

The Prison Instruments



By [Negaduck](#) 497 days ago [Comments \(71\)](#)

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Follow on/side scene to the Portal Instruments. Reserved for Negaduck, Ariana and Morgana Macawber at this stage. Any questions hit me up. Literally is fine.

It was dark, stormy night... No, actually, as dramatic as that would have been, it wasn't. A soft spring morning, the breeze rolling pleasantly through the suburban streets of St Canard, right past a house that looked entirely out of place.

The Macawber Mansion. Nobody had questioned how it had suddenly appeared on a vacant lot; judging from the exterior, nobody had dared. Besides, council zoning laws could be so tricky.

On this day, however, there were two, perhaps emboldened by the sunny surrounds, or by something else altogether, that pushed up through the formidable iron gates, the garden of thorns, the ancient stairs, and all common sense.

And rang the doorbell.

Not the knocker. The caller(s) were not (entirely) stupid.



[Morgana Macawber](#) 497 days ago

Morgana was laying luxuriously on her couch, chocolate dipped morels on one side, and the latest volume of Mystic Vampire Romance held delicately in her long fingers.

It was nice... having time to read. No villains, heroes, or inter dimensional beings bursting in at random hours of the day or night. Just her... her treats... her book...

Aaaaaaaaroooooooooooo00000

The doorbell. Morgana let out a soft huff. "Probably some vacuum salesman..." she shook her head as she came to stand. "When will these mortals learn that a long trunked cauldron boar is much more efficient than any machine..."

Fixing a polite smile, and ready to turn away whomever was ringing, Morgana pulled her door open. "Good afternoon..."



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 492 days ago

Ariana felt knots in her stomach while she waited with Negaduck. Would Morgana be happy to see her? Would she be angry over the fact that they hadn't communicated in two years? The door croaked open, and her sister was there.

She felt her resolve waver, and she was filled with fear and happiness and anxiety all at once.

"H-hello...Morgana," she stammered meekly.



[Negaduck](#) 491 days ago

Negaduck, on the other hand, knew precisely how happy the red-clad witch would be to see him.

Strategically placed hand on Ariana's back for 'reassurance', combined with his friendliest of smiles.

Yeah. *Hi* Morg.



[Morgana Macawber](#) 485 days ago

Well, the clearest emotion that showed in her face was surprise... At both visitors.

"Ariana..." She said dazed, but then a gentle smile crossed her features. "How lovely to see you. Come in, come in." She stepped back to let the blonde duckette in. "Wow, we have so much to talk about-- and *you--*" to Negaduck now, "go drown yourself in Audobon Bay."

She might be on a break with Darkwing but Morgana was not silly enough to ever overlook, or excuse the villain for his past transgressions. She had tried that one before.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 485 days ago

Ariana felt relief flood through her, and she let out a breath she didn't even realize she'd been holding. She started to move into the house, but paused at Morgana's angry demand of her friend.

"But Morgana...we came here together...Negaduck - he's my friend..."



[Negaduck](#) 484 days ago

Friend. Right. Now there was a word that usually had no business being associated with Negaduck in any capacity. Unless it was on a FriendSeeker Missile 3000.

Today though, he was playing peacemaker.

Emphasis on playing...

"Now Morgana, I know an apology is probably in order after our last meeting." Adding, "Which I'm sure you'll give in due course. That's not, however, what this is about."

Let's just sneak that little knife twist in there, like Morgana would fail to notice it.

"I'm here for Ariana."

With no hidden agendas or sneaky business whatsoever.



[Morgana Macawber](#) 484 days ago

"You were here for Ariana. Thank you for that." Oh... oh the coldness behind her tone.

"We have a lot of catching up to do, and surely you can understand why a *family* reunion such as this, is not your taste." The tall duckette stepped out now, ushering Ariana into her home. Dismissive was the word of the day... though if Negaduck kept pushing his luck, it would change to electrocution.



[Negaduck](#) 484 days ago

But pushing his luck was exactly what Negaduck was there for.

Not taking the ice cold hint, like he ever had, the felon reached past her to try and catch Ariana by the hand.

Nuh uh. This was a package deal.

"Tastes can change, can't they?"

Surely Morgana of all people couldn't point fingers on that account.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 484 days ago

Ariana tried to reach back for Negaduck as Morgana practically pushed her inside. "B-but Morgana!"

SLAM.

From inside, Ariana looked worriedly at the now closed door. "Why can't he come inside? I don't understand; he needs our help!"



[Morgana Macawber](#) 484 days ago

Morgana sighed and leaned against the door. She was grateful she didn't have to get violent... Negaduck usually required a heavy hand.

"Ariana, the only thing he needs from us is our abilities." She straightened and walked over to her sister, reaching out to gently bring her into a hug. "Let's go sit down and I can explain a little bit better."



[Negaduck 484 days ago](#)

Outside the door which had so narrowly missed his beak, Negaduck gave a huff. Not at being banished outside like a dirty dog.

She was meant to have zapped him, damnit!

Would've played much stronger into his pity party. Oh well, would have to work with what he had.

While Morgana was no doubt trying to talk some sense into her long lost sister - a noble endeavour, one the criminal gave at best a 50/50 chance of success - Negaduck swung over the balustrade and onto the mossy ground of the estate below.

Unlike his purple-caped counterpart, Negaduck was at ease in the spooky surroundings. He knew from experience not to underestimate the house, or its hot-tempered owner. But he had barged into the manor before, and he would do it again!

The question was, where?

Re-familiarising himself with the entry points around the side of the house, he considered which approach was most likely to land him in Morgana's supplies cupboard. For all their banging on about 'Normals', they did have some rather normal habits.

Ah, basement.

And somebody had left a skeleton arm lying around he could use to pry off the grill, would you look at that! How very.. humerus.

Hefting it up, he applied it with expert efficiency to the window's latching.

"Nothing like a little break and enter to make a crook feel quite at home." Chuckling, tossing the bone off once the metalwork gave way. "Even when it's somebody else's!"



[DarkwingPsycho 484 days ago](#)

Ariana returned the hug tightly. This...this was what she had hoped for when she finally did reunite with Morgana. But she couldn't be whole-heartedly in the conversation. Knowing Negaduck was outside and either angry or sad at being excluded tugged at her heartstrings.

"What do you mean?" she questioned, following her sister into the parlor room. "He's only ever asked me to do one thing for him, and it was for a good purpose..." She hesitated, recalling that horrid torture room. "At least...I think it was..."



[Morgana Macawber](#) 482 days ago

"The very fact you are questioning it proves he was likely using you." She gave Ariana a sad look. "I speak from experience, I'm afraid..." Her voice was heavy with sadness at that... she was not proud at all over the face that Negaduck had manipulated her before.

If she could stop it from happening to her sister, she would.

Morgana picked up her book and motioned for Ari to sit down with her. "What is it he had you do, anyway?"



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 482 days ago

"Well, I don't know, I think there's something in there that can be better," Ariana thought aloud. It was good not only to see her sister again, but to have her to rationalize with. She raised a brow. "What do you mean 'from experience'?"

She sat next to her sister. "Open a portal to the Negaverse..."



[Morgana Macawber](#) 481 days ago

"There is not." Morgana assured gently.

"He has his own access to the Negaverse. I don't see why he needed you..." Unless he was testing Ariana's gullibility. "And ports to the negaverse need to be limited. He should not even be here. We both know the dangers of multidimensional travel." It was elementary teachings in the supernatural world.

"Negaduck tried to get me to use my magic and help him in a candy, diamond scheme. He had me convinced he had reformed his villainy." A sigh, she had been foolish.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 477 days ago

Ariana raised an eyebrow. "What do you mean he has his own access? He said that Darkwing Duck destroyed his access...I know the dangers of opening unregulated doors between worlds, but...he has a daughter over there."

Morgana's last statements made Ariana recall the conversation she and Negaduck had had in the torture room she'd discovered. He didn't want to change... "He won't," she said. "Reform, I mean. But I think...I think if we could only convince him, he could."



[Negaduck 477 days ago](#)

No reforming going on downstairs.

Slipping in through the window like the reptile from whence his colours and general nature came, Negaduck had landed successfully in Morgana's basement.

... with a bit of an embarrassing crash onto some sort of cactus wart but nobody was around so let's pretend that never happened.

Surveying the goods, the villain removed a tiny prick from his jacket and got back to business.

Look at all those huge chests! How could he possibly resist a gleeful hand rub of evil?

"Now *this* is definitely to my tastes."

Sure, the chances of him finding the magical metal they had come there for in his careless rummaging about were next to none. But the chances of him finding something else substantially more dangerous was very, very good (or bad, depending on your perspective)!

If there was one thing Negaduck irrefutably had a talent for, it was finding trouble.



[Morgana Macawber 474 days ago](#)

She shook her head slightly, reaching out to touch Ariana's hand.

"There is no kind way to say this. He is not a good person, and he only uses. No amount of convincing will change that." Then her expression softened and she smiled.

"Let's address it later... I am more interested in you. It's been two years, what have you been up to? And how on earth did you wind up here in St. Canard?" While Morgana was ignorant to the prowler below, a certain pair of little bats were startling awake from their little roost.

Intruder.

In a flurry of squeaks, the pair of bats spazmatically began fluttering and heading for the staircase that would lead up to the main house.

Must warn mistress!



[Negaduck 474 days ago](#)

The cacophony of eels and squeaks was hard to miss, and the not-at-all-good person's head popped out of the pile of treasures he had been rummaging through.

"Oh no you don't!"

Discarding a Borgin and Burkes elegantly engraved opal necklace and a brass teapot, Negaduck zoomed up the stairs, managing to overtake them in his urgency.

"Come here you flying dust balls!"

That was quite a leap. Reflexes like a cat. All anyone had to do though was YouTube 'cat fails' to see that was no guarantee of success.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 473 days ago

Grateful for the change in topic, Ariana mirrored her sister's smile. "Oh! W-well...since graduation, I...I went to Duckburg," she said, purposely skipping over the part where she and Moloculo had gotten into a huge argument and he had had her banished. If Morgana didn't know, she'd rather not have something else to disappoint her sister with.

"I worked at a movie studio for a couple of years, then..." She shifted uncomfortably, remembering how her co-worker had slammed through a wall. "Well, that didn't work out, so I...I came here. I'd forgotten this was where you ended up! How did your pizza business go??"



[Morgana Macawber](#) 470 days ago

A pair of twin screeches sounded out as the flying dust balls banked hard to avoid getting caught. For just being bats, they were smart... Eek went one way, Squeak the other.

But their goal was pretty clear. Negaduck's entrance now became their exit since he was blocking the staircase.

Meanwhile, upstairs, Morgana nodded while listening to Ariana. "Uh, well..." she put a finger to her bill. "That went... as well as to be expected. Quite well actually. But... it didn't last. I dissolved the company a long time ago." She waved it off. "And right now I am just working on cooking. Normals really do have a fondness for our cuisine."

She then settled back. "I haven't been to Duckburg yet. And a movie studio! How exciting! Did you do any acting?"



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 470 days ago

"R-really? They like our food?" Then she shifted uncomfortably a second time. "N-no, I didn't act. It was...drawings. Animation. I...designed some things for them."

She paused. "Do you hear something?"



[Negaduck](#) 470 days ago

Foop.

The sound of a net thrown over the two flying friends.

"Gotcha!" As satisfying as that was, it wouldn't be the end of it. "Now, where to stick you so you don't drive me batty while I get what I want?"

Oh, a cauldron. Ready to go, presumably for brewing of potions. How nicely convenient.

Yet that smile was anything but nice...

"Ah hah, here we go." Cramming the two of them in, net and all.

And whacking a gargoyle statue on top of the lid, just in case.

And, on thinking about it, striking a match to light her up.

"Bat soup ought to go with Morgana's usual cuisine perfectly!" A nasty chuckle, and back Negaduck went to rummaging. Undisturbed, this time.



[Darkwing Duck 470 days ago](#)

Or so he thought.

DING DONG

His hated nemesis stood just outside, a bouquet of black roses behind his back.



[Morgana Macawber 470 days ago](#)

Morgana tilted her head to listen, and then flinched when the doorbell rang.

"Oh for...." she stood up and made her way towards the door. "Negaduck--" she started before even opening the door. "I told you this is **family bus**--" Door swung open rather abruptly, only for Morgana to be left standing and staring.

Oh... this was not Negaduck...

[Darkwing Duck 470 days ago](#)

Darkwing blinked, then remembered the flowers. "Morgana!" he said dramatically. "I know you said we should take a break, but I couldn't resist coming by and..." sniff, sniff "smelling your..." upturned bill "perfume...?"

He suddenly thrust the roses into her hands and took off around the side of the house. "Hold these!"

He followed the odd scent to a smashed window on the side of the old house. "That smell's coming from the basement! That's either the next soup of the day for the Chateau, or...!" He climbed in through the window and fell flat on his face. "An intruder!" he mumbled heroically into the dust.



[Negaduck 470 days ago](#)

A red-hatted head popped up from the middle of a pile of sacks. And spotted Darkwing.

"Ah cripes...!"

So he did what any nefarious felon would do and fled. Throwing a couple of magical odds and sods behind him to hold the vigilante back.

Since his enemy, however dazed, was blocking the window, the only option was a mad scramble up the stairs.

If he managed to get that far.



[Darkwing Duck 470 days ago](#)

Darkwing was just starting to dust himself off when he heard his double's voice. "Ah HA!" he cried. "Negaduck! I might have known!" He started running after the villain only to be hit with an orb that turned him pink, and a rusted metallic claw that bit into his arm. "Ye-ouch!" He flapped ridiculously as he continued in pursuit.

"Hold it right there, you cantankerous cat burglar!" He picked up a pouch of some kind of powder and flung it at Negaduck's back.



[DarkwingPsycho 470 days ago](#)

"Who was it? Negaduck?" Ariana said, coming up from behind Morgana. Then she noticed the flowers. "Oh! How pretty...!"



[Negaduck 470 days ago](#)

Negaduck was already halfway up the first flight of stairs when the effect hit, and POOF!

He was turned into a huge.. organ?

A pipe organ that was, one that had no business being mid-climb up anything, and really needed to be bolted to the floor.

"BWAAAHH!" exclaimed the Negaorgan intelligently before gravity caught his immense weight and sent him toppling head over keyboard.

All the way down, in a bluster of notes that sounded vaguely like Beethoven's 5th, before once again landing in the basement on whatever - or whomever - happened to be in the way.



[Darkwing Duck 470 days ago](#)

The hero didn't have time to be smug, because now he was in the direct line of the falling instrument. "Yikes!" He immediately turned and started racing back toward the window. If he had thought in his panic to dodge sideways, he would have, but as it turns out, he reached the wall and turned, just in time to be slammed against it by the horrible Nega-organ. "Ouchie..."



[Morgana Macawber 469 days ago](#)

Morgana simply stood there. Mouth agape. Confusion apparent...

Ariana's voice interrupted her moment. "Ah, oh, no. It wasn't..." She looked down at the flowers. "It was--" the sudden thundering of Beethoven's fifth coming from her basement "oh for Dracula's sake!" She put the flowers on the side table next to the door and went for her basement door.

She threw open the door and began to glide down the stairs. "Why are you in my basement, Dark?" She stopped at the last step, flicking on the light. "And where did this tacky looking organ come from? And..." A sniff. "WHY IS THE CAULDRON LIT?!"

So many weird things... So many interruptions. She was losing her cool.



[Darkwing Duck 469 days ago](#)

"Morgana!" Darkwing gasped, shoving the heavy organ just enough to squeeze through. "I can explain! It's --"

((OOO: Short one to let Negs explain himself, lol.))



[Negaduck 469 days ago](#)

It was about that point the magic wore off, and the organ shrunk back to its usual Negasize.

Leaving the other masked mallard sprawled embarrassingly on the floor, burbling a bad rendition of 'Deck the Halls'.

At the sound of Morgana's voice, however, his black masked eyes shot open.

This was bad. Very bad.

And wherever Morgana was, Ariana was likely not far behind.

Such a look was not going to be any good for his case.

"It's been a witching good time but--"

Lunging for the window, dramatic escape it was!

"Later!"

Hah, and not even time for Darkwing to *bat* an eyelid!
((OOC: Or not ;) Why explain when you can run?))



[Darkwing Duck](#) 469 days ago

"Oh no you don't, you repulsive reprobate!" Darkwing leapt up to snatch Negaduck's cape and yanked him back inside. He pulled a belt from an old dress and tied Negaduck's hands behind his back. "Let's see you pilfer anything NOW."



[Morgana Macawber](#) 469 days ago

"Negaduck! I TOLD you to... URGH!" she snapped her fingers and the fire under the cauldron poofed out. The gargoyle on top then floated easily to the floor and Morgana made her way over to remove the lid.

As soon as it was up, two bright red bats came shooting out, screeching in pain, little steam trails following as they bolted past the sorceress, out the door, and into the kitchen where they both dove into a sink full of water that some vegetables had been soaking in.

Twin "aaaaahs..." rang out followed by sizzles.

Downstairs, Morgana rounded on the duel drakes. "**You tried to cook my friends?**" she asked, eyes boring directly into Negaduck.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 469 days ago

Ariana rushed over to make sure the bats were okay, having seen them bolt into the kitchen, then she followed the sound of Morgana's fury into the basement.

"Morgana? What's going..." Her eyes fell on Negaduck and Darkwing. "...here?" Then she narrowed her eyes at Darkwing. "What are you doing? Untie him!"



[Negaduck](#) 469 days ago

The growly snarly fury at having been restrained was quickly replaced by pure desperation to get away from Morgana's own.

"I didn't know they had fallen in there!" If only Darkwing wasn't holding him! He could wiggle out of that stupid belt in a second!

Wide pleading (and lying) eyes flicked over to Ariana, then back to Morgana, obviously the more imminent threat.

"I uh was worried you girls would get hungry during your chat, so I was preparing you a delicious meal!" Thrashing about because even he knew Morgana wasn't that stupid. "I try to do something nice for a change, and you treat me like I'm some kind of criminal!"

So he didn't stand a chance convincing them, but Ariana...



[Morgana Macawber](#) 468 days ago

"Ariana, this is what I was talking about." She said, gesturing towards the tied up drake. "He snuck in and tried to hurt Eek and Squeak." A pause.

"Why were you even down here?" she asked Negaduck now. "You were not invited in." Proof that he had, indeed broken in.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 468 days ago

"We need something to help in the Negaverse," Ariana explained, glossing over the whole breaking-and-entering thing. "A Tartarus key, or at least the same type of metal it was made from. I'm sure he was just trying to find some...please, Morgana. He's desperate."



[Darkwing Duck](#) 468 days ago

"Yeah," Darkwing countered sardonically. "Desperately depraved!" He pulled tighter on the restraints. "Don't let this larcenous liar delude you! Whatever he wants, you can be sure it's for some dastardly deed!"



[Negaduck](#) 468 days ago

"Ergh!" Squirming in the sort of agony normally only experienced by football players.

A flash of embarrassment, brokenness and otherwise damn good acting up at the only one who dared vouch for him. "Forget it, Ariana. They won't even open the door for me, there's no chance they'll open their hearts!"

Fair enough too, knowing his fondness for cadavers.



[Morgana Macawber](#) 467 days ago

"Oh give it a break, Negaduck." Morgana said, her lids lowering gently. "The fact you didn't ask, and chose to steal instead proves my point." Not that she would have given it anyway.

"Come on Ariana, show me which way Eek and Squeak went?" she reached out to place her hand on

Ari's shoulder, trying to direct her away from Negaduck. "We can figure out what to do once we are sure they are okay."



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 467 days ago

Ariana wriggled away from Morgana. "Not until you untie him!" she said stubbornly to Darkwing. "He shouldn't have come inside like this, but that's no reason to treat him this way!"



[Darkwing Duck](#) 467 days ago

"Fine," Darkwing scowled, obviously not liking this arrangement. He loosened the belt, then glowered at his double. "But if you try anything, I'll dropkick you into next Tuesday!"



[Negaduck](#) 467 days ago

Standing, Negaduck rubbed the chafe marks around his wrists.

Oh he'd get Darkwing back for that. That and all the other times he had spoiled his fun.

But first--

"Dropkick *this!*"

Taking advantage of the slightest moment of ceasefire to kick his double and shatter a glass bottle dramatically on the floor.

Granted, he didn't know what it did. Just another item he had pilfered away in his jacket. But the resulting cloud of magic was enough to do its job, namely cover for his escape.

And, not feeling the need to wait for a farewell party, he was gone.



[Darkwing Duck](#) 467 days ago

"Ye-ouch!" Darkwing yelped, hopping up and down from the direct hit. Then, once the villain was gone, he took the chance to glare at Ariana. "Oh perfect. This is exactly what I DIDN'T want to have happen. Who KNOWS what that pilfering pickpocket purloined and where he's evaporated to?"



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 467 days ago

"I do," Ariana said firmly, with a touch of hurt. "I know *exactly* where he's gone." She started to head back upstairs. "Eek and Squeak are in the kitchen," she added for her sister's sake.



[Morgana Macawber](#) 466 days ago

"Dark." Morgana said, much sharper than she planned. "It isn't like we haven't all been played by him..." Herself included. If he did not watch his tone, he'd inadvertently be insulting her as well. She then went after Ariana, sighing in defeat. No calm evening for her.

"Ariana" Morgana said, once they reached the top of the stairs. "Just tell us where he went. We can take it from there. Negaduck isn't someone to be trifled with... *Oh my babies!*" catching sight of her poor, pitiful looking bats, Morgana rushed over and scooped them out of the water.

"Did he hurt you badly?" she asked with a pout, before commencing in smooching the little creatures. "We'll get some salve on you right away. A bit of eye of newt and frogs breath will get you both back to your normal selves in no time. I'll even toss in some tentacle bits as a treat."



[Darkwing Duck](#) 466 days ago

Darkwing narrowed his eyes, affronted. "Oh, so this is *my* fault now? I take time away from crimefighting to see you, and this is the thanks I get?" He was following her up the stairs, but did not detour into the kitchen. "Well, *sorry* to cut and run, but I've got a public enemy to punish."

[DarkwingPsycho](#) 466 days ago

Ariana turned to respond to Morgana, but was cut off by Darkwing's rather dramatic exit. He hadn't even waited for her to give any information. She scowled, then said icily, "Lilly Teal's bookshop..."

She stalked out of the door soon after Darkwing, although she wasn't tagging along with him by any means. She was determined to confront Negaduck herself. She'd get her chance sooner rather than later.

((OOC: So sorry, I can't recall the actual name of the shop!))



[Morgana Macawber](#) 465 days ago

And that left Morgana... Standing there with a dripping wet pair of bats.

Sigh.

"Let's get you two set up." She said, turning to head to her apothecary. "I'll have to track those two down later..." She highly doubted that Negaduck would be that easy to find... he likely knew that Ariana knew where he would be.

Besides... she could magic herself there quickly if necessary.



[Negaduck](#) 465 days ago

It was on the way to the shop that a hand would reach out and yank a passing Ariana into the darkness of a park.

"Great work, toots!" For his elation, Negaduck was more focused on checking around for any sign she had been tailed.

Thankfully he knew exactly the sorts of clues to send Darkwing scouting in the opposite direction, but a supervillain could never be too paranoid.

"You distracted those mooks perfectly! With what I got my hands on, we'll be able to head back to Negaverse and complete the last step of the plan."

Never for a moment considering maybe she had reconsidered her part in it.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 465 days ago

She pushed him away. "What are you *talking* about? One of those *mooks* was my *sister* whom I haven't seen in *two years*. And you *stole from her*! Not only that, you *left* after I vouched for you!" Normally she would shy away from confrontation and seethe quietly in her anger, but she was too upset to keep it in. She had thought things could be different, that *he* could be different. But he had made a fool of her instead.



[Negaduck](#) 465 days ago

"Hah I totally did, how fantastic was it."

Too preoccupied with the shiny in his clutches to feign a conscience. It was a metallic cube, with symbols on it similar to what he had seen in the book on the Tartarsauce Key or whatever. This had to be good!

Because now was a good point to indulge in a little maniacal glee, "With you on my side, nobody will stop me!"

Wait, was he talking about Ariana.. or the magic?



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 464 days ago

And suddenly the cube was gone. Ariana had snatched it angrily out of Negaduck's hand while he was enraptured by his own handiwork. She held it tightly in her fist and shook it at him.

"NO ONE is going to 'be by your side' if you keep acting like this! You LEFT me, you insulted my FAMILY! How am I supposed to believe you care about me at ALL? Why should I help you anymore?"



[Negaduck 464 days ago](#)

Well that got his attention. YOINK!

"HEY!"

Let's not indignify ourselves with too many futile leaps to retrieve it.

"You shouldn't! I'm a terrible person!" Thought, you know, the giant torture room had already let that drowning cat out of the bag.

"The only reason I'm bothering with this whole non-violent solution is for you!" Not strictly true; he doubted Narmonizer would be on board for a permanent end to her Bushy friend, but minor point.

Turning away grumbling, arms folded, like he could turn his back on that embarrassing outburst.

"Bah, this is what a mallard gets for *trying* to change..."
Back to the guillotine with that plan then.



[DarkwingPsycho 464 days ago](#)

She looked at him doubtfully, but her body language eased up. She eyed him scrutinizingly. "I'm keeping this. And I want you to apologize to Morgana when she's not so angry. If you *really* want to make changes for me, we can start with not *stealing things*." She stalked past him and continued toward the bookstore.



[Negaduck 464 days ago](#)

"But I'm so good at it!" he protested, following her inside.

An apology. Right. Like that was going to happen.

Didn't mean he couldn't lie about it.



[DarkwingPsycho 464 days ago](#)

"I can't help you any more if you hurt people, even indirectly," she responded.

She moved toward the portal, but paused and turned before they went through. Her voice was softer this time. "I know you're trying...just be a little more careful. That's all."



[Negaduck 464 days ago](#)

In a sulk. Could've been at her disapproval, could've been at the confiscation of his shiny.

In either case, he knew exactly where the blame really lied.

"It never would've been a problem if *Darkwing* hadn't showed up!"
Could take the villain out of the portal but not the villain out of the, uh, villain.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 464 days ago

But for all her naivete, Ariana wasn't buying it. "It's not *his* fault for catching you, it's your fault for breaking in." Then she paused. "Why was he even there...? He gave my sister flowers..."



[Negaduck](#) 464 days ago

"Oh so *I'm* the bad guy..!"
That question shortcircuited what could've been the shortest argument ever, and he waved it off.

"Why do you think? Dorkwing's been trying to use his very limited romantic guiles woo her over to the side of good for ages now."

Under his breath, "Pathetic."

More like ironic?



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 464 days ago

Ariana stopped short. "'Side of good'? What are you talking about? Morgana's *always* been good."



[Negaduck](#) 464 days ago

Wait, she didn't know?

That was perfect. Too perfect.

"Sweetheart, before Darkwing was pursuing her with flowers, he was pursuing her with handcuffs."
Still was, you could argue. "Morgana pulled off some of the biggest crime sprees this city has ever seen! Something about.. student loans?"

It had been in the papers and all. But Negaduck knew a paper thin excuse when he made one. Er, heard one.

"Really, it's a wonder she's out on the streets. But I imagine the non-magical authorities here have a difficult time containing her particular talents..." Tilt of the head, like it was just occurring to him.
"Maybe that's why she stays in St Canard?"

Because someone not that long ago was railing about 'Normals' and their weaknesses.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 464 days ago

Ariana paled, and she tried to narrow her eyes but the doubt had already eked in. "No...no, that can't be true! She would never...!" Then, more meekly. "Wh-what about the pizza topping business...?"



[Negaduck](#) 464 days ago

Bingo.

"Why don't you ask her..." I don't even have to lie about this one!

"...when we get back."

Because priorities.

Because you'll be coming back soon.

Or so you think.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 463 days ago

"I already did," Ariana replied. "She only said it didn't last, but it was successful..." Now she was so confused. She *would* have to ask more when they got back. There was still so much she wanted to talk to her sister about.

She paused before stepping into the portal. "What do you plan on doing once those four powerful people are locked up...?"



[Negaduck](#) 463 days ago

Taking her hand in his, and daring to press a kiss on its back, never once breaking her gaze. A romantic, gentlemanly act.. which of course reflected no part of what he actually was.

"Spending some *quality* time with you, of course."

That one, maybe, involved some degree of a lie.



[DarkwingPsycho](#) 463 days ago

She felt the heat rise in her cheeks and she forgot how upset she had been. She kept hold of his hand, smiled a shy little smile, and pulled him into the portal after her.



o

[Negaduck 463 days ago](#)

((Heading back to the Portals blog, feel free to carry on here if there's anything you'd like to add!))