to enter a television and zapped himself out of existence. Which left--" Quick read ahead.

Oh no. No no no. What kind of joke was this?!

Over the children's heads to Lilly and Ariana, outrage beginning to rise like so much Fizzy Lifting Drink,

"What'd you *mean* the blasted street urchin survives?!" See kids, this is why it pays to know your literature. Never know when you might happen on something a little close to home.



- [Lilly Teal 234 days ago](#)

"Um...?"

Given Lilly's expression, she'd clearly assumed he'd agreed to reading the book because he knew how it ended.

"Charlie isn't a street urchin," a quieter child in the corner pointed out, trying to be as polite as possible.

"Of course he survives," said someone much louder. "He didn't mess with anything. That's what Wonka told them. I went to the factory dad works once and they tell you not to mess with anything. I didn't get any prizes for listening though."



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 233 days ago

"Well here you can!" Ariana chimed in, moving toward the boy to hand him a cookie. "You can ALL have a prize for listening."



[Negaduck](#) 232 days ago

Negaduck would not be receiving a cookie.

Because, among other reasons, he was *not* listening.

"Oh and when Wonka offered a part of his amazing business, they did, I don't know, PUNCH HIM IN THE FACE WITH A JAWBREAKER AND THROW HIM INTO THE CANDY MACHINE?!"

Hyperventilating, the book thrown aside, "Because that's the real lesson today, kids!"

Reaching behind him for.. a chainsaw?

Oh no.

"NEVER SHARE!"

Totally snapped. Like nobody saw that coming.



[Lilly Teal](#) 232 days ago

"WOW IS THAT REAL?"

"IT'S REAL."

"AWESOME."

"I LOVE THIS STORY."

They... didn't seem very worried. But that was alright. The adults probably looked worried enough for all of them.

"Okay kids," Lily said hurriedly. "Storytime is over. Ariana can we start filing them all out very quickly please?"

"Aw buuuuuuuut-"



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *232 days ago*

"But next time we can tour a REAL candy factory!" She turned to glare over her shoulder at the masked mallard. "*Without Mr. Negaduck!*" She helped Lilly move the kids toward the exit.



[Negaduck](#) *231 days ago*

Blink blink. Since when did children meet chainsaw with *joy*?
What did they think this was, a Saturday morning cartoon?

The ladies moved so fast, Negaduck would barely have time to recover from his shock by the time they were bundled and boarded out.



[Lilly Teal](#) *207 days ago*

"What are you DOING?!"

Well OBVIOUSLY he was threatening children with a chainsaw. Keep up, Lilly.

Sensing his owner's agitation, Javert stirred from his sunny patch on a kitchen floor, a soft snarl rumbling in his throat as he disembowelled large animals in his sleep. It wasn't enough agitation to cause him to actually come OUT of the kitchen, of course. The floor was very warm and comfortable.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *207 days ago*

Ariana was busy herding the rest of the stragglers out of the store and making sure they paired up with parents before she came back inside.

"Well," she said with some measure of irritation. "*That* could have gone better."



[Negaduck](#) *206 days ago*

"If you didn't want Betsy to come out," Leaning 'Betsy' off but against a coffee table, you know, for easy grabbing. "Then Miss Booksalot here shouldn't have picked a reading so clearly a stab at the untimely ruining of one of my recent, brilliant and as always ingeniously designed candy-factory-set schemes!"

Because it had to be the fault of someone else, and in this case, the fault was with Miss Booksalot, aka Lilly Teal.

Never, ever could it be something as simple as *coincidence*.



[Lilly Teal](#) 196 days ago

She threw her hands up in the air.

"How was I supposed to know you'd even come within ten miles of a candy factory?"

Of course he would. To poison it.

"The more worrying thing is that the kids liked it..."



[Negaduck](#) 196 days ago

"Kids *like* violence. Everybody does."

Sometimes they managed to bury that brutal fact beneath cowardice or civility, two sides of the same coin as far as Negaduck was concerned.

"Back to the more important topic - me." Naturally. "What'd you mean how were you supposed to know? It was all over the news! For days! The millions of dollars of illicit diamonds, the mass-conning of Customs, Morgana-"

Aaaand shutting up right quick. Ariana was annoyed enough at him for using her. She didn't need to know right there and then that it 'ran in the family'. How fortunate he caught himself in time, right?

((OOO: Sorry cut in, because I am a cad.))



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 195 days ago

Ariana had been annoyed enough all right, but the mention of her sister's name flashed anger across her face. "What?" she demanded, moving toward him. "What about Morgana??"



[Negaduck](#) 195 days ago

Back up! Back up! Physically as well as verbally.

"Morgana? No no no, I said, er, goanna!" Who put that cafe table there? "Mutant face-eating goannas, cooperating with police forces to solve impossible mysteries."

Totally believable.

In case she didn't buy that genius fiction, however, he had to add, sheltering against the windowed front wall, "It's not like I would have ever used *your* Morgana's kindheartedness to attempt to twist her into performing magic for my benefit."

Right? How crazy would that be!

((OOC: Lillah feel free to cut back in whenever. This exchange might need a bit of back and forth ;))



o

[DarkwingPsycho](#) 195 days ago

"Then what DID you do?" she asked insistently, closing in on him. She completely bypassed his fruitless attempts at bad storytelling and glared at him. "Was this after the deal we made??"



o

[Negaduck](#) 195 days ago

Amazing how, for such an infamous liar, he broke under that glare. He had seen that look on Macawbers before. He did not like it.

"She *did* wallop me onto the chocolate conveyor belt, you know!" Snapping back with anger, albeit still pressed back against the glass. "Can you imagine how humiliating it is to be turned over to the cops in a heart-shaped twelve pack of caramels?!"

Adding bitterly under his breath, "All because she turned mushy for that dolt Darkwing."

Back to Ariana, "What? No, no, this was over a year ago!" Hands up in preparation for an incoming lightning bolt. "The papers will prove it!"

Damn where was a reflective surface when you needed it.



o

[DarkwingPsycho](#) 195 days ago

She was just starting to shout something else at him when she stopped, the anger fading slightly from her china-doll face. "Wait, she...she *stopped* you?" She thought about that for a moment, then thought briefly of her meeting with Darkwing. It seemed Negaduck's doppelganger was a vast improvement to the one before her.

She narrowed her silver eyes again, but there were no lightening bolts. "I hope you're telling the truth, or I'll make sure that portal never gets opened again..."



o

[Negaduck](#) 195 days ago

"Cross my heart." With the applicable gesture over the place it should have been.

Chalk that one down to getting away with it? The portal stayed, his feathers were uncharred, and nobody was the wiser.



o

[Lilly Teal](#) 194 days ago

"I beg your pardon, what portal?"



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *194 days ago*

Ariana blinked, then looked sideways at Negaduck. She knew she was a terrible liar, and she hated to keep anything from Lilly, but Negaduck had agreed to leave her family alone...

She opened her bill to speak, but was immediately cut off.



[Negaduck](#) *192 days ago*

Negaduck, knowing he was an excellent liar, was well prepared for this contingency.

"UhLOOK OVER THERE!"

CRASH! Throwing himself bodily through the window.
Because fleeing was so much easier than answering any more questions.



[Lilly Teal](#) *168 days ago*

"What th- come back!"

Because that works. Groaning as she looked at the shattered glass scattered on the floor, she wondered why she even bothered.

But Ariana was still here.

"Ariana, WHAT is going on over here?"



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *161 days ago*

Ariana shifted her weight guiltily, and knew she couldn't keep it from Lilly any longer. She moved toward the broom closet and opened the door without a word.



[Lilly Teal](#) *160 days ago*

A long, long silence dominated the room, the atmosphere very uncomfortable. Whoever said confessions was good for the soul didn't factor in how hard the silence was before the soul-goodness.

"Well that's not a broom," Lilly finally said. It wasn't a joke. It sounded more like she was stating the obvious because she didn't know what else to say. This wasn't exactly easy to wrap her mind around.

Taking a few steps towards Ariana, she took her hands, and looked at her kindly. "Ariana. We're friends. And you can tell me anything."

A pause. A distinctly more stern tone.

"So you'd better start telling me everything."

- [DarkwingPsycho](#) *160 days ago*

Ariana looked abashedly at her friend and squeezed her hands lightly. "It's a portal...to a parallel universe. I opened it for Negaduck back when...I thought he was different. He wanted me to keep it a secret and, well...I'm sorry."



- [Lilly Teal](#) *158 days ago*

You're sorry. Well, that's okay, I'm glad you felt you could come forward and trust me to be understanding and forgiving.

Lilly nodded. And then exploded.

"You opened a portal in *my house?! Where my kids are?!*"

ARIANA MACAWBER CAN I SAY I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOUR BEHAVIOUR YOUNG LADY GO TO BED WITHOUT SUPPER AND YOU SHALL BE LUCKY IF I ALLOW YOU TO MEET ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS FOR THE REST OF THE MONTH.

"And poor Javert!"

I'm sorry, who?

Coming out of his peaceful nap, the vicious looking honey-badger gave a sleepy grumble and came out of the kitchen in response to his name, making an attempt to climb up Lilly's leg without lacerating her.

"Oh honey." She picked up the murder-beast like he was just a very heavy dog. "Sorry, did I wake you up? Ariana, Javert. Javert, Ariana. Oh God, why am I doing introductions. Ariana, why didn't you tell me this before?"



- [DarkwingPsycho](#) *157 days ago*

At Lilly's assertions, she winced and shrank away as if she were being physically pummeled. She was too guilty to inquire about this "Javert" until Lilly so kindly introduced them.

She smiled a little at the pet, never seeing anything like him, then looked back at her friend. "Oh Lilly, I'm sorry...he just...said he would leave my family alone if nothing happened to that portal. I was...afraid."



- [Lilly Teal](#) *150 days ago*

The pet gave her an incredibly... well there was no better way to put it, an incredibly *evil* looking grin, mostly teeth and intentions to bite, which turned into a grumpy grumble as Lilly stroked his head worriedly.

"I understand you were afraid. But you should have told me, Ariana. I could have... I don't know. At least been more careful with my children."

What if one of them had gone in there? I never would have known what had happened to them.

"Nothing can come out of it, right?"



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *150 days ago*

At the mention of the children, Ariana felt even more guilty and wanted nothing more than to leave and be done with this confrontation. She hadn't thought about anyone going in there - it had gone unnoticed thus far after all, and now that Lilly mentioned it - what *could* come out? She winced. "Well..."



[Lilly Teal](#) *144 days ago*

Sighing a little, Lilly wanted to take Ariana's hand again, she really did. But the fact that she didn't wasn't just because Javert was in the way.

As upset as Ariana was, Lilly was very, very annoyed and only barely keeping the understanding expression on her face.

"I suppose you can't close it and convince him to open one elsewhere?" It didn't sound like he could be reasoned with on this point.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *144 days ago*

Ariana shook her head. "We made a deal...if I close it now, he could hurt my family...but, maybe I could enchant the closet? Put some protective runes along the doorway? That way...if something *does* come through, it will be trapped in there..."



[Lilly Teal](#) *134 days ago*

"That would be a huge help, actually," she said, a little groan her voice that showed she wasn't happy with any of this at all."

Long pause.

"I don't suppose you could trap HIM in there?" she asked hopefully.

IT WAS A VALID QUESTION.

"I don't want your family to get hurt, naturally... I mean he's left his chainsaw here but he probably has a lot of weaponry and other dastardly stuff."

Wait.

WAIT.

"Ariana. Is there a way you could... facilitate me against Negaduck's future bullying? A spell or a potion of some sort? In a way that wouldn't be traced back to you."



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *132 days ago*

Ariana smirked at Lilly's suggestion to lock Negaduck in the closet. She entertained the idea for a few moments, until her friend mentioned something about weaponry.

"Facilitate? You mean, like...protect? In what way? I can't bar him from entering or anything like that..."



[Lilly Teal](#) *132 days ago*

"I understand that, of course. But maybe something that could function as a shield? Even if we're not stopping him he doesn't have the most... stable temper and extra protection would be excellent."

Pause.

"Or something to make me stronger so I can bully HIM if he tries it with ME."

Bright, happy grin and tone, that didn't match that sinister sentence at ALL.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *131 days ago*

Ariana looked dubious, but said, "Well, I don't know of anything off of the top of my head, but...I'll see if either of my family members has a book on such a thing or knows of where I could get a potion for that."



[Lilly Teal](#) *131 days ago*

"Oh GOOD. Thank you."

Risking a glance towards the door of the playroom where the children were no doubt busy, she gave Ariana a slightly crooked smile.

"Sorry I blew up at you. I just. You know."

All the same, for all Ariana's reassurances, she was second guessing bringing the children to work from now on...



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *131 days ago*

Ariana shook her head. "No, no! It was my fault, I...I should have told you. You're my friend, and I hate keeping secrets... I'm sorry."



[Lilly Teal](#) *129 days ago*

"It's... fine." Or will be, anyway. "Listen, why don't you come over to the house tomorrow. We'll have tea or something and just have a nice day away from weird things for once."



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *128 days ago*

Ariana brightened. "Your house? Okay! Only...will there be something besides tea?" She made a face.



[Lilly Teal](#) *126 days ago*

"Yes yes, I meant tea and in the general meal of the day, not literally tea," she laughed. "I'll make you anything you want. Does five o'clock suit you?"

(And we'll do that either on walls or another blog, as you like.)



[DarkwingPsycho](#) *126 days ago*

Ariana grinned. "Yes."

((OOO: Walls are fine!))