

[RP:Bodies in the sand, tropical drink melting in your hand](#)

Published by: [Scarlet](#) on 15th Mar 2015 | View all blogs by [Scarlet](#)
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*((Reserved for Scarlet, Lilly and Malicia))
Previously on Duckverse...*

Mal more or less made the executive decision for Lilly to go on vacation with her. After a chance encounter with Scarlet, a plot was formed... with ground rules... for all three lovely ladies to take a vacation to a private island in Fiji.

And this was where we found out trio, before dawn, at the airport and prepping to dock the clearly labelled 'Playduck' private liner. Set for departure at 4:30AM. Let's get going!

Scarlet had a cup of coffee in her hand as she leaned against the wall, and despite it still being dark out, she had her sunglasses on once again to hide her sleepless-blood-shot eyes.

After dealing with drama and the whole tax debacle, she was ready to rip appendages off bodies and forcibly feed them to their respective owners.

But that did not make for good relations.

So she settled for a night of binge-sex. Which resulted in no sleep for the CEO, and now a desperate need for caffeine. Copious amounts. She knew she would likely fall asleep on the flight since it was long, and the liner was comfortably furnished. She'd showered and switched into a light, loose, chiffon tunic with a snake skin pattern. It was see through, and she clearly was wearing a white string bikini beneath it. She'd tossed on an overcoat since the air had turned chilly, but after double checking the temperature in Fiji, she knew she'd be discarding any heavy clothing.

Scarlet yawned and looked at her watch. She'd told Malicia and Lilly 4 AM to allow them half an hour to dally. It was only just now on the hour, and there was not much left to do besides toss the girls' luggage on board and take off. At this hour, there were not many flights so they had the runway to themselves.

By the time they landed it would be nearly 6PM their time. She'd double checked that there were adequate refreshments, breakfast, and lunch on the plane. There was also booze, and Scarlet secretly hoped Malicia would not have a weak air-sick stomach. Or Lilly for that matter. She had Dramamine just in case, because she was not going to deal with vomit.

She closed her eyes and let her head thunk on the wall behind her.

Comments

142 Comments



by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Malicia had done it again. By 'it', we mean 'taken a decision for Lilly' and by 'again' we mean 'so many times it shouldn't even be surprising anymore.'

Honestly, Lilly had had no intention of actually coming, there was really nobody she felt she could leave the children with for any length of time. But by some mysterious coincidence, Darryl's mother had come to stay and was willing to take care of them. Just when she needed it.

It was so convenient, Colleen having nothing to do. Even Colleen had been surprised, she had been sure there would be a lot of work. It was almost as if...

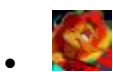
... surely not. Even Mal couldn't fix people's schedules. Unless it involved burning down all the places Colleen had chores to do. In Ireland.

SURELY not. Ha. Hahaha.

So now here she was, still looking slightly nonplussed and fairly bed-headed with a bag in her hand. It was almost as if someone had just marched in and pulled her out of bed.

"Oh! There she is. Miss Scarlet!"

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

Malicia mirrored Scarlet in appearance and mood. Dropping the kids off with 'dad', followed by a 'chat' with Negaduck had left her far from happy. In fact, she had been uncharacteristically gloomy since meeting up with Lilly and heading to the airport. No excitable chatter or gossip. Just a tired silence.

She gave a silent nod to Scarlet as they approached and boarded the plane. The plethora of liquor awaiting her in the cabin was a reassuring sight. Yes... she was going to need some of that.

But for now... it was nap time.

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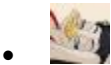
by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Gloomy moods completely ignored, but respected by not being bubbly (a possible side-effect of her being very tired as well), Lilly gave both ladies warm hugs just before they boarded, fussing over Malicia a little but more as they sat down.

Poor thing, it wasn't usual to see her friend this gloomy. Only after arguments with people she couldn't burn. That didn't bode well.

Good thing there were comfy pillows! Lilly set about making the seats comfortable. "You both look terrible. Get some rest."

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by [Scarlet](#) 4 months ago

Scarlet lead the girls to boarding the plane, giving half nods in greeting and waving for them to leave their bags. "They'll get them." As two of the flight attendants appeared out of nowhere to start collecting bags. Lilly's hug was returned with only a half one, as Scarlet's coffee took up her other hand. *Well, glad she is in a good mood.* But then again... she'd never known Lilly to not be in a good mood.

On the plane, Scarlet paced down the aisle a bit, then pulled a tube of tums-like medicine from her pocket, offering them to Lilly and Malicia. "If you guys get motion sickness, please take two of these. Otherwise you'll be throwing up... and it is a very, very long flight with only one rest room."

She was eyeing the perfectly made beds towards the back, there were two of them, but reminded herself-- and Malicia before the woman could go crash, "We need to stay in our seats until a certain altitude. Then we are free to move about. It will only take about ten minutes."

But truth be told, the seats towards the front themselves were very comfortable, and large. And, as Lilly had found out, well pillowed.

Scarlet removed her coat and settled herself down in one of the seats, checking her phone one last time. Nigel had promised to take care of things, and she trusted him enough... she was just not one to hand over authority very well.

She needed it though. She flipped off her phone just as the captain announced their departing... fifteen minutes early. A good sign. Scarlet buckled herself in and within moments they were taking off.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Lilly waved the medicine away with a smile before settling down, choosing a seat near the window and yawning as she fumbled with her buckle.

She would have laughed if she knew Scarlet thought she was always in a good mood. She was certainly in a BETTER one, so perhaps that contributed to her reputation.

"I hear we have you to thank for this trip. Thank you so much, miss Scarlet. I hadn't realised how much I needed to get away until yesterday," she said, leaning back into her seat with relief. Aaah, so comfortable. "Get away from people. And smiling and being nice all the time."

Give my face a break.

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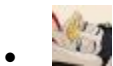
by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

"Ngh." Mal grunted in response, taking Scarlet's offer on the pills -- of which she ate half the package.

Well, she *had* gotten air-sick with Negs in his tacky jet plane... but that was also likely due to the fact he'd fly like a maniac and would purposely tilt the plane from side to side when he noticed Mal getting green in the feathers. *Dick*.

"Wake me when we get there." The only complete sentence the two girls would hear from her for the rest of the flight, as Mal seated herself in a large, pillow-laden seat and placed a sleeping mask over her eyes.

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by [Scarlet](#) 4 months ago

"You are welcome." Scarlet said faintly.

As the flight continued along, Scarlet made her way to one of the beds, but not before showing Lilly where the mini fridge, bathroom, TV remote, and headphones for the satellite radio were. "Sorry to be rude, but it has been a long tax season, and it ended with a six hour long argument with the IRS on why personal lubricant is a business expense." She huffed. "So I am going to sleep and reset my brain for this vacation. Help yourself to anything, and feel free to take the other bed. If Malicia wakes up, invite her to do the same please."

And then she was out.

The flight continued on uninterrupted. Scarlet woke for breakfast, then went back down for another nap before getting up, and staying up for lunch.

As the buffet cart was rolled in, she glanced over at Malicia... thinking... then made her way to the mini bar where she began pouring things into a shaker. A few shakes later, and she poured the concoction into a glass. Scarlet then walked over to Malicia, holding it beneath her bill, wafting the scent of fresh martini up at the woman.

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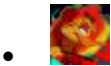
by [Lilly Teal](#) 4 months ago

Lilly added a gentle push to the scent of martini. "Malicia dear. Have something to eat," she said, before going back to staring drowsily out of the window. She'd fallen asleep like that too, and now had a painful crick in her neck to deal with that no amount of rubbing was making better. And despite the majority of common sense, she kept her neck in exactly the same position, still turned towards the window as she tried to rub and stretch her neck better.

It's was just that she hadn't seen the ocean from this angle in years, and now she could appreciate it better when she wasn't feeling small and alone.

I still wish I could go back home. Sighing, she let her forehead hit the window with a small *thunk* as she waited for Malicia to wake up so everyone could eat.

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by [Malicia](#) 4 months ago

Eyes popped open -- not in response to voices, but to smell. Was that a perfectly-shaken martini in close proximity to me?

Snatching it from Scarlet greedily she finished it in two large gulps. "Thanks." She rumbled hazily, still halfway between sleep and consciousness.

There you go Lilly, I've eaten. No need to fuss.

"We almost there?"

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

"Few more hours." Scarlet brushed a few of Malicia's bangs out of her eyes. "You slept through breakfast, and lunch is here. Would you like something to eat, or just more drinks?" She straightened a bit, folding her arms over her chest. "And a bed might be more comfortable either way..."

She glanced over at Lilly, raising a brow... now that she had gotten some sleep, Scarlet was ready to get back to her old tricks. "And how about you Lilly... something to wet your whistle?"

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

"Hm?" She looked around distractedly, wincing as the kink in her neck scolded her for moving. OwowowOW. "Oh... just- ow. A juice or something? Or anything you like. Just something really cold."

Because I am planning to press that against my neck, not drink much of it, so you can mix whatever you please.

"Doesn't it look beautiful?" she added, leaning against the window again to look at the water, though not with much excitement or cheer. Melancholy, possibly. More likely tiredness. At least she was relaxed and unlikely to cause over-excited headaches to anyone who decided to drink too much.

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

Mal swatted Scarlet's hand away with a grunt. "I'm not hungry." Clearly not in the mood for affection of any sort. How could she relax, knowing she had left her babies with Harou, and therefore in Six's presence? What if he hurt them? Or worse what if he *didn't*, and then they grew attached to his smarmy little face? Why did Harou choose that brat over her?

Ugh, when did everything get so damn complicated. Why can't it go back to the way it used to be...

Glancing out at the view Lilly had drawn their attention to, only to quirk a brow. "It's just water."

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet eyed Malicia. Something was clearly wrong... but she didn't think she'd want to discuss it. But it was going to need to come out... Scarlet needed the demoness in a good mood, or this trip simply would not be fun.

"Ow?" Scarlet asked making her way over to the mini bar again. "Your neck...? How about an ice pack?" That was easy enough to whip up... Towel. Ice. Sexy duckette to hold it there... Scarlet began mixing more drinks and pulled out a few expensive bottles of wine that she'd had mind to bring. Despite Malicia's claim of not being hungry, Scarlet saw fit to take her some cheese and crackers along with the drinks since she had taken the dramamine. She placed the tray near Malicia, taking care to avoid that swatty hand.

She then walked over to hand Lilly her juice, glancing out at the water.

"Just seems like endlessness to me." Boring.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

"Mm. I fell asleep against the window. Not the most comfortable position to be in. Thank you."

Now, responses like that would normally have made her subside and accept her juice in silence, but she was feeling relatively comfortable, so she turned to them and tsked in amusement instead.

"Oh *really*. What completely boring souls you both are!"

Yes, let's have the stay-at-home pot call the shiny social kettles boring. Admittedly she was biased, it was completely obvious that the ocean had some personal connection considering how much she seemed to be enjoying it, but STILL. OCEAN.

Grabbing herself something to eat, she put the plate on the tray in front of her, one hand holding the ice-pack and one gesturing in amused disbelief. "Just water! Just endlessness! Oh my goodness just LOOK at the BLUE on that water. It looks like the world's largest tray of sapphires." To use a comparison for beauty Malicia might actually understand. "And it IS endless. So wonderfully big and endless and just THINK if you got on a boat you could just leave everything and keep going and going and there would be nothing else for as long as liked."

Okay, so at least she was distracted from whatever had been bothering her. Mostly by talking about the concept of leaving everything behind? Clearly she DID need a vacation.

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"Yes. All that wet, non-flammable water." Shouldn't come as a huge surprise as to why a fire demon wouldn't care for the 'endlessness'. Even if it *did* resemble one of her favourite shinies.

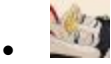
Turning now to observe the plate of food that had mysteriously appeared in front of her, she regarded it with a neutral face. Then pushed it away, like a stubborn child dealing with a plate of broccoli.

Her stomach growled in protest. BAH, TRAITOR.

"Perhaps this trip wasn't such a good idea..." She began slowly.

Wut.

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

She'd seen it before. Blue waters, tropical places... it all lost its appeal once you spent hours washing sand out of places there ought not be any. But Scarlet didn't miss Lilly's follow up. "So you *were* looking to get away from everything..." a gentle accusation as she plated her own food, glancing up at Lilly before she left the little buffet.

And then Malicia spoke.

"Why the sudden change of heart?" Scarlet finally asked, settling down between the girls with her own plate of salad, and a much smaller plate with a slice of chocolate silk pie.

Hey. It was vacation after all.

"You were dying for this vacation. Blowing up my phone all the way up until last night. Sending me pictures of you in all of your new clothes. So what happened to change your mind?" She eyed Malicia, watching for any tell of her lying. Easy to do once you've gotten close to someone... and Malicia tended to be a complete open book... especially when *frustrated*.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

She looked embarrassed at that. "Yes, well..." If I have to smile for someone who doesn't deserve it ONE MORE TIME-

Luckily Malicia's mood distracted her completely from any ranting she might have wanted to do. Scarlet might have seated herself between them, but that didn't stop a concerned Lilly from leaning over to put a gentle hand on her friend's arm.

"Oh sweetie!" Ooooh is that chocolate silk pNO we are being concerned. "She's right, you were so excited about this trip. What's wrong?"

Must I fight someone?

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"Gah." She had been gazing absentmindedly out the window while expressing her regrets, and hadn't noticed the two hovering so close until she turned around. She was taken aback by their genuine (at least in Lilly's case) concern for her feelings. Not exactly a regular occurrence in the Life of Mal.

Somehow, it was enough for everything to come spilling out at once.

"I dropped the kids off with their father and it didn't go well." Ok, I'm going to steal some of that cake now. "And now they're left in his care, along with that brat who tried to *kill* him and take my kids along for the ride. But that is evidently quite acceptable when it's someone *he* cares for. Meanwhile, I'm the terrible mother for keeping Negs around. He doesn't even have to say it anymore, I can see it in his eyes. The way he looks at me with disappointment and disdain, the way he talks to me..." She stabbed a piece of cheese with her fork. "It's over between us."

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet was sipping from her water bottle, and though it looked otherwise, she was listening. She was polite... picking and nibbling at her salad to allow Malicia the time she needed to vent and get her thoughts out.

When it was clear that the demoness had finished, Scarlet took one more sip of water, and then... "Hypocrisy is not a way of getting back to the moral high ground..." she set her drink down and sat back, glancing over at Malicia. "It sounds like that is what he is attempting. Make you feel bad for your choices when he is just as guilty of them himself. I take it this wasn't enough of an issue to stop him from sleeping with you."

Well, obviously.

She gave a small shrug. "So it sounds like you are better off without him. As for the kids..." well, she had to admit that Malicia had reason to worry if they were living with someone that had attempted to hurt them before. "It just proves you are a good mother. Maybe have someone you know go check on them every other day?"

It was all she could offer since really... guy drama was so droll. The solution was simple in Scarlet's mind. Drop the dud, take care of the kids, and switch to girls.

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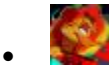


by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

"Oh, oh! Why the complete, bare-faced hypocrite!" Lilly declared in high indignation. Her seat was abandoned entirely as she hurried over to Malicia's side to give her a massive hug. It's not easy for a standing person to hug a seated one, but with a little finagling and an angle that would have sent her right into her friend's sizeable lap and possibly cheese if turbulence occurred, she managed.

"No wonder you're so worried. I'm going to call Darryl to check on the children as soon as we land, do you want me to ask him to drop in on them and make sure everything is fine? Or I could see if there's someone else?"

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

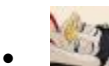
"Darryl? Would he really do that for me?" I mean, I don't think we've spoken since I locked him in a cage and tried to rip his face off. Huh, I wonder if I should apologize for that at some point in the future.

"It's fine." Accepting the hug -- because really, you can't NOT accept a Lilly Brand (TM) Hug. "I'm more bothered by the fact I'm bothered. Why should I care what he thinks of me? I *know* I'm brilliant, and beautiful, and a good mother. And it wasn't like I was planning on *marrying* him or anything..."

A nod to Scarlet. "I am better off. One less complication in my life. Gives me more time to work on my career." Those diamond expos aren't going to rob themselves after all.

Still, there was a wistful air to her as she waved her hand. "Time to move on to bigger and better things."

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet's eyes widened suddenly and she snatched her dessert before Lilly could accidentally land her rump in it. "Well, we all feel for people we've spent intimacy with." Well, not Scarlet but...

Then... "So... who is Darryl?" She glanced over at the two women, resting her chin in her hands. Oh please... tell me this may be another chance to cause chaos. "Someone interesting I hope..." a slow grin spread across her bill.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

That question gave her pause. Now that she really thought about it, the idea didn't seem very good. Darryl was sarcastic and don't-carish to a fault, but when he was annoyed he was definitely not as forgiving as Lilly, and he turned the acidic snark up to full blast.

"Um. I'm not sure. He's really not happy with you." It wasn't so much trying to rip his face off as it was trying to hurt people he's VERY defensive about. "And he'll be very angry at me if I ask for you." He's already annoyed at me for patching things up with you. "... maybe I can pass you the phone and you can ask?"

Hearing a question behind her, she readjusted herself so she could see both women at the same time. "He's my cousin. He's lovely. Very intelligent." Very sarcastic. I don't think he'll be any less so to you.

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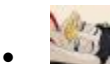
by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"We dated." Mal got to the meat of the conversation -- what she knew Scarlet was *really* interested in hearing. "It didn't pan out." That's putting it lightly.

"He... isn't too pleased with me at the moment." A shrug. "It's fine, Lilly darling. I'm probably just worrying myself over nothing. Harou may not be civil with me, but he'd never let anything happen to the kids. I'll bet he's huddled up with them in his home right now, trying to figure out how to change a diaper."

Probably a good thing Mal's phone didn't get reception at this altitude...

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

"Hmm..." Scarlet gave a small shrug and shifted her attention to her pie. It did not sound as though this guy would provide her with any special kind of attention... though she was curious about what kind of guy Malicia would date.

She knew why she was with Negaduck. That much was clear. So perhaps this Darryl guy had a sadistic streak?

She brought her fork to her mouth, taking a bite and thinking for a moment. She did not really need to ask 'Why would he not like you' in this case... because Scarlet was neither stupid nor uninformed. She'd seen the stream and what Malicia had tried to do with those kids.

It had been an amusing broadcast. Pretty anticlimactic ending though.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

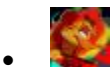
"Probably. Just... just have a nice time, alright? I'll probably start fretting as soon as we touch down, and it would never do for TWO of us to spoil everyone's holiday." One of me is enough.

Although it is nice to hear you're worried about things. I don't know how long that will last, but it's nice.

Wait. Wait, hold on just one minute here. DATED?

"... you two DID go out to dinner once, didn't you? That was a DATE?!" Oh Lilly. How astonished you look.

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

She shrugged nonchalantly at Lilly. "We went through of all the traditional dating gestures: holding hands, dinner, dancing, Negs hurling him off a cliff... in the end, Darryl wasn't really my type." Gee, I wonder why.

She could tell Scarlet was getting bored with the conversation. Couldn't really blame her.

Talking about boys and feelings wasn't exactly Mal's strong point either.

The good news: They were almost at their destination. Thank Hades, because talking out loud about the whole incident only made her realize how much she needed to escape for a little while.

Which was why she shut her phone off, and tossed it aside for the time being. No pesky outside news or phone calls to disturb her.

Besides, how much could happen when she was only gone a couple weeks?

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet finished her lunch and wandered back to her seat. She continued to listen to the conversation of her guests, but offered very little in the way of contribution. Sometimes it was beneficial to just sit back and let people speak... luckily it did not last but for a few hours.

"We'll be landing in half an hour, we ask that you return to your seats as we start out decent" came the overhead announcement. A little flashing seat-belt light turned on, accompanied by a chime.

The flight attendants appeared out of nowhere to wheel the cart back to a secure location and double check to make sure nothing loose was around.

"Finally." Scarlet said, stretching a bit. She buckled herself in. "Warm sea air and sunshine here we come." More like bikinis, sunscreen and lots of alcoholic beverages.

The plane touched down smoothly half an hour later on a private runway. Off to the side was a large, white four story villa that was just noticeable through the tall foliage. It butted up right to the beach on the other side, giving the residence an excellent ocean view.

If one looked closely, they would also note white stone pathways extending off the villa, leading to various other houses and encircling a right blue gem that was a freshwater pool.

Standing runway side was an impressive amount of servants, mostly men, all dressed in white slacks and polo shirts. When the plan finally stopped they swarmed to grab luggage and push up a rolling staircase so that the girls could climb off.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

All the way down the staircase, Lilly was completely quiet, looking up, down and around as she trailed a little way behind her vacation mates. At her first glimpse of the beautiful view they were in for, she let out a squeal and put her hands on Scarlet's shoulders from behind, hopping a little as she put her face forward.

"Oh, look!" As if they couldn't see. Giving the woman a squeeze, she detached and wrapped her arms around one of Malicia's for a squeeze as well.

"It's so BLUE!"

Oh, the ocean again?

"It's just like when I was little! This is so beautiful!"

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

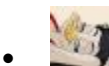
A little more reserved than her outgoing counterpart, but Malicia's mood had improved considerably upon seeing the view. She hadn't seen any photos of their destination, so it was all a mystery to her. But based on her and Scarlet's shared tastes in just about everything, she had faith that the Playduck Empress would not fail to disappoint.

And indeed, she was impressed. Without wasting any second of this magical holiday, she swaggered up to the closest servant holding a tray of drinks and snagged one immediately with a curt, "Thank you, darling." Sipping it, she made a beeline for the villa to get a better look at where she'd be lounging for the next couple weeks. Gotta call dibs on the best bedroom, after all.

"Nice." She murmured, as she stepped inside to admire the furnishings. "Very nice" in response to the open bar waiting out back.

Turning to Scarlet with a grin. "As always, you've outdone yourself, darling."

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet had to grab to the railing as she walked down the stairs, afraid that Lilly-- in her enthusiasm-- would lead to a broken bone or an untimely death. Her instinct was to snap-- if Lilly were one of her girls she sure would have, but she had to remind herself that Lilly was a guest. Not property.

Luckily the exuberant woman switched her attentions to someone who was not likely to be toppled by her.

Once inside, Scarlet immediately dropped her purse, and kicked off her shoes returning Malicia's grin. "Hopefully enough here to keep you... distracted?" Perhaps in more ways than one?

The servants followed up with luggage, the head one--dressed in full butler gear-- asking 'Where to, ma'am?'

Scarlet waved them on. "The girls will pick their rooms. Just follow them until they are happy." There were a dozen suites, all with private bathrooms and connected balconies. One was as good as the other to Scarlet so she figured Lilly and Malicia could fight over which one they preferred.

"But I am going to go for a dip." Because it was hot as hell, and her naps had left her somewhat groggy. A nice dip in the pool would wake her up.

"Have dinner ready in an hour." she said over her shoulder to the head servant as she stepped through an open archway and into the courtyard where the open pool was twinkling in the late afternoon sunlight. Then... as an afterthought...

"Lilly." she said, aiming to get the woman's attention. "The sun rises on that side, and the ocean view is best there." She indicated the right side of the villa. "Malicia? The sun does not touch that side in the morning." Indicating the left corner. She had a feeling the demoness was a late sleeper and that Lilly was an early riser.

Let's see how right we are.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

Did you say 'best ocean view'?

Can we say 'best host ever'?

Early riser? Haha, who is going to sleep when every minute of the sky over the ocean is beautiful? Beaming, she took a room on the side Scarlet had pointed out for her, changing almost immediately into her swimsuit so she could walk along the beach or dip her legs into the pool in comfort. This being HER swimsuit, for once, it covered quite a bit of her, and that was before she wrapped something around her hips so she could be modest outside of the water.

There, that was perfect. And now for her phone. Dialing Darryl's number was the work of a moment as she wandered around to see where the others were.

"Aunty Colleen! Yes, we made it fine. How are the kids? Oh good. May I speak to them? Hello? Hi darling. Are you being good? Don't tire your uncles out too much, okay? Give Toni the phone. Hello baby. Hm? Bedtime story? Aunty Colleen will- Oh honey. Yes, yes I promise I'll call and read to both of you before your bedtime. Alright. Take care, honey."

There. Everything was now excellent.

"Everything is so, so beautiful. Ooooooh miss Scarlet I could KISS you!" Both cheeks. I'm that happy.

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

Damn you, Scarlet. Stop reading me so well.

It took Mal a ridiculously long time to pick a room, due to the fact they were indeed all quite nice. Mal, after all, wanted the *best* room, and thus there needed to be one 'better' than the rest.

Finally, she was satisfied with a large corner room facing the back, away from the noise of the pool and prying eyes of the servants and butlers.

Not to mention, a fair distance away from any sleeping Lillys who could be potentially disturbed by... unusual nighttime activity. Not that such a thing *would* happen, goodness no.

Having slipped into her own (much skimpier) bikini, Mal joined the others outside for a quick dip before dinner.

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet pulled herself easily out of the pool and made her way towards a lounge chair. She was ready to just lay back and let the sun dry her hair and feathers.

Granted, she could have done the same thing at home, but the ocean noises off in the distance and the sheer knowledge that she was surrounded by far fewer idiots made this more special than her normal lounges.

She had just settled back when one of the servants came from the main villa, carrying a cordless phone. "Ms. Featherfan.." he said, heavily accented. "It is Mr. Nigel."

Scarlet sighed and accepted the phone. "You chase me off, and at the very first moment of relaxation you're bothering me what is so impo--"

She fell silent, listening. She shifted a bit in her chair. "No, my data isn't working out here. No internet... barely any cellular..." she went quiet again, listening as news of a certain fan video was revealed to her.

Scarlet glanced around, wondering where Malicia and Lilly were... and quickly rolling things around in her head. "Alright." she said before pulling the phone away and hitting the off button. She then set it aside and settled back as if absolutely nothing had happened.

Hey... no need to ruin moods with bitter news... they'd find out in their own time. For now, Scarlet was keeping her mouth shut. She folded her arms behind her head and let out a sigh, her mind beginning to form some plots in her mind...

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

Considering both Mal and Lilly had been headed towards the pool, Scarlet must have had her call and bout of quick thinking well before they reached if she hadn't seen them or heard Lilly's squealing gratitude. It was just as well.

Lacking the single-minded interest in the pool she had had the last time the three ladies had gone out, the dark-haired duckette picked a seat that was angled towards the ocean view through the trees, wrapping her arms around her knees just to watch the waves. So the interest was still single-minded, clearly, just not in the pool.

"It's so lovely. We're allowed to go on the beach? Could we later? Or... if you two don't want to, I could, if we can."

What she was attempting to ask was 'is this beach really ours?'

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

CANONBALL!!!!

Mal + diving board + unmentioned amount of weight = A miniature tidal wave that eclipsed Lilly mid-reminisce, crashing down upon her like a tsunami. Hey, you wanted beach, you *got* beach -- brought to you care of one supervillain who seemed completely clueless to her own strength.

Bobbing back up, she spat water from her mouth and teased Scarlet, noticing her quick chat on the phone. "Two minutes in paradise and you're already back to business, dear? I'm so glad I chucked my phone back at the plane. St. Canard can stay on hold as far as I'm concerned!"

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

You've no idea...

"Just wrapping up some last minute stuff. Nigel wouldn't call if he could have handled it himself. It's done now." Although really... he was keeping her up-to-date. Which she required of him. But... Mal had a point, so said cordless phone was picked up and chucked into the pool. There. It blurbled and glubbed its way down to the bottom.

"Jean-Carlo did a good job. Your top stayed on." Yes, change the subject to one of Mal's favorites... herself. And... was there a hint of disappointment mingled into her voice? Or was she returning the teasing Malicia had initiated? Hard to tell, really.

"And Lilly, why do you look like a love-struck filly? Ever since you set eyes on that ocean..." There. That should be enough to get SOME sort of conversation going. Unless Malicia decided to finish emptying the last half of the pool with another cannon ball.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

Being attacked by a massive wave of water caused much shocked squealing, but once she had gotten her hair out of her eyes, she could only laugh. The sun had made everything nicely cozy, so a temporary hit of chilly water was no real issue.

"It reminds me of home," Lilly said happily, living up completely to Scarlet's description of a love-struck filly. "We didn't exactly have a beach unless we went down to sail, but you could see the ocean from the cliff-side every day. It's been so long since I've seen this view!"

St. Canard had a bay, but she didn't live anywhere near enough. She'd almost forgotten how much she'd missed the sight.

"... ha! Well I suppose that explains why I'm so excited. I feel nothing but good memories."

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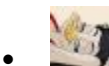
by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"What are you talking about, Lilly? St. Canard has no oceans or cliff-side." Clueless Mal is clueless. After all these years of knowing Lilly, she really didn't *know* Lilly.

Abandoning the pool in favor of a spot next to Scarlet, Mal draped her soaking body across the chair, resting her head on one arm. Her fingers absentmindedly fiddled with the aforementioned top, playing with the shiny clasp located on the front and nestled in-between her cleavage.

"What about you, Scarlet? Where's your 'home'?" She began conversationally. Might as well learn a bit about our gracious host.

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet glanced over at Lilly, "Where are you from?" She knew that St. Canard had no cliffs. Only sky scrapers and piers. Plus, you know... the accent... and properness.

Scarlet shifted and adjusted the back of the chair so she could lay flat. She rolled over onto her front so her back could dry. Blinking, Scarlet glanced over at Mal when she asked her question, somewhat surprised that she'd even bother to ask.

Eyeing the fiddling, Scarlet smirked, and answered lowly, "My 'home' is wherever I have the strategic advantage..."

She reached back and pulled the tie on the back of her bikini top, letting the strings fall lazily to either side of her body. "Did either of you actually come straight from St. Canard?"

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

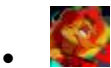
Well of COURSE St. Canard has none of that, Mal. But that's an excellent question Scarlet, I have no idea if Mal's always lived in St. Canard either.

Looking amused, Lilly tilted her head at her friend. "I only came to St. Canard four years ago." But I guess we never talked about that. "I'm from England. Dover, actually. The place with the chalk cliffs. It's such a beautiful place. We were right up there overlooking the ocean so I grew up with the view. You people should really see it sometime. No city, nothing but open sky, lush grass, white cliff-sides, and the water."

Sounds wonderful. Also sounds more like a vacation spot than the living space of people who need city jobs.

"What about you, Mal? I don't believe I ever asked."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"Moi? From *here*?" An amused chuckle.

"I'm from Transylvania of course." As if that was supposed to be obvious to either of the girls, somehow. "I left in my teenage years after I was chased out by my disappointment of a family. Then I did a bit of sight-seeing across Europe until I caught wind that Morgana was here in St. Canard. Showed up for a little 'family reunion' and ended up sticking around longer than I planned." Her eyes wandered across Scarlet momentarily.

"Now Scarlet, you didn't just materialize out of thin air as your already-fabulous self. Clearly you came from *somewhere*."

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

No wonder she was so clueless about things... she came from the middle of nowhere. Which meant that her innocence was genuine. Interesting.

She rested her cheek on her arm, listening to Malicia-- she did not know much about Transylvania. Other than the corny movies... "So... lightening, dreariness, and rain...? " She grinned, teasing. "Do we need to check you for neck screws, Malicia? Lilly, come sit with us." She motioned Lilly over to one of the empty chairs. Come on, we're all friends here.

"Of course I came from somewhere." she said, tossing her hair back and resting her chin on her arms. "But where I am is more important. And so is some booze-- time for a before dinner drink..." she motioned towards the server behind the bar, who came over to take her order. "Sour apple martini."

The server waited to take Malicia's and Lilly's requests.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

"Transylvania? I only know about it from books!" Lilly said with curious interest as she joined the others. Seeing the male server so close nearby, she opted to sit up straight on her deckchair instead of lying down, her old training coming back with the memories and refusing to let her relax.

"Could I just have mango juice with soda instead of alcohol, please?" I will be trying out ALL those lovely juices at the bar during this vacation, don't you worry about that.

As soon as Mal would order and the server moved back behind the bar, she would put her feet up and lean her back against the back of the chair, not lying by any means, but definitely planning to relax.

"Transylvania was one of the places my brother and I would pretend we would go," Lilly

added with a fond smile. "We had this whole list of places we would read about in books. We clipped out pictures and plotted out routes on the big atlas," well, more on copies of the atlas pages because YOU DO NOT WRITE ON THE BOOKS, CHILD, "made it all very official."

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• by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"I'll have a bloody ceasar to start." She told the waiter.

She quirked a brow at Scarlet. Going to play the secretive one, are we? Fair enough..... but I'll find out more about you eventually. You can bet on it.

"Oh no, neck bolts are *so* out of style." Not sure if joking, or... "In any case, the culture I come from is distinctly different from what you Normals know as Transylvanian culture. Monsters were very strict about keeping our ways separate from yours, after all." A pause. "Though lightning, dreariness, and rain were a must."

"We have our own unique way of doing things -- but even my kind are a bunch of party poopers when it came to having *real* fun." Like messing around with ancient forbidden dark magic, for example.

She paused suddenly. As much as Mal *loved* talking about herself, something Lilly said had thrown her off track.

"I didn't know you have a brother, Lilly."

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• by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

The server scampered off with the orders he'd gotten. "Define real fun for me, Malicia." She grinned over at the demoness and stretched lazily.

Scarlet looked over at Lilly as well. "It sounds like you come from a big family.. and property in England isn't cheap, and usually handed down through family..." What are you hinting at, Scarlet? Or are you stabbing in the dark? It could be that Scarlet understood what it took to start a business from a foreign perspective... and how expensive it was. She often wondered how Lilly did it... especially *books*.

Scarlet paused when the servant returned with hers and Lilly's drinks. She sat up, not seeming to care that she was fully exposing herself, to take the drink. What staunch differences between 'acceptable' behaviors.... but considering thousands of people around the world have seen her exposed and mid coitus, it seemed silly to act modest.

Besides. She looked good.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

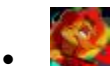
"Had," Lilly corrected for Mal. Though she did seem to be getting better about it. She was more fondly melancholy than depressed at the memory of her lost family as she used to be. "We... lost him a little while before I came to St. Canard to study."

Now for Scarlet's question. "Oh, not all that big at all, unless you count extended family. Darryl's family would visit often, but I never know mother's cousins. It was really only me, my brother, my parents and my grandmother for the most part." And there was household help, but you know.

She gave a slightly wry smile, not understanding what Scarlet was hinting at, if she was, but being struck by a thought. "It was hard, here. It still is. As you say, our house was in the family. I had nothing like that to help me here."

Fiddling with her necklace with the lovely little crest on, the same one that had been a bone of contention between her and Malicia a while back, she sighed. "Just a little box from home. But I was lucky." And I worked hard to get myself on my feet. I'd never known work really was. But I think that makes me doubly well-educated. The little crest on the necklace reminds me I learned to be a lady, and the little pain in my back reminds me I've learned to be a wage-earner.

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"By *fun* I mean sneaking into a forbidden library, filled with ancient and powerful magic so that I...uh.. could..I..." Trailing off distractedly when Scarlet sat up.

Hand held out in the air frozen, the waiter handed Mal her drink... which instantly began to heat up and bubble over the glass rim.

She cleared her throat and turned to look at Lilly instead.

"Well cheers to you, Lilly. I know what it's like to start from the ground up in a new place." Except for the fact that I *stole* and *terrorized* my way to the top. But to-may-toe, to-maw-toe.

"I'd say all three of us have quite done well in our careers."

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• by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

She raised a brow at Mal. "Powerful magic...?" Ah, the things that caught her attention... but Mal did not seem interested in going into detail. Yet.

Scarlet downed her drink quickly. She was thirsty-- she hadn't had much to drink on the plane, because--well, airplane bathrooms.

She noticed something sparkling out of the corner of her eye and looked over seeing Lilly with the necklace. Blinking, she set her empty glass aside and leaned across Mal, purposely? resting herself against the larger woman. "I recognize that..." she said, pointing at the crest. "I just... cannot recall from where..."

Inviting further explanation and pointedly ignoring Malicia... aha.

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• by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

Blink, blink. Quick glance down to make sure that's what she was talking about.

"You do? I didn't know you were ever in Dover." She seemed genuinely confused, neither realising how well-known the Woodward name was in certain circles nor exactly how well-connected Scarlet was to nearly every circle. But let's be fair, no-one would have suspected the name to come over to America. That would be anticipating a VERY far-reaching set of connections.

That was for the Teal name. Depending on how close Scarlet's connections were to black market armaments, or even legal armaments, she would more than likely heard of Lilly's father Johnathan, but nobody would ever link that Teal to this completely harmless one.

"It's just a family necklace. I can't imagine why you'd recognise it." Unless our families knew each other? I do know grandmother made me remember the important crests so I wouldn't embarrass her at parties.

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

"Hnnngh."

Mal stood abruptly, nearly sending Scarlet flying.

"Excuse me a moment. I have to go do... something."

She vanished for a moment. Which was immediately followed by a confused shout from the waiters, and then a clunking noise as Mal rolled out a *massive* fridge-sized cooler filled with shaved ice, stopping at the side of the pool.

She overturned the ice into the water.

And dived straight into it.

With just the top of her head poking through the surface of the water she muttered something inaudibly, as ice floated around her.

That darn Mal, always doing some strange random things!

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Unexpectedly launched, the poor woman landed hard on the stone patio. Scarlet pushed herself up slowly. "Ow..." Well... that backfired.

She stood up, shaking her hair out and putting her hands on her hips. A very good distraction from the conversation she was having from Lilly. Oh that Mal of ours... never a dull moment with her.

Scarlet took a few steps to the edge of the pool, leaning down. "Something wrong, Malicia?" she grinned. Knowingly. "Too warm for you?"

She chuckled and then stood up, reaching for her top to put it back on. "I may be confused." she said to Lilly as she tied her bikini top back on. "It looks familiar, but like I said, I cannot recall correctly. It might be reminding me of something else."

But.. she would be looking into it. The servant who'd brought their drinks before returned with a refill for Scarlet.

"Either way, it must be nice to have history. An old family with roots and ties. It sounds like you are pretty close with your extended family too." Really... none of that interested Scarlet. But... Lilly was fun to play with. So she'd feign the interest... and it sure beat the airheads she normally hung around.

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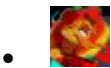


by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

As Scarlet fell and got up, a few things happened. Lilly squeaked and got up to see if she was alright, then sat quickly and directed her eyes politely skyward until Scarlet had put her top on, assuming that it had come loose all by itself.

"I'm glad I am," she admitted with a smile. "Darryl's family is all I have in terms of relations now. Aside from my children, of course." I wish it wasn't so, but there you are. "Oh Mal darling, are you getting a fever? It couldn't possibly be too warm for you, can it? Did you catch something on the plane?"

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

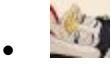
"I'm fine." To both ladies, with an extra glare sent at Scarlet. Accursed temptress!

"Just needed a quick dip to cool off... got to take advantage of all this lovely beach weather. In fact..." Climbing out of the pool again, she gave Lilly a pat.

"...You should scope out the beach before dinner and find some prime lounging spots for us tomorrow. I know how badly you wanted to go see everything, don't let the two of us hold you back."

Meanwhile, I can have a little *chat* with our dear friend Scarlet.

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet wondered if demons could even get sick...?

She shook her head slightly. "We have a bit before dinner. May as well go and explore since you enjoy the scenery so much." She perched back on the edge of her chair again, sipping her drink this time. Little did Scarlet know that there was a talking-in-the-making.

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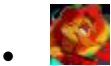
by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

Beaming, the ocean-infatuated duckette finished off her drink and got to her feet, giving Malicia a happy squeeze.

"What a good idea! I'll be back in just a bit, then. But if I lose track of time, you know where to find me!" Hanging out near Davy Jones' locker after class with a Valentine. Metaphorically.

With that she practically skipped away. Place nice while she's goooooone.

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

Mal craned her neck, watching Lilly disappear in the distance. It wasn't until the other duck was but a speck quite-aways down the beachside that she turned to Scarlet.

"Now then, we have a few things to discuss..." She began formally.

And that's when she pounced.

Sure, it was a discussion. In that it involved the use of tongues, and all related lingual motions required to have a discussion. Minus any actual talking.

Sheesh. We're here less than an hour and the 'rules' were already getting broken. So, horribly, descriptively, broken.

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Scarlet had been too busy watching that little Lilly speck disappear over the horizon that she failed to notice the oncoming onslaught of demonic dame heading her way. She simply made a noncommittal "Hn" to Malicia's voice, her mind still on that crest...

So when Mal pounced her, she gave a sincere squeak which was muffled by Mal's aggressive affection.

In the midst of said affection, Scarlet took a moment to form real words. "What about your *rules* Malicia?" she grinned. "And I am not sure how much weight this chair--" too late. There was a definitive **crack**-- almost like the snapping of bones, and then the two were sent crashing to the ground.

But that didn't stop her from returning Mal's advances-- although Scarlet was pretty sure she was going to feel that pain later on. She had egged this on, so she'd have to deal with the consequences... you know, fatigue, dehydration, lethargy...

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

Well that was going to be her own darn fault.

Blissfully unaware of the enthusiastic depravity going on, Lilly took a deep breath, realising with a little guilt that she was very glad to be all by herself. It was very relaxing. And it also meant she could take some pictures of the view to take back home. Rosa and Toni would absolutely love them.

And Mal had SAID not to let worrying about her vacation partners hold her back... surely she could stay out here until dinner-time. ... not that she would know when it was dinner-time. Would someone call her? Hopefully. Until then, let's sort of doze out here.

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

It was some time after said depravity, as Scarlet and Mal lay in an entwined pile of limbs and arms, that Mal finally rumbled. "I'm a villain, I don't stick to the rules for very long."

She gave Scarlet a playful pinch. "And I like to start my dinner with an appetizer."

Glancing around, she sat up and fastened on her bikini top -- which had, of course, "fallen off" at some point during their entanglement. She smoothed out her ruffled feathers and hair, and straightened up somewhat.

"Lilly should be back soon. Just remember our little... agreement."

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Pushing herself up, Scarlet let out a small snort. "Am I the one who needs reminding?" she smiled sweetly, reaching up to brush some of Malicia's hair out of her eyes. She knew the power behind those simple gestures.

"At any rate... you really want to leave your *friend* out of the fun?" Smirk. "Seems a bit rude... and you two are awfully close and all."

Hearing footsteps, Scarlet brushed her hair back and stood up just as one of the servants made his way out. "Ms. Featherfan, dinner is ready... Oh... the chair...?"

Scarlet sighed. Fun over. "Send someone to go get Mrs. Teal. She is down by the beach." She waved the servant off. Once he was gone, she started walking for the villa. "At any rate... I wonder if there is any clam soup on the menu..."

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

It may not look it, but warm sun and warm sand can make a person deceptively sleepy. As can things like warm deck-chairs, warm grass, and overall any surface that benefits from warm sun.

As a result, Lilly was contentedly more than half asleep by the time she was called in by one of the help.

"Hm? Oh, coming," she managed, stretching as she dusted herself free of sand. It was just

lucky she had stayed sitting, or we'd be here another hour or so getting sand out of all that hair. Mental note, be careful of that.

Less squealing excitement and more pure, quiet happiness, she made her way back to the villa, keeping a look out for the other ladies.

"Oh, there you two are." I hope you had a nice time? And my goodness, is that the table? Are you sure we're only feeding the three of us?

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

The very suggestion of Lilly 'joining' their secret tryst made Mal's feathers puff up defensively. "Don't you even." She growled lowly. "Lilly is off bounds." Gosh, was that smidgen of protectiveness?

"I've already caused irreparable damage to our relationship as is." Not exactly expanding on what that 'damage' might be. Scarlet was likely somewhat aware, given the whole kidnapping debacle had received a city-wide broadcast.

She left it at that. Openly lamenting her past transgressions was not becoming of a supervillain, after all.

Her mood shifted the moment she set eyes on the dinner table. Oh, sweet merciful Heavens, this is truly paradise.

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Pulling out a seat, the porno tycoon sat herself down, much less impressed with the food than the other girls. Immediately, someone stepped forward to plate her food for her and she waved them off with a grunt.

"How was your walk on the beach?" she asked towards Lilly, as she began piling salad on her plate. "You were gone for a long time. I hope you found some peace out there. "

She leaned back, allowing one of the servants to pour her a generous glass of wine and glanced over at Mal, raising a brow slightly. Really... an esteemed demoness like her should be more use to the luxuries of life... considering she literally had the power to just

take them.

"And should we plan for anything tonight or will you girls like to just eat, relax and recover from the flight?"

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

It's more like a banquet than anything, this is marvellous!

"It was wonderful," she confirmed in happy contentment, fixing herself a decent plateful in the interest of trying a bit of everything. "I feel so calm and relaxed already."

If it wasn't for the fact that the body needs food, I might not have come in at all. Just for today.

"I'll let the two of you decide. I'm happy to go along with anything you say." So what ELSE is new, Lilly?

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by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

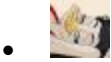
Ah Scarlet, if only you knew. It's hard to live in true luxury when everyone is afraid of you -- personal chefs and maids were hard to come by when one has a reputation for roasting incompetent retail workers. Add on a certain masked mallard who consistently chased off anyone in her company, and it led to some paltry dinners.

There was something to be said for climbing the income bracket the old-fashioned way. Villainy had its draw-backs when it came to finding good help around the evil lair.

"Well how nice for you, Lilly." No sarcasm intended. She concentrated on picking out the best-looking lobster tails and piled them onto her plate alongside a generous helping of everything else on the table.

"I'm fine with doing just about anything tonight." She said absentmindedly. "I'm open to any suggestions you two have..."

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Eyes drifted from Lilly over to Mal, a brow raised at the innocent slip of the demoness' tongue. Relinquishing control? She took a bite of her food, chewing for a moment as she mulled around ideas...

She sipped her whine for a short silent moment and then broke the ease of the dinner with a suggestion.

"Nothing beats moonlit skinny dipping in the ocean."

...no, can't just let this moment be enjoyed.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

Clunk.

That was the sound of a very caught-off-guard Lilly who had been reaching for the salt just as the suggestion had been made. Well now nobody had to reach for the salt, it was everywhere.

"Sorry!" she squeaked, grabbing a napkin and a plate as she tried to neaten up the mess a little. At least it hadn't gotten on any of the food?

"A moonlit swim does sound nice," she managed, speaking directly to the table-cloth as she nudged the salt into a neat pile. "I've got my swimsuit on already."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

Hades DAMMIT, Scarlet.

"Suuuuure... why not." Gack, nooo. Bad Mal. BAD. YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING. FIGHT IT. USE SOME RESISTENCE.

"You always have such... fascinating ideas, Scarlet."

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by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

More like the mindset of a fourteen year old boy... but whatever works...

As though she did NOT just make anything uncomfortable, Scarlet continued with her meal. She kept quiet as one of the servants approached to clean up and replace the spilled salt. Once he was gone, Scarlet recalled something mentioned on the plane...

"Were you able to contact home?" she asked towards Lilly. She picked up the small dish of melted butter that was set with her dish and handed it over to Malicia, who was more interested in the lobster than she. No sense in wasting butter since... you know, butter was one of those huge luxury items for such a small island.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

If she can't deal with the mindset of a fourteen year old boy right now, it'll certainly be interesting to see how Lilly attempts to deal with her own children when the hormones hit them. How do you give 'the talk' when you can't even talk about it?

Well, she had a good number of years before that would become necessary. Maybe by then.

"I was, thank you," she nodded, gladly distracted from her embarrassment, though the question itself presented a bit of fretting for her. "Aunty's taking good care of them, they're happy. I promised Toni I would call back and read to them before their bedtime. They've... never really had bedtime without me." You might recall our last time out started quite late, I was at least able to tuck them in at Darryl's. It's important that I do that.

She frowned a little, looking back at the tablecloth, mostly because she was avoiding looking at Mal in case she got offended by what she was about to say next. "I don't like leaving them alone while they're falling asleep. Toni's... um, been having some nightmares still. Mostly if he thinks I've left the room before he's really asleep." I won't mention why he's having nightmares. Or Rosa. Or me.

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 3 months ago

Fortunately for Lilly, the demonness was expending far more energy inhaling everything within reach on the table. Crab claws, lobster, shrimp, pineapple, spit-roast, several glasses of wine...

Well, let's be real here: She probably wouldn't have caught on to what Lilly was referring to anyway.

"I can't wait to brag to Negs about this." She was musing to herself happily.

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 3 months ago

Mmm... yeah... can't wait.

Sipping from her glass once more, Scarlet looked down, mulling things around in her head a bit more. She then set aside her salad, having only eaten a bit of it, and motioned for the desert tray. Obediently, the servant wheeled it over, and she eyed it before selecting a dish of banana cream pudding.

"Who is watching the other babies?" she asked Mal. "And your shop..?" she was curious if Lilly had closed up for the vacation.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 3 months ago

"I have a friend who's been helping me out at the shop. She's been kind enough to take over temporarily so the place can stay open while I'm gone. But I've asked her not to overdo it, it's not so necessary, she can close up for the day whenever she wants."

Thus answering the question of how Lilly could ever be anyone's employer. Very apologetically.

Ooooh, dessert! Squealing softly, she commandeered the chocolatiest thing she could find. "Oh Scarlet, you're spoiling us."

[Delete](#)



• by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"Other babies?" Blink. "Oh, you mean the demonlings." She took another sip from her glass.

"They're independent enough to care for themselves at this age. Demonlings leave the nest after a few months, and it won't be much longer until they leave St. Canard." As Lilly would recall from Mal's last batch of fluffy evil.

"After that I suppose I'm just left with Cassi. And possibly her brother, if he decides to stick around." She swirled the drink in her hand, staring at the liquid and bubbles.

"I was considering joint-custody for her, but now I'm not so sure I want her living with a colossal *moron*." She seethed.

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• by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Scarlet had paused in eating to stare at Lilly... it would appear she WAS wondering just how she was anyone's employer. "Well... hopefully she is a trustworthy associate."

Sitting back, she addressed Mal... in her own unique fashion. "The kid came out of you. You carried her, you hatched her... why do you even feel you need to share? If the dad wasn't there for the initial development, and is acting ridiculous, then cut him out. She is yours."

Ah, the simplicity of treating people like property. "It sounds like Negaduck was around more than your baby-daddy anyway. Granted, pretty much all men are useless--" she lifted her glass to wash down the thick pudding. "--but I'd be more inclined to keep the one around who actually put in the work. Not the one looking to enjoy the fruits of someone else's labor."

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Heh. Labour.

While the narrator is busy being amused by the pun, let's cut back to the dinner.

Lilly remained rather quiet, considering it was baby-talk, but it was probably best not to put in too many opinions where Malicia's motherhood and love life were concerned. She settled on making a sympathetic face and busying herself with her cake instead. Scarlet seemed to have this handled. Keeping only half an ear on the conversation, she left her mind drift away, wondering with a bit of concern what she was going to read to the children. She hadn't exactly packed with that in mind, after all.

Maybe she should call and see how the shop was doing. Was it doing alright? It must be doing alright. Of course it was. And the club was fine, the children were safe, there was really nothing TO fret about except upsetting her vacation-mates.

Of course, that was fretful all by itself. But at least it was only one thing to focus on. A seething Malicia, however, was due more fretful focus than a depressed one. Lilly budged her chair away ever so slightly, looking fidgety.

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

She frowned at Scarlet.

"It's not that simple. 'Daddy' also has an entire army of mercenaries at his disposal, who have already held me captive on two separate occasions, and have threatened to kill me. He can and will use whatever means are at his disposal to keep Cassi in his life."

She *despised* being powerless. There were few beings in this world who could keep the demonness from doing whatever she wanted, and unfortunately The Kamo Network was one of them.

If only she could find a way to destroy their network. But she couldn't do it alone...

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

She met Malicia's gaze levelly, raising a brow slightly. Then a glance towards Lilly, signaling that perhaps now was not the time to get into it. "At any rate... they're back there. We're here. Their loss. Dessert Malicia?"

Distraction-- maybe. But she did not know anything about the group Malicia was speaking about, so she had no advice to offer. All Scarlet knew were cut-throat tactics. Blackmail and slander... that was how she got to where she was. Oh and charm. Always the charm.

"And maybe we could talk shop on other matters... like perhaps some pair signings from you and Lilly. Those issues with you two in them sold out, and the few I have left in stock would sell for much higher if they had signatures to go along with them... and perhaps a photo for authenticity... costumed, of course."

Come on... admit it Lilly... you liked the mask.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

At least the salt didn't go anywhere this time. That was not because she was less startled but because she hadn't been reaching for it. Instead she broke her silence by beginning to violently choke and sputter on her bite of cake.

Apparently she was against the idea.

She had come to terms with the magazines, no matter how startled and embarrassed she had been to know they were really out there. And she HAD enjoyed the mask, she really had, but actually SIGNING them was where she drew the line. If she did that, people would KNOW it was her.

And if Darryl found out, bless his annoying heart, he would never let her hear the end of it. And WHAT would Uncle Matthew think? And Canna and Kachka and Piper and Ozymandias and Celia... actually the latter two would just be amused and tease her about it like Darryl would. Oz might even approve, one never knew with him. And what if PANCHITO found out that would be terrible and would never do even if she wasn't married to him.

All this worrying within a short bout of coughing later, she managed to pick up a glass of water and down some of it. No longer dying, she cleared her throat sheepishly.

"Oh no. No. I- no. No, it's- no. Absolutely wait what?" New train of thought coming into

the station mid-conversation. "Sold... sold out?"

You know what this means?

"Oh Mal dear, everyone must really have liked you!" Typical, she still considered herself furniture.

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by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

Scarlet's derailment brightened Mal's demeanor considerably.

"*Really?* Of course... I'm the least bit surprised. After all, it was a magazine featuring St. Canard's most beautiful villain. I'd think this city rather ill in the head if you had any copies left over."

She didn't argue with Lilly's protests. All the more attention for herself, after all.

"Why, I'd be delighted to sign! I'm sure we can arrange an appearance once we're back in the city as well. I had a lot of fun with the photo shoot, I hope we can arrange more of them soon."

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

She tapped her bill lightly as she spoke. "Shame... you are missing out on a chance to create a whole persona. Creative freedom.. be what you want to be. Take a step away from 'Lilly Teal' for a while..."

Planting seeds? Maybe.

Then to Malicia, "We could go to a convention. Put you in a booth, maybe do a bit of a flirty Q and A session. My only concern with that is the other merchants." Cue adorable pout towards Malicia. "What if they try to snatch you up for their own greedy purposes and pleasures?"

...hypocrite.

"Just ideas for the future though. You two certainly brought new life into CwC line, and

I'd like to continue on with it." she finished up the last of her dessert. "For now my focus is sleeping topless on the beach. Can't really do that in St. Canard with perverts flying planes around." Wait... which mallard are we talking about here?

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

She wouldn't admit it, but it was a very intoxicating idea to not be herself. It was why she loved the stage, after all. Unfortunately for her lack of verbal admission, her face admitted everything. One day she would learn to get a handle on her expressions.

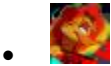
"Still," she mumbled into her cake. "People actually liked it?"

MADNESS.

The prospect of the beach was a much happier distraction. "Oooh, beach, yes!"

SWIMMING?!

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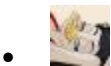
by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

Oooh, sleeping topless on the beach, yes!

"I could do with a nap myself." Mal leaned back in her chair and yawned. It had been a long flight, and her recent fun-sexy times had both left her rather tired.

"Did you get to scope out a good spot on the beach during your walk, Lilly?"

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

"Of course people liked it." she polished off her wine. Granted... you could pretty much toss anything in a dirty magazine and someone somewhere would find use of it... but Scarlet prided herself in having both a bit more class and taste.

As the conversation drifted off to beach talk, the servants moved in to begin clearing the table of used dishes and leftovers. "Wouldn't hurt to take a nice walk after eating..." not that Scarlet herself ate much, but they both seemed eager to go out and enjoy the sunshine/ She couldn't blame them considering it was still off and on chilly back home.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

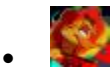
That was... really unexpected. In a good way. Huh. Forcefully shoving aside that treacherous thought, she clapped her hands. "I have! I've found the most beautiful spot." Not that it would probably look any different from any other sandy spot, to the others, but she thought it was perfect. "I'm sure you'll be able to nap just fine there while I go for a swim."

Of COURSE she wanted to go for a swim.

Oh, wait. Tugging lightly at her chain she frowned in disappointment. "Too soon after eating. Never mind, I'll walk around and watch the waves until I can." That sounded almost as nice.

Eager to get going, she hopped lightly onto her feet. "Unless you both want to eat anymore?"

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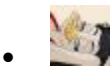


by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"Too soon...?" Mal was not familiar with the whole 'don't swim after eating' mantra that most Normals had passed down to them in their childhood years.

As she got up to leave and change into one of her many new designer bikinis, she murmured to Scarlet. "A booth, you say? So long as none of them get too handsy, or annoy me. I have little patience for the morons of this city."

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

"Oh.." she grinned at Mal. "I'm talking lookie-no-touchy." At least... not from the spectators.

Following suit, Scarlet stood up to leave the table, dropping her napkin on the table. "Towels..." she said to one of the servants. "And have someone come to carry chairs, and some drinks." Because she had not even started in her drinking.

"We'll wait for you..." she said to Malicia who was clearly heading to change. Lazily, Scarlet draped an arm over Lilly's shoulders. "We won't start *any* fun without you."

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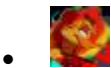
by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Lilly smiled and nodded, reaching up to her shoulder to give Scarlet's hand a friendly squeeze. She liked contact. She was jittery around contact with people she found attractive but when it came to her friends contact made her feel more secure.

"I know I've thanked you for all this already," she said sweetly, turning her head to look at Scarlet better. "But thank you again. Really. It feels so much like home, I haven't felt so relaxed and calm in a long time."

The friendly squeeze was shifted to an arm around Scarlet's waist in a half-hug as Lilly beamed, looking even more relaxed now that everyone was in a good mood, thought of course she wasn't going to admit that.

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by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

With her back turned, she rolled her eyes at Scarlet. You cut that out, you sneaky minx.

And so she vanished off to her room and re-emerged shortly thereafter, decked out in a bikini with a transparent beach dress over top. She was sporting a rather expensive pair of designer sunglasses, and had tied her hair back into a loose ponytail.

"I hope there's an open bar out there. Otherwise your servants will have to do delivery."

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

The return of affection was noted... stored for memory later on. She waved the thanks off again with a muttering of 'It's no fun to vacation alone anyway.'

Not that she didn't have her choice of people to go with, but fresh meat was always best. While Mal was off changing, Scarlet started braiding Lilly's hair, deciding to pry a bit. "How long has Malicia been hooked up with Negaduck anyway? I've never seen them together so I don't know what kind of couple they are... when they aren't making spectacles on Santa's chair in the mall that is." This was important... need to know how deep those ties ran.

The subject would be immediately dropped when Malicia returned, and as if on cue... out came a pushable vending cart, being pulled along by two of the staff. On the side was written 'Booze-a-palooza'. A third person came toting chairs, umbrellas and towels. A delightful distraction for all parties involved.

"Excellent. We're ready... lead the way Lilly." She gave a gentle nudge towards the door and took a small step to show she'd follow.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Her subtle prying was incredibly derailed as Lilly knotted her brow in confusion. "Chair in the...?" So apparently she hadn't known anything about that.

But before she could start wondering what that referred to, which she would certainly have regretted later, Lilly was abruptly made leader of this little expedition. Well she DID say she knew a spot.

"Oh dear. Um. Yes." I shall lead you. Apologetically. "I don't suppose there's any way to keep track of the time or have a phone nearby?" I thought you wanted to RELAX, Lilly. "It's just that I did promise the children to read before their bedtime."

Oh dear, that sounded so fussy and demanding. "... never mind. I'll figure something out..." Gesturing lightly, she tripped off toward the beach, her mental decision to keep a handle on her internal time starting to battle with her desire to forget everything completely the further along she got on the sand.

A while along, she suddenly stopped and turned to wave at the people she had left rather far behind somehow. "Over here!" It really was a very beautiful spot.

[Delete](#)



• by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"You could always make a recording of your voice reading, and they could listen to it later." Mal advised. Really, how could Lilly be thinking of that when they were *here* in paradise?

I s'pose you can take the worry-wart mother away from her responsibilities, but you can't take the responsibilities out of the worry-wart mother... or something. Mal loved her kids in her own special way, but she had no qualms about relinquishing her motherly instincts for awhile in order to relax.

'Sides, what's the worst that could happen? It's not like her kids were going to be whisked away by some foolish idiot or something.

Trailing behind the rather energetic Lilly, she walked in line with Scarlet. Occasionally she would stop to sip the Daiquiri that had been made for her along the journey. Bless this booze cart.

"Enjoying the view, Scarlet?"

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• by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Her mind had actually drifted off to set designs for an up-and-coming script involving some female horses and a lizard... all hanging out talking about friendship and magic-- that get too friendly. Or something. She hadn't gone to great lengths to read it all since it seemed to be written like some kind of bad fan fiction.

Mal's voice brought her out of her thoughts. "Mm? Oh.. it's nice enough I suppose. In a matronly way." Well... that could go multiple ways now couldn't it?

Scarlet took a breath. "I don't get you two though." she continued. "You're just so.. different..." her eyes narrowed towards Lilly. Yes, Scarlet hung out with airheads... but it was because they brought her money. Mal seemed to have no use for Lilly...

Idly her hand moved over to rest on Mal's lower back-- in a 'friendly' manner. "So what is it?" More prying.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Airhe- HEY.

Oh, let them take their time. They had seen where she was, after all, not need to make sure they were getting here. Having waved, she executed an open-armed spin and turned back to look at the ocean again, eyes bright.

Tell you what, this is a nice spot. Selecting a warm patch of sand right near the edge of the innermost waves, she took off her sarong and made herself comfortable, delighting in the feel of the water washing over her legs as she wrapped her arms around her knees happily.

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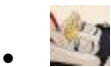


by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"We have a long history." Mal said smoothly, watching Lilly bounce around the beach like a wide-eyed Disney Princess. Truthfully, she didn't really have an explanation for why she hung around Lilly all this time, making active attempts to mend the broken trust that came from being, well, herself.

"Also she makes the most delicious picnic lunches." PRIORITIES.

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Scarlet laughed, genuinely. "Well, we all have to be good at something I suppose." She waved the servants on for them to go set up the chairs, towels and drink stand.

"But you know..." she said, watching Lilly from where they were. "Eventually... something will give and either she'll rub off on you, or you on her." Experience had

taught her as much. Scarlet trailed off and headed down towards the water, wanting to get her feet in the wet sand and surf.

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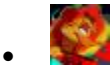
by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Well if it hasn't happened yet...

"Took the two of you long enough," she said cheerfully, aiming a playful splash at Scarlet should she get close enough to her, since she was heading for the water anyway. Oooh, it was so nice being half-out half-in. "The water's just lovely."

Malicia appeared to behind her, so it wasn't exactly feasible to turn her head all the way around to see her. Leaning back on her elbows, she looked at her friend upside-down. "What were you two talking about?"

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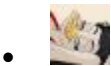


by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

Mal snorted. She had a hard time believing that. Even if she had recently balked on maiming children, and couldn't go through with hurting Darryl and Lilly. But that wasn't because of LILLY, right? Right??

"Shoes." She told Lilly with a firm smile, making her way up to the water as well. "You know, debating whether strap-up buckles are superior to slip-ons."

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

She lies so easily to her friends... something to keep in mind. For a moment she thought about calling Mal out on it and changing the subject to having been one much more... lascivious.

But she did not want to risk irritating the woman for the sake of hilarious discomfort.

"So hard to slip a buckle-up off in the throughs of passion." she said idly, returning Lilly's gentle splash. "Unless you like digging heels into mattresses...." but that ruined the mattress didn't it? And satin tore so easily...

Hm... she eyed Malicia's claws. Satin ripping...?

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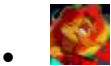


by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Bought it completely, didn't doubt Malicia for a moment. "That's nice. Oooh, come sit down, both of you. The sand is so cozy and comfortable." Taking her elbows out from under her, she leaned further until she was flat on her back, regarding the women above her with happy peace. "I might fall asleep right here. Oh Malicia, did you REALLY bring a drinks cart with you? Good grief, the pair of you. I don't even want to think about what you got up to in the five minutes I wasn't near you."

She meant in the field of drinking, obviously.

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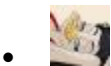
by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

She began coughing and spluttering, having choked on her Daiquiri at Lilly's innocuous comment.

"Y...yeah... can't go anywhere without a good, hard drink." She said, sitting down next to Lilly. She stretched her feet out, letting the tide wash in to tickle them.

She frowned. "Now my bikini is going to get wet."

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Brow raise in Malicia's general direction. All those rules, and Malicia was more likely to give herself away than anything Scarlet could possibly say or do. That was, if Lilly paid close enough attention... which Scarlet seriously doubt she did. Probably came with a

naturally accepting personality-- whereas Scarlet was the kind to always seek out alternative motives.

"You should be more concerned with sand entering certain crevasses." Scarlet chuckled softly, tossing her hair to the side and lowering herself down into the sand along with the other two women.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Looking vaguely concerned, Lilly reached over to pat Malicia on the back. "You've not really been well today, have you?" All that choking and going red and not feeling like doing things...

"Ah well. That's what we're here for. No pressures. No worries. No nasty surprises." It sounded wonderful. "And I've had a good look at the beach so I can always run away and hide from you for a day or so if something happens."

Joking, surely.

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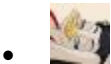
by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"I can handle whatever gets into my crevices, Scarlet." Smarmy grin.

Mal didn't catch the joke on Lilly's part, though.

"Are you really that afraid of me?" She frowned.

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Scarlet had to bite back on a comment about finding pearls in clams. Too obvious after all... but it was a zinger. Instead she fell silent, hearing the conversation take a suddenly serious turn from Malicia.

Poor women... one so meek and one so forthright. But it was theirs to figure out, so she simply busied herself by burying her feet in the sand.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Well... you know. Sometimes jokes are 95% truth dressed up as light-heartedness. She may never had said it if she wasn't feeling so relaxed by the water.

I can't burn this close to the ocean, right?

All the same, she was surprised. Mal usually never picked up on a comment like that. It might be why she had been getting more straightforward. She had assumed Mal never really paid attention to what she was saying.

Sitting back up, she propped herself on her hands and looked out over the ocean.

"Yes."

You tried to hurt my children because you were angry at me. I'd hoped we had an agreement where I was the only one who faced consequences for making you angry. I don't value myself enough for that to be a problem.

"Yes." And then, almost incidentally. "But I still want to be friends with you." Because you were kind. "But I'm confused and everyone is angry at me because of it." Because of the kids. I hate myself too.

"I try not to talk as much."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"B...But..." She stammered. "I don't understand, You spend time with me... you're here with me on a secluded island right now!" A motion to the lovely view around them.

Standing abruptly from her spot next to Lilly she paced back and forth. "I mean, *yes* I did kidnap and threaten to destroy all that you love but... I didn't. And nobody needed to stop me either! There was no Darkwing swooping in and saving the day or... or even Negs

couldn't talk me into it. I stopped it all on my own, because I couldn't do it! I *couldn't* hurt you or your children!"

For such a large, physically powerful woman, she was doing an awfully good impression of a kicked puppy right now.

Turning again to Lilly, she was nearly pleading. "What can I do to make things how they used to be?"

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• by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Oh just get a room already. Experience taught her, that was how you break tension in relationships.

Again though, she knew it wasn't her place and she wouldn't risk alienating either woman to voice her unrequested opinion. Back to staying out of it!

[Delete](#)



• by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

"It's alright when it's just me," she said quietly. "I'm not that important, it's okay if I get hurt." An opinion like that was also a reason certain people who loved her were angry at her. "And you always hurt me when I say things you don't like. So now I don't say them."

She wanted to explode, or cry or shake someone, but she didn't. She was past that. She was just stating the facts.

"I'm only telling you now because there's so much water here. And the children are so far away. You couldn't hurt us, but you wanted to, didn't you? And well, you've clawed and burned and strangled me before so not hurting me one time..."

It made you so happy to see me sob and scream. You burned my daughter and my son had nightmares and...

"I make myself sick for still coming here and wanting everything to be okay. For wanting you to be happy with me so you can still be kind to me and can pretend none of this ever happens. But I want things to be the same again so badly."

I'm still trying to speak quietly and calmly, maybe that will take longer for you to get angry.

Something about Malicia's behaviour struck her as odd, and she did something wholly unexpected. She smiled in amusement. How can I make things how they used to be?

"You can't." And why would you want to? You've never tried in all the times you've hurt me and I've been afraid of you. "That's just how it is now. No offense, but no matter how much I love you and how much you're kind to me, I'll always know," and to be fair I have always known, "that if I make you angry you'll hurt me again. And I'm keep coming back. And that's horrible and I can't stop it."

She blinked, as if suddenly aware of how much she'd said. Perhaps the sun and sea really was too relaxing. Perhaps she'd drifted off into her imagination and forgotten she was talking to the real Malicia. Her expression snapped into something tight and apologetic.

"I... I shouldn't have said all that. We're on holiday." But boy do I feel good. That's what holidays are all about, right?

Looking around helplessly for an out, she got to her feet. "I'll swim. That's good. Anyone want to swim? Just me? That's fine."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

Mal looked like she'd been slapped. It was, perhaps, the first time in a long time, if ever, that she was genuinely hurt. She *wanted* to be angry, to throw a massive tantrum and shout and yell and tell Lilly she was being an idiot. But all she felt was hurt. Here was the only person who ever really treated Mal with some sense of decency -- with friendship; and it had all but dissolved. Replaced only with fear and mistrust.

Clearly there was only one thing to be done in this situation.

She snapped her fingers, summoning the drink cart. Within moments, she had a handful of martinis, all carefully balanced in her arms and tail.

And then she left. Just wandered down the beach with her drinks, leaving a trail of empty glasses behind her.

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

This was one of those moments where a smarmy slow clap would probably be both appreciated and not. Moreso in the not category given current company-- which was kind of no one. *Well, this was a bust...*

For one, an upset Mal was not a fun Mal. For two, damnit, she drank the alcohol cart dry. And for three, Scarlet had a sneaking suspicion there was going to be nothing but endless apologies from Lilly once things set in.

With a sigh, Scarlet pushed herself up and brushed the sand off of the back of her legs. "Well, that's that I suppose." She knew better than to follow after Malicia. The hurt expression had been enough of a hint that she needed alone time, and she worried the demoness would cry on her shoulder... and ruin her expensive swim top. As for Lilly... Scarlet assumed her hasty escape for the water meant she needed time as well.

She turned to head in her own direction. Back to the villa... she was sure she could find something to occupy herself while the girls took their times cooling off.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Endless apologies? Not if she could help it. In fact, you know what? She felt wonderful! Terrified, sad that she had ruined the friendship that she wanted so hard to salvage and had endured so much anger from others over trying to do so. But... but sometimes you had to let go. She was very bad at letting go.

Malicia really did care for her. She knew this, somewhere deep down in her soul. The tron-splitter incident had shown her that and she had been unable to shake it. The only problem WAS that she also couldn't shake the idea that 95% evil Mal covered up that 5% of love. And she really did love her big friend, she just didn't know what to do anymore.

She'd intended to have this holiday (she really HAD needed it), and then drift away from Malicia a little until she could stop being so confused. She hadn't been sure how exactly she would do that, honestly. Frankly this had been the best place for it. Not the best time, but one couldn't help that.

Shaking her head, she dived into the water. She might have cried herself out, she wasn't sure with all the waves, but she felt very light, so she must have. And she swam and swam until she was utterly exhausted.

There was a touch-and-go moment, where she was almost too exhausted to swim back to shore, but she made it.

Good gracious, how long had it been? Ah well. Shaking out her hair, she stretched up to the sky and smiled. Right now there was no consequence. Right now everything was perfect. Right now she had run out of tears to cry.

Back to the villa. Pick up a drink. See if there's a library. Greet Scarlet in a friendly manner if she's nearby.

Don't apologise. Nobody wants to hear it. And there's no reason to.

[Delete](#)



• by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

Mal was not seen or heard from for the rest of evening. Eventually, in the wee hours of the morning, when the sun was rising, she crept her way back into the house. Miserable and hung-over, she slunk into her bedroom where she would remain asleep until the sun was beginning to set.

Her slumber would be restless and filled with nightmares. She was back at the scene, there was Lilly in the cage and there was Rosa in her claws.

Except this time, she dropped her. The child's screams echoed as she was consumed by the molten hot lava.

Then Lilly's face, swirling endlessly. Until it slowly morphed into a lamb. "I thought you loved me, Mal. Loved meeeeeee." The Lamb-lly bah'd.

She awoke in a terrible sweat. Holy crap. I am never drinking straight tequila before bedtime ever again.

She would eventually re-emerge -- first to shower herself off, of course, and then to approach the rest of their vacation head-on.

How she planned to deal with Lilly, however, remains to be seen.

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• by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Scarlet had been playing hostess to Lilly during Mal's absence. Although there was no official library, there was an office full of books that ranged from fishing guides to fantasy novels. There was also a badminton net set up, which Scarlet made Lilly play with her. Just because she needed something to do.

She'd hung out by the pool for most of the day after that, had lunch, and even chanced a quick peek to make sure Malicia was still alive. Her snores were proof enough.

Once the sun was setting, Scarlet excused herself to her room where she readied for bed, pulled out a blunt, and sat out on her balcony to smoke it.

It was rare that she partook in anything other than alcohol--which she also had in the form of whiskey, but hey, she was on vacation. She could afford such indulgences.

[Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

She was very grateful for the badminton match, though she hit the shuttlecock with more tennis violence than badminton grace. It still reminded her of home, and it was wonderful. Lilly had thanked Scarlet with one of her nearly-knock-down hugs, not really saying anything, before collecting as many books as she could carry and taking them to her room.

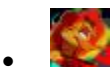
There would be no sleeping. She'd opened up the large windows to sit on the sill and read until the sun was down, then looked out over the beach. Once or twice she even slipped out of the window to walk, or run, or sit, everything was perfect and beautiful on the beach at night.

Look at that sunrise!

She may have seen Scarlet on a balcony, and she may have seen Malicia creeping home. Neither things really mattered when there was sunrise over the ocean. She was blissful, and that's how she would look at breakfast if anyone saw her. Blissful, dazed, clearly sleep-deprived, but calm and definitely not about to emotionally explode or break down into apologies, both rare events for her.

"Morning!"

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

Mal had decided to locate Scarlet first and foremost. Didn't want their hostess to think she was going soft or anything. She knew Scarlet had little time or interest in emotions and pesky feelings (and usually Mal could relate). So she wanted to clear the air and let her know things would proceed smoothly, as planned.

Lured in by the scent of smoke, she slipped on to the balcony behind Scarlet and leaned against the banister. The temperature outside was perfect, and the view was breathtaking.

"Can I have a hit?" She asked.

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

She didn't even need to look to know who it was. She held out her hand with the rolled cigar to Malicia, letting go of her last drag of smoke and watching as it curled and danced its way up into dissipation.

She then brought her tumbler of whiskey up to her mouth and took a drink. After a good swallow, she asked, "Will that even have an effect on you?"

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

Putting the blunt to her lips, she breathed in deeply, closing her eyes for a moment. When she exhaled, it emerged as a small plume of fire.

"Mhm." She said. "I don't dabble all too often, but sometimes when Negaduck isn't being a greedy lech, he allows me join him in a fun game of 'snort the mystery powder'. Well, he *did* until this one time we blacked out and woke up covered in glitter and cotton candy." She handed it back to Scarlet.

"And I can imagine you only use the finest. Only the best for you."

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

For a moment she looked as if she was going to ask... But then thought the better of it and took the blunt back from Malicia.

"Of course only the finest." She said, with a smirk. "I earned it." Another pull and another floating trail of smoke.

She was in no hurry to approach the Lilly subject. She'd opted to just let the two women settle things on their own. Less stress for her. She moved to take another sip of whiskey and paused, before offering the drink to Mal. "You haven't eaten all day. You can have the servants fix something up for you if you'd like."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"This makes for a good first meal." She grinned, taking a swig from the bottle. "Although after this smoking session, I'll most certainly be eating up something fierce. It gives me a *ravenous* appetite."

Said while staring at Scarlet's crotch in the least subtle way possible. Jeez, reign it in, Mal.

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Scarlet caught her gaze and returned the grin. "Ravenous for all manner of indulgences?" Another drag and she passed it off to Malicia as she stood up. She was relieved to see Malicia acting normal... To some degree. Was she normally so forthright?

Did it matter?

She stretched at length, it had been a long day of relaxing. She leaned against the railing, enjoying the gentle breeze that was kicking up around her hair. "Glad to see you up."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"Can't keep me down for long." She bragged, taking another toke. "I enjoyed a fine evening of drinking out on your lovely scenic island, and now I'm ready to enjoy the rest of my time here." Another puff.

"I've decided I'm no longer going to waste my time apologizing, or groveling. It's beneath me. I'm the bloody Demon Queen of St. Canard, and I've paid my dues in the goodie two-shoes category."

All villains get at least 1 "Abort evil plot" card, yeah?

"Now I'm ready to have some *real* fun."

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Laughter rang out. Clearly, Scarlet approved and took the whiskey to drink to it. "To the Demon Queen!"

Of course... She had to smirk at Malicia's title. As far as she knew there were no other female demons in St. Canard. So technically she was winner by default.

"Just be sure your evil plans don't involve blowing up my studio." She had finished off the glass and so she turned to head into her room for a refill. She still has no desire to tell Malicia about Negaduck yet... Enough drama had gone down. "You coming in? You look like you could go for something raunchy."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"Already added to my list, right next to the spa and shoe store locations." Yes, there was a list. Even villains have to be methodical when it comes to terrorizing the city!

Oddly enough, some of the keener citizens had figured this out. A few of the finest shoe stores were used as 'bomb shelters' by the locals when the demonness was out on a rampage. At least they got to cower among bedazzled boots and fabulous heels instead of a cement prison.

She grinned wickedly at Scarlet's invitation to the bedroom. "I *have* worked up an appetite..."

The next morning, Mal entered the kitchen to Lilly's greeting with a casual, "Good morning." She was in a rather good mood herself -- post-coital activities and pot were a lovely pick-me-up after an emotional roller-coaster.

Seating herself at the table, her eyes scanned the array of food. Where to start? Perhaps just with everything.

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

No longer going to waste time apologYOU CAN'T STOP WHAT NEVER STARTS.

Phew. Sorry. The narrator had a little moment there. She's been brought back under control.

"Pancakes. Chocolate chip," she said gently, not looking up from her book. It's your favourite. Just because I said all that doesn't mean I don't remember a lot of things.

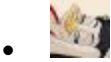
Malicia might have been hurt and upset by yesterday's exchange but on examining her own feelings closely, Lilly found she was neither of those things. She had been enough of them already, because of Mal. Neither did nor had she felt spiteful during it, and she didn't feel any particular triumph over her friend for doing so.

... what we're leading up to is that Lilly was acting completely normal. No apologies, no cringing, no attempts to make it up to people (wait, that was normal?). As far as she was concerned (and this was weirdly a very Malicia mindset to tackle this with, if Mal had gone the Lilly route of being deeply hurt), she had gotten the obvious truth out in the open, and now they could all move on and continue life as it was.

(Let's be honest, there had been a while where she wanted to run back and apologise etc but this was ultimately making her much happier and less emotionally drained which was rare and wonderful.)

(Brackets.)

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by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Scarlet came down a moment later, looking ruffled. Very ruffled. Immensely ruffled.

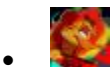
And like she hadn't slept much.

Huh... wonder what could have caused that?

She muttered a greeting and reached for the orange juice. Further mutterings about lactic acid build up, and partial dehydration before she began chugging her drink.

Man.. *vacations!*

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"Good morning Scarlet, sleep well?" Cheeky pleasantries: always a blast. She was piling a small tower of pancakes onto her plate and drowning them in maple syrup.

By all accounts, Mal seemed perfectly normal around Lilly. It wasn't so much that she was denying or pretending nothing had happened, but that she had processed the emotions and was well over it now.

Well, there was a subtle difference. Mal so often fawned over and fixated on Lilly; trying to coax her out of her shell and have fun -- after all, it was that particular habit of hers that led to Lilly's present existence on the island, not to mention a previous foray through time and space, and a front-page spot on a pornographic magazine.

But there would be no more of that. No more fussing and affection, or attempts to influence the quiet bookstore owner. Lilly had, effectively, been ousted from the circle of closeness Mal had kept her in for so long.

Guess Scarlet had been right after all: They were two entirely different people, and something had to give eventually. But the question of who rubbed off on who, remained unanswered...

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

In retrospect, Malicia had tried...

Lilly would be lying if she said she didn't feel any twinges of regret for what she was sure was something that could never be returned from. For once in her life Malicia had given her an opening to ask for what SHE wanted out of this friendship, and she was too tired to take it. Sadly... she simply didn't trust Malicia to adhere to anything she might have suggested. Maybe for a little while, as long it suited her, or until she forget, or grew bored...

That had been a poisoning fear of Lilly's from the beginning, even before everything else. Maybe it was because of the way their friendship had started, but in these many years she had settled very firmly in her mind that Malicia only kept her around, only invited her to places, because she was convenient. She was there, unlikely to argue, less likely to make her angry, willing to boost her ego by being talked at, and that made her a viable accessory to take out when the demoness couldn't find someone better.

She had been totally, utterly convinced of that for a very long time. Grateful for even that much. And she had always been afraid her friend would get bored of her.

Hearing that Malicia actually valued her in some way (they had had that strange, strained conversation) directly after confirming all her fears that she was only allowed to exist as long as she had no opinions, had been painful and confusing, not knowing if it was just the emotion of the moment, and also desperately hopeful.

Being ousted completely was also going to be painful. But at least it wouldn't be confusing.

"You both look exhausted," she commented lightly, flipping a page. "I saw the light on all night." Granted I don't know why it was on, I'm assuming you both talked shop. "Try the coffee, it's excellent."

[Delete](#)



by [Scarlet](#) 2 months ago

Oh yes. Talked shop. Checking lubricant levels and doing some heavy lifting to get to undercarriages. There may have even been a wrench or two used.

Scarlet threw a strawberry at Mal's cheeky cheek. It was all she could muster. She then eyed the food in front of her and reached out to grab some toast and jam.

"Coffee stunts your growth and dries you out." And moisture was important. As she

spread the jam over the bread, she noted Lilly seemingly hiding behind her book... then something clicked. "Wait... what were you doing looking at my window?"

She immediately dropped her knife and leaned in, pulling Lilly's book down. "Aw..." she said, with a grin. "Don't tell me you're falling in *love* with me? It was only badminton." she teased-- in normal Scarlet fashion.

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 2 months ago

"What's there not to love?" Mal caught the strawberry and popped it in her mouth. "You certainly know how to spoil us girls, that's for sure."

The Leaning Tower of Pancake was immediately inhaled, and washed down with a drink. Leaning back in her chair, Mal let out a small burp and patted her belly.

"Not that I mind being spoiled, of course."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 2 months ago

Obligatory sputtering for a second there.

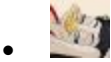
She realised Scarlet was just joking quickly enough, although once she did, she still look embarrassed about something.

"Oh... no, that wasn't why. I was just. Um. A little worried. It had gotten awfully late and we'd all separated. I hadn't seen all of us... come home."

One specific person she hadn't seen come home until early morning. She'd been checking... but at least Mal got there in the end.

"But! Agreed, you've been very good to us," she added, glad to move the conversation down another avenue. "And aside from that, what's not to admire about someone with a strong personality who does what they like? I'll always admire that." In both of you. Can't deny that, I've always been a bit envious.

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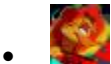
by [Scarlet](#) 1 month ago

Scarlet settled back to finish jellying her toast. "It isn't like we can get lost on this island. It isn't that big. And the guys know it well."

She took a bite of her crunchy breakfast and sat back, chewing for a moment. Lilly was correct... there was a lot to admire. She took a sip of her juice.. urgh. She was just not feeling awake yet. "I am going to go nap..." but you just woke up...?

She stood up, lumbering her way for pool side. She didn't seem to care that she was only in a loose robe, she was gonna go crash on a beach chair and sleep in the sun.

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 1 month ago

Mal grinned mischievously at Scarlet's mysterious 'fatigue', watching the lithe, undressed duckette as she dragged herself away to get a few winks.

Turning her attention back to Lilly and, more importantly, the breakfast food, she resumed shoveling down her meal. There wasn't much else to say to her (former?) best friend. She was by no means acting cold, but there was an odd silence between the two, filled only by the sounds of the occasional "Omnomnom."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 month ago

Lilly knotted her brow in confusion as Scarlet left. "Bad night? I hope she's not gotten sick from all the seafood." I feel fine but that doesn't mean others would be.

"Did you sleep at all?" casual question, eyes still on her book, trying hard to press down the obvious worry she usually displayed. She was sure Malicia wouldn't want mixed signals like that, no matter how confused Lilly was herself. "Not throwing up lobster all night?" You did eat a lot of it.

Not that health mattered. She hadn't been sick but she hadn't slept either.

[Delete](#)



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by [Scarlet](#) 1 month ago

Totally ungraceful flop onto the chair and Scarlet was out for the count. *When did I get so out of shape...?*

[Delete](#)



•

by [Malicia](#) 1 month ago

"Oh goodness no, I even snuck in a few clams after bedtime. They were delicious." Hurr hurr hurr.

Watching their host from the window with an amused smirk she continued. "But perhaps Scarlet just had too much of a good thing..."

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by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 month ago

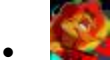
"I can understand that. It's such a lovely place, it's hard not to overindulge in things," she commented.

Then there was what would have been an awkward silence, if both women were not refusing to admit it would ever be awkward because they were FINE thank you. For Mal's part, it was probably because she was telling herself that she didn't care and it was not at all like she, the powerful demon queen, was hurt at all. For Lilly's part it was because she still wanted to be friendly, the idea had just been to get everything out in the open so they both knew where they stood.

Admittedly, not even the narrator knows how that was supposed to work but at least it was cathartic?

"Well, you seem to be getting along better with the ocean than assumed. I thought you didn't like it, Mal?"

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 1 month ago

"I don't, but I do like islands with booze, food, and hot people." She smirked. "Even if that means having to put up with the water around it."

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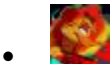
by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 month ago

"Well, whether you like water or not, I'm glad you took me along to experience it," she said, smiling, but at her book. "No matter how much I objected to it. So thank you."

I'd say I don't thank you enough, but the need to has come up very few times, in my opinion.

"They restocked the bar with your favourites. Not sure where they're getting it all from."

[Delete](#)



by [Malicia](#) 1 month ago

Raised brow. Was Lilly dipping into the booze too? She went from simultaneously telling Mal that their friendship was essentially over due to unresolvable trauma, and now she's *thanking* her for doing what Mal always does: Dragging Lilly around against her will.

Sheesh, mixed signals happening here woman.

She didn't bother to ponder it for long though, because the mention of restocked faves was brought up next.

"Just in time for a breakfast drink! By the by, do you get the local news on your phone? I want to know what foolishness Negs has gotten into in my absence. Probably gave an entire brothel the clap again."

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)



by [Lilly Teal](#) 1 month ago

Well, there was no harm in being polite, right? Everything aside, this holiday did deserve genuine thanks, and she was not going to skimp.

"I admit this is probably a bad time to start thanking you, but I thank everyone when I think it needs to be done," she shrugged, trying to explain mixed signals even she didn't know what to do with.

"Mmm... I'm not sure. I haven't used it since I got here. You're welcome to check, though. Here."