

[RP: Duck and Cover](#)

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Reserved for: Less-Evil Mal, Harou, Lilly and her family.

PREVIOUSLY ON DUCKVERSE...

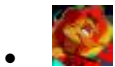
In an attempt to regain Negaduck's favour, Mal got the ~~brilliant~~ terrible idea to remove what little redeeming traits she possessed via Megavolt's infamous Tron-splitter.

Now, the city of St. Canard is stricken with yet another villainous crisis at the hands of EVIL MAL. The remaining half -- the very one responsible for Mal's inability to drop Rosa in the magma pit-- is being hurried into hiding by her pseudo-boyfriend/cyborg Harou.

But not before she can reach out to Lilly first, in order to protect both her and the children from Evil Mal's inevitable attempt at 'finishing the job'.

Comments

22 Comments



by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK. You could practically hear the italicizing in the panicked door-pounding, that's how urgent it was.

When Lilly answered, she would be faced with a rather wide-eyed Malicia and an intimidating ebony-feathered drake.

"C'mooooon... answer the door!" She whined.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

That certainly wasn't a very pleasant or reassuring vision to be faced with, particularly with all the fuss going on in the city. Perhaps it was just because she had refused to watch the news, or perhaps flaming buses full of orphans took ones attention more than whoever was throwing them, but she had no idea who was going entirely mad in the city

and wasn't sure she wanted to.

And here now was another thing she wasn't sure she wanted.

"Ma- I mean what are you doing here?" she said with a little frown, holding tightly onto the edge of the door as if she could stop anyone from barging in by physical force. How cute. "I haven't d-done anything to you this time."

And you brought BACKUP this time? Eyeing the intimidating drake and his metal limbs, she shrank into herself a little, but held onto the door firmly all the same.

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by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

"LILLY!" Pulling the smaller she-duck into a bear-hug.

"We have to go, **now**. Grab the kids and Javert." Then, upon what would likely be a response of sheer bewilderment and suspicion, she tried to summarize the events as concisely as possible.

"I split myself into two beings, one evil and one not evil -- that's me by the way. And Evil Mal is going to try to kill us both, so we need to go somewhere safe where she can't find us! HURRY!"

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by [Harou](#) 9 months ago

He noticed Lilly had shrank at the sight of him. "I won't harm you. I'm here to take you to safety." Harou stepped back as Malicia went to bear hug the little duck and explain to her what was going on.

"Pack only what you need. Make sure you keep the children close. Don't want to lose anyone." Harou says. "But be quick about it. The longer we linger here, the greater the risk."

He was a little on edge since fire had kept raining down from the sky. It wasn't just cats now. That bus really had gotten to him. Those poor orphans. He could only imagine what the more evil half of Malicia could do to them if she caught them. Even he wasn't sure if he would be spared from her.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

Lilly was always at home with hugs. They relaxed her and made things make a little more sense. She had never, ever tensed up at a hug before. But she did so now.

It certainly was a response of bewilderment and suspicion. It could be another trick. She'd done as much to take Lilly's children away from her before (so Darryl had told her afterwards), who was to say she couldn't do it again? But if it *wasn't* a trick, she was leaving her children at the mercy of a Malicia who wouldn't hesitate at all to wipe an irritation and a weakness out of her life. Oh, this was awful. If only she had a way to be certain.

And if I leave now, Darryl won't know where I've gone. Neither will Pancho. I could disappear off the earth and nobody will ever know how. But if it's true and I stay, we'll all disappear very messily, and *everyone* will know how.

She turned and put some things in a little bag, hoping to placate them long enough for her to lock the door on them and call for help. As she did so, a kernel of suspicion made her turn on the news.

"-and rumours are coming in that Malicia Macawber has just punted her third bus of schoolchildren over the Audubon Bay Bridge. Tom, can you confirm any of this?"

"Tom Lockjaw here and I just have to say this was *not* in my job descrAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA-"

There was a small silence as she stared at the screen.

"TONI. ROSA. JAVERT," she cried, running off to collect them. Javert came running first as she scooped up the children, holding them close and somehow managing to finish packing as she did so. Rosa regarded the demoness in a stone-faced manner. Toni immediately started to whimper. Javert's hackles raised, but they died down almost instantly as he got a sniff of her.

SOMETHING was not right here... not in a bad way, though.

Lilly looked down at the honey badger and softened a little. Javert's word was more trustworthy. She wanted to hold the larger she-duck, but with her arms full that would be a little difficult, so she settled for pressing up against her arm quietly.

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by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

Malicia had heard the familiar 'click' of the door lock and shot Harou a worried glance. Although... it was sort of pointless, given she could kick it down if need be.

But she also knew that a Familiar like Javert would easily sense the lack of Negatrons in her system, and so she let out a sigh of relief when the honey badger lowered his guard. She smiled and gave a happy wave at Rosa and Toni, but faltered at their... not so happy response.

Not that she could blame them at all. Especially poor Rosa.

"If this all blows over eventually." *If?* "Then we can all come back." She reassured Lilly.

"I just didn't want to leave without you... it wouldn't be right."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

(OOC: Breaking post order BECAUSE I CAN and because this is a very necessary thing to do shhhh.)

It wouldn't be... what?

Blinking back a couple of relieved, confused tears that were pricking the corners of her eyes., Lilly kissed the top of Toni's head and pressed him close to still his whimpering. She did the same for Rosa, who was now wearing a slightly confused, guarded look.

"... please hug me again..." she said softly. Apparently she was ready to go with them.

"... you still don't like us?" came the little chickling's less than tactful, but very valid, question. "You said. You said er'yt'ing was mommy's fault." Well not EVERYTHING, Rosa. Just most things.

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by [Harou](#) 9 months ago

"Do you have everything you need?" Then turning to Malicia. "Is there anyone else we need to find?"

Harou was itching to get on the road before the other more evil half of the demoness showed up. It was quite the long trip to get to the safehouse he had in mind. Which was a good thing. It would be harder to find them.

"If we have everything and everyone let us be off."

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• by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

Lilly and Rosa were both pulled into another hug. Yay for hugs! Nicer Mal really liked those -- they were a seldom occurrence in her life up until meeting Lilly.

"I didn't say that." Malicia reassured Rosa. "The *other* Mal did. I know because... I can't feel it anymore. I don't feel or think any of those things. That's how I know it's from her."

The same her that could now be heard cackling madly from a few blocks over. It was time to go.

Turning to Harou she nodded. "I think that's everyone. I'd add Trevor and his babies to the list but he's more stubborn than I am. There's no way he'll come with us, no matter how tron-split I might be."

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• by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

Well that made sense to Rosa. She was still wary, and so was Toni, but the excuse made sense to her. At that age you don't question things like 'that was a different me'. Especially when you're a St. Canardian.

This time Lilly relaxed into the hug, sighing in relief as she leaned her head against her stronger friend. It was the nicest feeling she'd had in weeks, and it was very welcome. "Thank you dear..."

And she hadn't called her 'dear' since... how long was it now? Since before that burning stadium? Far too long.

Lilly was too easy to buy with kindness and affection. The children were placated, but not as easy to convince.

"All right," said Rosa, and Toni nodded. "But if this is bad imma slap someone."

That sounded very fair, overall. Even Lilly nodded earnestly. "Lead the way."

Javert, perhaps picking up on Harou's restlessness, pressed against Mal and Lilly's legs and started to fidget. Let's go, let's go!

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by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

Mal chuckled at that. "Yes. Slap away, dear."

Leaning over to Lilly she whispered. "Oh, and that handsome fellow is Harou. I know he looks pretty scary but he's actually a decent one. I like him... you know, like *like* him." Said with all the fervor of a school-girl suppressing a giggle.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

"He certainly seems much nicer than... well, you know." 'You know' would never have helped you while you were nice, not in a million years.

Mal's comment about liking him struck her, and she gave a weak little giggle at that adorable behaviour. "And he likes you too. Stick with him more." I mean if it **MUST** be a criminal, at least let it be someone you're not miserable with about sixty percent of the time.

Alright, alright girls, I think we've got more important things to do right now than giggle over handsome men we like. That was essentially Javert's expression as he decided to give Harou's leg a nudge. He seemed the sensible one out of the group.

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by [Harou](#) 9 months ago

Harou felt like he was in high school again from all of the giggling the girls were doing. He looks down at Javert. "You have the right idea my furry friend. Let's get going."

He started off to lead them out of this part of town. He knew ways to go where they couldn't be spotted while they traveled. Every time Harou heard something explode he paused to look around to make sure the evil Mal wasn't right there waiting to slaughter them.

"There is someone I need to meet up with and he'll take us to the safe house. Since we can't very well walk all of the way."

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by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

Mal would occasionally step in front of Lilly protectively at the slightest sound that could prove to be a potential threat. She was almost as fiercely protective as Javert when need be, especially without interference from her other side.

"It sounds like she's not too far... we need to stay off her radar." She told Harou. "Do you still have any of those underground escape routes?"

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

Javert twitched his ears and growled, agreeing with the assessment of how close evil Mal seemed to be. He tried to keep the girls between the wall and himself as much as possible as they walked, in case anything came flying out of an alley like another flaming bus.

... it could happen.

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by [Harou](#) 9 months ago

"Yes, I do. There's one right around this corner after we get out of this alley." Harou stopped at the other end of the alley and peered around the corner to make sure it was clear. When he found it to be safe to cross he motioned for them to follow.

Harou lead them down a flight of stairs to a subway tunnel after crossing the street. Through a secret opening in the wall, he got them through one of the Network's escape routes. Malicia couldn't find them there. He had never shown her this route. It was quite dark after he had closed the opening and took them deeper and deeper into the tunnel.

"The operative I have in mind that could hide us is a former S.H.U.S.H. scientist in the robotics department. He was discharged for an unfortunate accident involving one of his prototypes. Quite upset him. Now he works for me and steals from his former employees."

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by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

As they moved forward, the earth around them started to shift and quake. Something above must've caused an explosion, or something very heavy had just collapsed.

"Er... you wouldn't happen to know what part of the city we're standing under right now, would you?" She said slowly, with great uncertainty.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

That was Javert's cue to go slightly mad, growling and snarling as he stared up at the ceiling, making little darts back and forth and around the party as he tried to figure out what exactly it was that struck him as very wrong.

He started nudging Malicia, Harou and Lily around the legs, plainly trying to herd them closer together and away from the walls.

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by [Harou](#) 9 months ago

"We're near the park if I'm correct." Harou answered. "Hey!" When the honey badger ducked under his legs. At that moment there was a cave-in cutting off their path.

"Everyone alright?" He coughs after the dust settles. It seemed the honey badger had spared them from being buried or hit by the debris. "Damn it. We'll have to go the long way around." After seeing the pile of rubble blocking their path.

Backtracking a little Harou took them down yet another dark tunnel. A much longer and deeper tunnel that seemed to stretch on for ages. It seemed eerily quiet now after a bit of walking as they went farther away from the destruction above but Harou had a feeling they were not alone. He turned a corner and halted suddenly.

"Wait!" The drake said as his feathers bristled. "There's something down here."

Eyes. Small glowing white eyes. That suddenly now started to come charging towards the group at an alarming rate.

"RUN!"

Cue an earthy screech before Harou was slammed into by whatever the eyes belonged to as it only appeared as a dark shape in the darkness.

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by [Malicia](#) 9 months ago

"G'yeh!" Mal tried to grab Harou and yank him back up while simultaneously herding Lilly and the kids backwards. She tossed a few fireballs in the direction of the noise, hoping to injure whatever had attacked them.

"I... I don't know which way to run! It's like a maze in here!" Indeed, there were a lot of twists and turns and dead-ends. They needed Harou to guide them if they ever hoped to get out in one piece.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 9 months ago

"Stick together, stick together," Lilly pleaded, her mind's eye assailed with visions of everyone panicking and running off in different directions.

"What WAS that thing?"

And is Harou okay? She tried to move in the opposite direction of the terrible screech as fast as possible, while looking for Harou and sticking as close to Mal and Javert as possible as not to get lost and having no idea where to go next. The upshot of it all was that there was very little progress made.

"Oh gosh, what do we do..."

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by [Harou](#) 9 months ago

The fireballs when they hit the ground lit up the dark tunnel with an eerie orange light which certainly didn't help with the terrifying situation they were in. Illuminated, the thing that attacked Harou, was a twisted shape resembling Negaduck. It had clamped its jaws around Harou's metal arm while at the same time trying to claw him with sharp claws.

Made of metal..

Harou was trying to kick it off with his legs but it was too heavy and too strong. The drake removed his arm to save himself from being torn apart and the monster when it yanked its head fell back with the arm still in its mouth.

"KEEP RUNNING!"

Harou shouted as he ran after the group once he got to his feet with the monster hot on his tail. He caught up with Malicia and Lilly then directed them to another tunnel. Behind him, he could hear the sounds of the heavy feet of the monster. It would close in on them again any second.

Turning a corner, Harou recognized the design of the tunnel as part of the subway which would lead them back to the street. Spotting a flight of stairs that would take them to the street level, the drake ushered the two up them, while he stopped to slam a security gate closed.

Just in time too. As the monster slammed into it seconds after Harou managed to shut it. It screeched again as it stuck its arms through the bars to slash at the Network Leader who was just inches from the gate. Those pin light eyes burned with fury as Harou stared at it for a moment before dashing up the stairs to meet the group at the top.

"I don't know what that was. But we better get as far as away as possible before it breaks

through that gate."

Harou didn't like the new situation they were in now. They were back at the surface where the more Evil Malicia was roaming about since they no longer could use the tunnels while the monster was down there stalking them.

"We're going to need help."