

[RP: Baby Talk](#)

Published by: [Malicia](#) on 2nd Mar 2015 | View all blogs by [Malicia](#)
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Reserved for: Mal, Piper, and probs Lilly.

PREVIOUSLY ON DUCKVERSE-VERSE-verse...

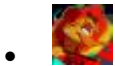
Babies! So many babies! Mostly from Mal, but Piper and Trevor have also recently welcomed their little bundle of curly feathers into the world.

And thus, after a rather interesting chain of events, Mal finds herself heading into Lilly's bookstore with her daughter, Cassiopeia on hand. Still unsure how to deal with 'Normal' babies, the demoness often comes to Lilly to-ask-advice-without-admitting-she-needs-help. I.e., typical Mal.

Little does she know, Lilly has another friend who works there as well...

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

The doorbell above the bookstore entrance made its usual tinkling noise. Somehow, Mal had a way of opening the door that made it shake just a tad louder and more chaotically than normal. It was like an early warning system for all who dwelled inside the store's walls.

"Lilly." She called out, a hint of exasperation and panic in her voice. "Lilly, are you here?"

Please be here. Oh sweet Hades, please.

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

It was not Lilly who was standing behind the counter, but rather, Piper.

She looked up at the demoness, moving quickly to block Malicia's view of a small bassinet that had her sleeping baby girl in it. Quickly her options ran through her head...

1. Be rude-- her fall to with Malicia-- and risk her daughter.
2. Be polite and hope the demoness leaves.
3. Run.

Well.... the second one was sounding like the best option right now. She knew Malicia and Lilly were friends... hopefully that would keep the amazonian duckette from destroying the building.

"I'm afraid she isn't in at the moment... is there something I can help you with?"

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

Turning in the direction the voice came from, her face immediately fell in disappointment.

Unlike Piper however, Mal barely recognized her. The female duckette was, quite honestly, completely off Mal's radar when it came to her mental list of *People I Recognize As Existing*. After all, she had only encountered Piper a small handful of times, usually accompanied by Lilly, and usually while someone was in the process of being stabbed or maimed.

Believe it or not, this was actually a good thing. Sort of.

"How can she not be here?!" The demoness panicked. "This is her shop! Since when does she even leave strangers in charge?"

The baby in her arms stirred restlessly and let out a gurgle-squeak noise. Mal fussed with her momentarily. "C'mon sweetie you have to eat. Why are you not eating?!"

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

"She hired me on so she could spend more time with the children..." she relaxed a little bit, but noted that Malicia sounded panicked.

No.. don't you dare feel for that monster...

But the squeak noise caused Piper to focus her attention on the little baby she had with her. She took a step forward. "Is something wrong?" she asked. Not concern for Malicia, but rather for the baby... Piper would never hold Malicia's children responsible for their mother's actions.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Everything's fine." She backed away instinctively. Having had her children nearly ripped away from her once already tended to put one on edge.

"She's just not eating from me anymore and I don't know if getting sucked into a black-hole might've caused horrible, irreversible brain damage is all."

See? Totally fine.

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper blinked. She'd never seen Malicia retreat before.

Black... hole...? What has been going on? Truth was, she'd been so lost in her own world with Lydia that not much registered outside of it.

She shook her head a bit. "I... have some medical knowledge and..." hesitantly, motioned towards the bassinet. "I am a mother too so... I can help... You mentioned she wasn't eating?"

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"She just won't grab on anymore." A motion to her boobs to make it clear exactly what kind of 'eating' she meant.

"Not that she really did a good job of that to begin with, but at least she was doing it! Now, nothing! What if she's broken?!"

How I fix baby?!

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

"No..no, she isn't broken..." she smiled lightly. It was... nice... Malicia did care about her baby.

Her smile dropped pretty quick though, thinking back on Julius. Piper pushed that aside though... the baby didn't do anything wrong.

"It could be a few things... but if she was not able to latch right, she may have given up. You just... need to train her. I know it sounds silly, " she shrugged. "but it happens sometimes. Um... has anyone showed you..?" Piper had taken classes on how to breast feed, so Lydia had taken to it very easily.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Shown...?" Incredulous stare. Like, people actually LEARN this stuff?

"Of course not, I thought you just put them on the boob and they drink. It doesn't sound like rocket science! Why wouldn't she want to do that anymore?"

My boobs are the best! They have no flaws!

As she said this, it was becoming more apparent just by watching the poor baby as she tried to stay afloat in the sea of cleavage that came crashing down on her with each erratic motion Mal made. One of her breasts alone matched the size of the baby!

It's like trying to scale Mount Everest with your bare hands, mom!

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

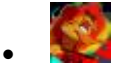
"It... actually is kind of difficult... not for you," she held up her hands. "But for the baby. She doesn't know anything other than what is happening is not working for her."

Piper bit her lip. "And you have generous proportions... so latching is difficult... especially if you're moving around."

She let out a small sigh and looked over at Lydia for a moment, then back to Mal. She would do it, but not if Malicia was going to be weird about it. She wouldn't risk the demonesses ire with her daughter so close by. "I can show you, if you would like. My little one is due for a feeding soon, or I can just help guide baby a bit."

She shrugged. "Or if it is more comfortable to wait for Lilly that is fine too."

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Sure, why not." Hackles lowered, and while seemingly indifferent to the whole offer, Mal otherwise held a more relaxed demeanor.

After all, she had her own daughter to consider when throwing one of her trademark tantrums. An accidental sneeze a couple weeks ago made her quickly realize her Normal girl was not fire-proof. Subconsciously, she had begun to hold back her base pyrokinetic instincts (i.e., burn all of the things).

"Do you get the sore burning and gross itchiness on your boobs too?"

TOTALLY normal conversation to have with strangers.

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

"Oh... oh no..." Piper bent down and picked up her diaper bag, setting it on the counter. "If you are getting that, then she is not latching right." she dug into it and pulled out a tube.

"This is lanolin cream" she said, setting down the tube. "It will sooth the irritation on your nipple and areola. Take it." She then motioned for Malicia to join her behind the counter.

Piper walked over to the bassinet. "Lyddie baby" she called softly, sliding her hands under the duckling and lifting her up. "Lunchtime." she said.

Lydia yawned widely and blinked up at her mother. *Oh, hello food squish. Is it time already? Here, let me get started.* She began rooting around eagerly against Piper's chest.

"Does she root?" Piper asked, nodding towards the chair. It would work better for Malicia to sit since she was so large breasted.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

Another blank stare.

"You... can actually see her head and face when you're feeding? I pop her in the general vicinity and eventually feel a suckling sensation."

She eyed the cream on the counter. "Lilly did mention something about latching last time I asked..."

Watching Piper feeding the other girl for a moment she scrunched her face in thought. "Maybe I should get her on the bottle then."

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

"A bottle works... but nothing beats a Mama's milk. And the bonding..." she gave a small smile. "Here..." Piper slid her finger into the junction of Lydia's mouth, breaking the latch. The baby began fussing immediately. "Hush hush, just a minute..."

"Make a boob sandwich..." she pressed her breast together a bit... weird that Mal was even looking and seeing her like this, but it was for the baby. "That way you know where everything is and then..." she brought Lydia back up, letting the baby root again before latching on. "Like that... it helps them to get the entire areola in, that way their lips don't

rub you raw." She cradled Lydia gently in her arm and tossed a blanket over her open shoulder in case a customer walked in.

"Go ahead and try." she said, stepping a bit closer to Malicia. "The further back your nipple goes the better. It stimulates the suckling reflex, and allows them a stronger pressure behind their suck so they get more milk. And if it doesn't work, you can always pump your own milk and bottle feed."

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• by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Looks easy enough." She shrugged. Really, if I can hold the entire city hostage until they were forced to play re-runs of *The Billmore Girls* than surely I can make a baby latch onto my flawless chest.

She started with this so-called 'boob sandwich' which resembled more of a boob four-course meal (I'll leave you to that lovely mental image). Struggling to barely fit the baby back in place, where Cassi wriggled and flailed like a terrified cat trapped in the dreaded cuddle-hug.

She *did* root at least, but the large curvature made for a difficult latch -- it was like watching a desperate animal cling for its life at the edge of a cliff. Her mouth barely made it on target, suckling more from the side of her mouth.

"Oh, she's eating!"

Small victories, I guess.

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• by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

"Ah, good..." she motioned with her hand. "If you could get her centered more, it would be more comfortable for you both. With more practice and some patience she will get the hang of it. She looks very happy." if not a bit distressed.

"But what I said before stands, you can always pump your breast milk and feed her through a bottle. Does it hurt?" If it wasn't hurting Malicia, Piper would not force her to reposition right away. For now, it was a bit more important for the baby to eat.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Not particularly." When you bed Negaduck on a regular basis, you sort of lose the ability to rate pain relevant to non-Negaduck nibbling.

She tried to reposition Cassi, which resulted in a small whine from the baby. "Nnnnn!" Mal whined herself.

It was an odd sight, really. One of St. Canard's deadliest supervillains currently wide-eyed and clueless, with the most pitiful expression of helplessness on her face. *This* was the woman that jammed a pole through Trevor like he was made of foam?

"C'mon Cassi, cling on for mommy." She urged the little one. "I don't need to give your father another reason to think I'm incompetent."

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper wished that she could ignore all the things Malicia had done to her family. It sounded as if Malicia needed friends... especially when Piper heard the comment she made about Negaduck.

But she couldn't. Lord knew, she *could not* let go of that anger and reassure the woman that she was doing just fine. Instead... "Here, I can help... If you hold your breast still, I can reposition her. That way you both can get a good feel for it."

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Er... okay."

Let us hope there are absolutely no customers hanging out in the store, because how awkward would it be to see a woman offering up a baby to a fire-breathing monster woman's monster-sized boobs.

Mal was surprisingly lax about letting Piper touch her baby. Mind you, she figured this woman was not stupid enough to do anything reckless with her own child in tow.

Cassi squirmed but let out a happy giggle. Especially when she spotted Lydia. *Ohhey a fellow friend! Hi friend! Are you enjoying the meal here? How would you rate this restaurant?*

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Lydia heard the giggle and broke her latch to look. *Oh! Hello!* she gurgled happily, reaching out. She was use to other ducklings being around and assumed this this was just another family member.

Piper gently re-guided Cassi, holding the baby's head so that she got smack dab in the middle of her food sack. "There you go little one... What is her name?" May as well be polite since we're not trying to kill each other. Once Cassi had a good latch Piper let her go and set about trying to re-latch Lydia who was now so excited she was not wanting to eat.

Oh bother.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Cassiopeia." Oh, hey. She actually gained a name at some point (i.e., while her parents had plenty of free-time floating around in an aimless void).

"Oh!" The latching surprised her. This was the first time it didn't feel so awkward. She took the baby in her arms, but in order to keep her in the same position, she had to sort of hold her slightly *away* from her chest. Too close, and she would once again be swallowed by the void.

It would be no surprise to anyone if years later Cassi had an odd phobia for being smothered.

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper smiled genuinely at Malicia's surprise. There you go. That is what a proper latch is supposed to feel like. Chances are Cassi would get a good feeding, and Malicia would not be as sore.

"What a pretty name..." Piper got Lydia back on. "Lydia, that is Cassiopeia." she said to the duckling, who was giving her mother a pouting look.

But, I want to play... I'll eat, but I am going to pout. Just like her father. Piper shifted the blanket now that Malicia had gotten settled and covered the duckling up. She knew Lydia would not need much time, but one never knew when a customer would walk in.

She stood in silence. Really... now that the crisis had hopefully been solved, she had nothing left to say to Malicia. But.. silence might be better. Bonding and all that jazz.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Lilly was definitely not in the most energetic of moods as she came back from dropping off the children for a playdate, so she was very glad to be back, where she could relax and be involved in no drama whatsoever.

... oh.

She looked first from one mother to the other, back and forth a few times. "Mal, dear. Hello.

Then, with no particular reason behind it whatsoever, she methodically started picking up everything she could find that could be conceivably pointy, edged, or honed to pointiness or edginess. And weighty, blunt objects.

Let's hide the scissors. Let's hide the paperweights. Let's hide the bat. This cord could strangle someone, let's collect that too. Picking up everything with surprising speed, she strode to the back room to dispose of them.

There. That's better. They'd have to try much harder if they wanted to kill eachother now. She popped back in, still looking warily from one to the other.

"You two are... getting along?"

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

Cassi had just finished her meal when Mal caught sight of her friend. "Lilly!"

Rushing over with baby in arms to give her a tight hug, little Cassi sandwiched in between the two didn't seem to mind so much now that she'd had a satisfying meal with less work involved.

"I just got back from being trapped in a black hole, and it was absolutely *dreadful* in there. No electricity, or shoes, or hair products or beer..."

And before Lilly could even ask the obvious question of WHY, Mal immediately jumped into telling her every detail of what led to her unfortunate vacation. Everything from running into Harou at the mall, to his discovery of Cassi and Lucifer. Followed by his cruel, sadistic behaviour as he taunted her in the dark maze where he shouted in her face and called her horrible names, and then threatened to kill her and take her children. Then an act of mercy, and a final agreement on how the kids would be handled. Quickly interrupted by Six, and his black hole shenanigans.

Negaduck was casually left out of the entire diatribe, however. *Of course.*

Really, it was no surprise why Mal was so happy to see Lilly. She was the only person she knew who WASN'T going to threaten/maim/steal her kids. A nice, refreshing change of scenery.

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper was eavesdropping... But not on purpose. It seemed that Malicia simply did not register her presence and flew right into her story.

That was fine. Lydia had finished her meal so Piper set about righting her clothing and then began patting the duckling's back. Her reward, a hearty burp. "That was a good one" she cooed to her daughter.

Upon hearing about Six, Piper tuned in... She looked down, feeling a bit conflicted over the duckling's behavior... But she reserved her thoughts on it. Taking Malicia's word on it did not set well with her. She began gently swaying with Lydia, hoping to lull the baby

back to sleep.

Oh no, food squish. I'm afraid it is too interesting in this store now. Where did the other baby go? I simply must introduce myself. of course this was all expressed in grunts, squirms and fussy kicks.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

A little less sympathy for the black hole story, but Lilly hugged back much tighter at the rest of the terrible tale. There was no issue with HER taking Malicia's word for everything that had happened. If nothing else, the demoness had never outright lied to her.

"Oh!" she said in absolute outrage, stroking the baby's hair in a protective air. Apparently the story had hit more of a nerve than her usual sympathy. "How DARE he?! And here I thought he was fairly pleasant." And that you LIKED him, apparently you keep liking HORRIBLE people, Mal.

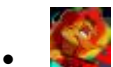
"How you could sit down and calmly speak to someone who tried to take your children away from you I can't understand."

Pause.

Rounding on Piper before the poor woman could even think of the possibility of making a remark. "And I'm AWARE that's exactly what I'm doing." Don't you say ANYTHING this time. I'm a hypocrite, FINE.

Spinning back on her heel, she faced Mal again, still looking very indignant. "Ooooooh that man needs a firm slap!"

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"I didn't have a choice, really. Much as I hate to admit it, he has an entire militia of loyal goons at his beck and call. I couldn't fight my way out of there with Cassi on me. She's... a tad delicate."

The 'would not survive a third-degree causing explosion' kind of delicate.

"Hmph. He needs more than a slap. But our arrangement is satisfactory. He'll have access to them, and at least now I have someone else to assist with Cassi's schooling arrangements." Because this whole 18-year gig is a bit more than I signed up for.

"I... suppose I should have told him sooner." She confessed. "But I knew the first thing he would do is bring up Negaduck, and I just didn't want to deal with it."

She let out a frustrated sigh. "I quit boys!"

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper, who had been minding her own business (for the most part) and keeping quiet thank-you-very-much, was somewhat taken aback and Lilly's behavior. It was, in a word, rude.

Did Lilly really think her so stupid as to point that out right in front of Malicia? Truth be told, the thought of doing so had not even crossed her mind. The subject was dropped back at the restaurant, that was where she intended to leave it.

She picked up the diaper bag that she had left on the counter. Since Lilly was here, she didn't need to stay glued to the front of the store. So now was as good of a time as any to get Lydia changed and cleaned up. She made her way to the restroom, feeling grateful to have a door to close and partition her away for a bit.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Well you know how it is. Point out someone's accidental hypocrisy in public one time and for SOME reason they'll be afraid you'll just do it again, especially in circumstances when it's far too easy to point it out. Lilly certainly didn't think Piper was stupid, but neither did she feel secure in the fact that a pointed comment would not be forthcoming, what with Piper's feelings about Malicia and Lilly's general hypocrisy and/or painful naivete.

It wasn't forthcoming, but that's what worry does to you. In her current mood she'd rather preempt it than wait for someone to point out her mistakes.

Except for the fact that she had clearly offended Piper. Lovely. Hearing the door close behind her, she let out a small groan and folded her arms as she tried to take in Malicia's dramatic declarations.

"You probably won't, dear." You always say you're going to quit things. "But if believing that makes you happy for a few-" hours "-weeks, then by all means, believe it."

I mean obviously it would be more logical to quit sleeping around with multiple people than quitting a whole gender altogether. Maybe next time make sure your target's had a vasectomy. She sighed, deeply, the kind of sighing only Malicia could cause.

"I'm sorry. I wish I could be more comfort, but have you seen my life lately?" I'm not the person who can advocate making correct decisions or, as you saw just now, saying the right thing at the right time. "Everyone has perfect hindsight. You SHOULD have told him sooner, better yet you should not have been in this situation in the first place, but there you go. Just... don't let the children get between any arguments you two might have, huh? Don't let him threaten to take them again, or I'll slap him myself. And that applies to your permanent boyfriend too."

She gave a smile. "I'm perfectly willing to fight with anyone who makes my friend so upset she actually chooses to hug me herself. I mean, up until I fight with you again because I wouldn't be coming back from that."

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

Blink-blink. Slow realization creeping in. She *hugged* Lilly first?

Oh man, what effect has this woman had on me?!

Time to change the subject to something less feeling-sy. "Was that your new nanny or something?" Jabbing a claw in the direction Piper had retreated.

"She's quite good at her job. Helped me with Cassi's issue, at least."

Insulting as it might be, it really is a small miracle that Mal had kind of forgotten what that-mouthy-woman-located-in-the-vicinity-of-Lilly-and-Trevor actually looked like.

Speaking of Cassi, the moment Piper and Lydia had vanished she slowly began to whine. And soon that whine became a full-blown wail.

My new friend left! Where's my new friend?

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Things were not fairing well in the restroom either.

Lydia, who was normally a very calm and obedient baby had become very obstinate. "What is wrong? I am just changing you. Don't you want a nice dry diaper?"

Lydia was having none of it. She could hear the other duckling crying. So she had to cry. That was how it went in households with multiple small children. Tantrum domino effect.

She is crying! She needs a friend! Take me back at once! This is not agreeable to me! She kicked, making it very difficult to get the new diaper on.

"Lydia... Okay, just let me finish and we can go back--ow!" Well placed baby kick to the hand. It didn't really hurt, but it caught Piper at a weird angle. Her hand pulled back and...

POOF! another well placed kick and baby powder went everywhere. Mostly on Piper.

Taking a deep breath, she wrangled her daughter into a clean diaper and swaddled her. She tossed the soiled one and washed her hands, allowing the tantrum to continue, though it had simmered due to the binding.

"Okay okay we're going. Jeeze, you've been around your brother too much!" She scooped the baby girl up, earning a snot smear to her shoulder. Pulling a tissue free, Piper set about cleaning up her baby and making her way back out to Malicia and Cassi, complete with smear and a dusting of white.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Nanny? How dare you assume I need someone else to help me take care of my children.

"Oh no, she works here." I have enough to pay for help, isn't that exciting? "It makes it easier to keep the shop open when I have to drop off and pick up the children from school so I don't lose business. She's lovely, isn't she? Glad she helped you. I wish I'd known her when I was having Rosa and Toni. She knows so much about children, and she could practically run this place herself." I'm definitely not as tired as I used to be.

Aw, don't worry little baby. Your friend is coming, look!

" And honestly I wouldn't mind giving up this business and just taking care of someone sometimes. Tell you what Mal," she joked, grabbing some tissues at the sight of the approaching Piper. "If you're really feeling kicked around by trying to have somewhat meaningful relationships with men, I can move in with you and be your housewife. Mix your martinis and make a fuss of you when you come back from criminal activities and you can get me nice dresses. And then you could go ahead and have any number of affairs, I wouldn't mind."

You know, essentially how children who play house think marriage works. Perfectly platonic and celibate.

Was that a grin? It was doubtful if anyone had seen Lilly whole-heartedly grin and sound so amused in a very long time. Descending on Piper, she set about wiping her shoulder and dusting her off as best she could.

"Look at the state of you!" Looking down at Lydia, she cooed. "Did mummy think baby powder was for grownups?" Silly mummy. "Oh really, on your face as well..." Piper you're a sight. I'm trying not to laugh but it's not easy.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Really?!" Joke flying over her head.

"You'd be the best house-wife ever!" A sudden pause, then a frown. "Hmm, but Negs will get jealous when you *outperform* him. Perhaps I'll have to murder him and dispose of the evidence."

A little hard to tell if *she* was joking now.

Cassi's wailing died down the moment Piper and Lydia came into sight again. There went the grabby-grabby motions again.

Mal set her down on the counter. "What is it sweetie? Do you want to roll around in powder too?"

Cassi merely gurgled. *HI FRIEND! Glad you're back!*

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper stood still while Lilly fussed, but something was brewing. Something terrible. She tried to hold it back.

"EERA-CHOO!" A righteous sneeze. Cue secondary baby powder cloud and resulting non-nuclear fallout.

Lydia looked up at her mama and then started squealing and making happy noises as the powder began to settle like fine snowflakes. *What a wonderful trick! Do it again!*

"Urgh..." Piper loosened Lydia's swaddling and set her on the counter with Cassi. "Here, see? She isn't crying anymore. You and your big heart.." she brushed some of the curls on Lydia's head back. Just like her father. Silly curly feathered babies the both of them.

Grabbing some tissue of her own, Piper set about cleaning herself up along with the resulting mess.

Meanwhile Lydia flopped over to look at her friend. Grabby hands. *Hello! I am so sorry you were upset! I hope you are better now. How are you? Want to be friends? Oh how silly, we're already friends!* After all... they were the same age and the same sex. Lydia's siblings were a bit older, and she was not big enough for them to play with. So right now, her main source for comfort and affection were Big Bill and Food Squish. Neither of which spoke her language.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Chuckling a little, she went right along with what we'll assume for safety is a joke.

"And that's VERY hard to do. Oh dear, I suppose I won't be moving in as your wife after all. Such a shame." I mean I had my bags and the kids ready and everything!

And then there was the sneeze. Lilly gave a startled squeak as she was covered with a light dusting of powder, swiftly followed by a bout of giggling. That was good, it meant her earlier upset mood wasn't bogging her down. That could only be healthy.

It also helped that the children were being kind of adorable. "Awww, look who's made friends!" Cooing again, she swooped down to kiss them on top of the heads before trying to dust herself off as well, giving Piper a friendly shoulder-bump. "She's just as congenial

as her mother."

I do appreciate you trying to get along with Mal, I really do.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"We'll just have to settle for an all-girl's vacation then." She said to Lilly. "I could really use one."

This whole 'actual parenting' thing is kinda hard. (Literally) holding a bus-load of orphans hostage was WAY easier.

Mal had, fortunately, seen that familiar twitch in Piper's bill and backed away. Can't let the hair get ruined after all!

Cassi, on the other hand, was *overjoyed* by the sudden crop dusting of butt powder.

Crawling over to Lydia she gave her a curious prod on the bill and grabbed at the air around Lydia's back. *Where are your wings and teefs? All the other babies got dem sharp teefs but me. You're just like me! Two rebels, alone in a world of teefy flying babies!*

"She doesn't really get much interaction outside of her siblings." Mal commented. "I think yours is the first other baby she's met."

And probably the first that hasn't tried to kill her -- aside from Lucifer. How nice for a change!

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Lydia squirmed so that she was sitting up and mirrored Cassi's actions. Reaching out to gently touch the other duckling's black feathers. *How lovely! I have never seen this color of feather before. And so soft!* She cooed and pulled her hands back, happily patting them to her own legs and squealing happily.

She then went into a bout bout of baby babble. *What are these flying sharp teefs? I have never seen those before... The babies I live with are bigger, and they like to run and move fast. And they are loud. You're not loud though, you are just like me!* She did a weak baby

clap.

Piper watched the babies from the corner of her eye. Since Cassi did not have claws and fangs, she was okay with letting the babies explore one another. It was good interaction for them... learning boundaries and all that. And they genuinely seemed pleased with one another.

She also kept an eye on Malicia just in case. Whereas she knew Trevor would have flown into a rage, Piper felt it was better to just be calm, despite it being difficult. So far nothing bad had happened... save the baby powder incident. Hardly a traumatic event.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

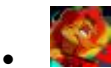
"It's sweet. I'm so glad we're getting on."

Now, do you mean the babies or the mothers? Wait, did you say vacation?

"That sounds wonderful. I think I need to get away from the people in this city for a while..." Reason for her previous low mood upon coming in, perchance?

"Tell you what, Piper, you're on extended lunch break, sit down. I'll get us something to eat and drink. Tea? Coffee? Juice?"

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Have you ever been to the Caribbean? Blue waters, tanned, toned abs, and endless rum. Everyone should do it once in their lifetime!" Mal gushed. "We definitely must go soon!"

Well it's pretty much settled. As Lilly was already aware, once Mal made up her mind on something, there was no stopping her. After all, that's how they ended up being foisted through space and time.

Cassi meanwhile was babbling back at Lydia and pointing at her. *You got nice curly feathers! Is neat! You're super neat, my new bestest pal!*

Mal bent down to wipe some powder from her daughter's mess of auburn hair that had started to grow in. It was then she actually bothered to really look at Lydia for a moment,

studying her.

"Huh. She looks familiar."

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper pulled up a chair, listening only half heartedly to the conversation, as it did not really apply to her. There would be no beaches and sun for her. Not when one had so many babies... and very few choices of sitters. She smiled distractedly at the cute baby banter.

Lydia's attention moved from her awesome new friend to her awesome new friend's mom. *Oooh... look! That is different! Those fingers!* Lydia reached out to touch Malicia's clawed hands. She gave a curious coo up at the demoness, as if asking 'you are different too?'

Piper froze a bit, first at Malicia's comment and then at Lydia's touching. She twitched slightly, but forced herself to stay put. She did not want to set Malicia or Lydia off... but if Malicia figured out just who Lydia reminded her of...

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

"It sounds like a dream. But there's the children, you know." Silly Lilly, do you still think you can talk her out of things she's already decided?

Apparently she thought she'd succeeded, because she set about opening some packets of biscuits and assorted snacks and laying them out nicely on plates and dishes. A warm day demanded three glasses of cold juice, since nobody had requested anything specific when she asked.

"Here we are! Oh Mal dear, do sit down and have something to eat. Piper love, you too. You don't eat enough."

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

Mal, still fixated on the child, allowed her to poke and prod her claws. It was not the first time a baby had that response when seeing her -- she had, after all, seen many Normal kids out in public when she was in her 'civilian disguise'. In fact, children seemed to be the only ones who saw through her undercover threads, usually accompanied with a "look mommy, that lady has Wolverine's nails!" Followed by a stern shush from the parent, clearly embarrassed by their child pointing out a stranger's abnormal features.

"Wait. I know who she reminds me of..." She started darkly.

Then reeling back to stare at Piper, eyes widened.

"She TOTALLY looks like a miniature version of Mariwebb Monroe!" She squealed.

Well, okay then.

Then to Lilly, she added. "Oh come now, surely you can leave the kids with a sitter. What about Darryl? Or whatsherface... the one-eyed grumpy Russian woman."

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Piper let out a sigh and smiled. "Who knows... maybe she will be a movie star someday. Oh thank you, Lilly." Piper sat down, helping herself to a glass of juice. "But your daughter has a beautiful coloration to her. She is going to grow up to have a satin look to her." Hey, Cassi had done nothing wrong, and the kid was very cute.

"Has she shown any of her mother's abilities?" Piper had missed all the 'normal' talk. She knew that babies could carry hidden characteristics.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

"She's not grumpy, Mal!" Don't you call my best friend grumpy. "She just serious. And I'm afraid she's away, I do hope she's alright..."

As for Darryl, "I don't know if I trust Darryl with my children for longer than a day. He does get so distracted. And it wouldn't be fair to give them to Canna, he has his own child

to take care of himself."

Oh dear. "If only Darryl's mother were visiting, I'd feel safe leaving the kids with her for a day or two."

A... day or two vacation?

Ah well, clearly not in the cards. Shrugging a little, she took Malicia's arm and gently guided her to a chair. "Eat. Drink." Or else. "Do the kids want anything to chew on, you think?"

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

In response to Piper's question, Mal furrowed her brow in thought. It was clear she'd been thinking hard on that topic.

"No signs so far. But some children do manifest abilities later in life. I get the distinct impression she takes more after her father in that regard, though..." Although where she gets her temperament from will forever be a mystery.

"Not that I ah, don't *mind* having a Normal child." She insisted in a manner that implied that yes, she did mind. "But what if an anvil falls on her?"

What? We live in a cartoon-driven universe. It's a legit fear!

Then, in response to Lilly. "Noooo, nonono." Taking Lilly by the arm. "We can make arrangements, the kids will be fine. There is no way I'm lounging on that beach without you! When was the last time you traveled, or did anything for yourself? Besides, you know I can cover the costs myself, so it won't be of any detriment to you."

One of the best perks to being a villain, after all!

She did plop down on the chair Lilly directed her to as she kept talking excitedly. "Just envision yourself on a warm beach, white sand, a light breeze, and the water has that amazing ocean smell to it. There's a daiquiri in your hand, and a margarita in the other. Can't you TASTE it? Taste those ice-cold drinks, Lilly!"

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

Or a piano. Or an elephant... Piper sipped her drink a bit more to hide her grin. Not that she would ever hurt a child, but she was quickly learning how pleasing it was to drop things on the heads of the local villains. Maturity level: Childish.

While the conversation delved back into vacation speak, Piper studied the darker duckling. Having met Harou, it was easy to see the similarities, and for the baby's sake, she did hope Cassi took after her father. Piper had no real issues with Harou other than who he kept company with-- but she admitted that really was not her business. Seeing how Malicia was acting right now, it was easy for Piper to see why she was agreeable in her non-maniacal state.

Of course, her mind sneered, if she found out who you are married to, do you think she'd be this nice? Probably not... but that was not the case right now. So shut up brain.

Lydia, in typical Lydia fashion had determined in her little baby mind that this was her new bestest most special friend ever and had crawled over to snuggle up to Cassi. She let out a little yawn, her stomach full and the day having been quite exciting with the introduction of new people and post-meal tantrum. *Do you mind? I don't really have other babies to cuddle with. Only Big Bill, Food Squish and Mr. Beary.*

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

"But- M-Mal stop for half a se-"

Belatedly realising her tone was starting to sound agitated, she bit down on the rest of the sentence and instinctively took a small step back from Malicia's chair. No no, no getting agitated here. We're all cool. Very cool. The opposite of lava, in fact.

"I... I'll think about it. Maybe."

'No way I'm lounging on that beach without you?' You... really do want me there? And you said this in front of people? This is kind of weird, Mal! I feel like you've become more open with our friendship ever since you tried to kill everyone I love.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"What have you got to lose, Lilly?" A very ironic question. "You told me you have extra time now that you have someone else helping with the store." Brief motion to Piper. "So this is the perfect time to take advantage of having some freedom!"

Waving her hand dismissively. "Fine, fine. I'll let it go for now. But if our time-travel adventures can go smoothly, surely a simple vacation is of no consequence in comparison."

Because when you think about it, there was a chance we could've gotten lost in time-and-space forever or sucked into a wormhole.

And just like Lilly's hesitancy with the aforementioned time-top shenanigans, Mal had -- of course-- already made her mind up *for* Lilly.

Tropical vacation, here we come!

Cassi meanwhile, had joined Lydia in her napping pile. *S'okay new bff, s'all good.*

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by [Piper Mallard / Jade](#) 4 months ago

"I could... you know..." Piper said, sitting back in her chair. "I mean, look after the place." There really was not that much to it, and as a personal trainer, she had to keep tabs on her own income and deductions anyway.

"And if you really need a sitter, we could always watch the kids." She shrugged. "Toni and Rosa are very well behaved, and I am sure they would like helping out with the baby." nope, no hints. Just the one baby. "They already have taken to her after all. With everything that has gone on, you could use a bit of a vacation, and it sounds like you aren't out anything."

Wait... why am I trying to help this along? Maybe it was because Malicia sounded genuine.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Y...ees, but the extra time Piper gives me isn't really free time, just time I can spend on the children and house better, so really...

Hang on.

"Oh Piper, no! You already have plenty on your plate back home, I couldn't ask you to take care of my children as well." I mean you have all those other kids! "... maybe as a last resort, but I refuse to add to your work-load." And that's final. "But knowing you're in charge of the shop would certainly be a huge load off of my mind."

Wait, you're letting go of something you didn't manage to force an agreement on? Who are you and what have you done with the Malicia I used to know? And can you stay here because as strange as it is it's also rather relieving.

Ah, naive Lilly. Still believing 'let it go' was exactly what it sounded like. It certainly got a relieved beam out of her as she bustled about fussing over her friends and making sure they got enough to eat or drink.

"You're both lovely, you know that?" I certainly feel better than I did this morning. See how much better!

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"I do know that." No lack of modesty whatsoever, that Mal.

She was getting a bit restless, however. Too much nicey-nice going on in this room. There was also something about this Piper woman that tugged at the corner of her brain. Like she was *supposed* to do something, or say something, but couldn't quite recall what.

"I really must be going." She said finally, standing to dust herself out. But not before grabbing the rest of the sandwiches off the plate to take with her. The sleeping Cassi was scooped up under one arm as she munched away on Lilly's snacks with the other.

"I have some business to take care of and my own arrangements to make for the kids. We'll be in touch, Lilly."