



**Dear Oona:**

**I'm only five months old, but I have a serious problem. My person calls it Louie. I want to call it dinner. Louie was here when I moved in and the first thing he did was scare me. I wanted a drink of water and he hissed at me. I don't like being scared, but my person insists that I can't put Louie's head in my mouth.**

**And my older brother is absolutely no help because he plays with the evil house duck.**

**How can I get Louie to think about flying south for, well, the rest of his life?**

**Thank you,**

**Mischievous Melissa**

**April 26, 2018**

**Dear Melissa:**

**You m'am, are in a jam. The evil house duck has dibs on the house. And since your dopey brother's already playing with the thing, if Louie mysteriously disappears now, all eyes will be**

on...*you*. I know this from experience....

Sadly, even if you leave brochures of exotic duck getaways lying around, Louie is already domesticated. He wouldn't do any better in the wild than you would. The duck's going nowhere. Unless you're personally in cahoots with any badgers or bobcats in your neighborhood, coexistence is just about your only option.

Here's the thing. You weigh nearly 100 pounds already. The duck's about three pounds of feathers with a beak. I know, I know, it's *scary* beak. But Melissa, the duck's *bluffing*. What's he going to do, peck you in the shin? I know, your instincts are telling you to chow down but, hey, you're an Irish Wolfhound. You not only have self-control, you are completely on charge here. Ignore the duck. Let Louie quack and flap and do his duck things in his part of the house, you do yours in your part of the house. Understand that the water bowl is pretty special to him since he has to have water with his meals. It's a freaky duck thing. Maybe your human will give you and your brother your own water bowl to reduce the risk of ugly encounters at the watering hole.

Meanwhile, buck up. Situations change. Maybe your human will get Louie a girlfriend to take his mind off pestering you. Maybe your human will get you a baby brother or sister wolfhound. Melissa, that will be your *big* chance. Cuddle with the new puppy. Mentor him or her. Build their confidence. Remind them that they are a great big ferocious wolfhound. Point them toward the duck. And, this is critical, practice looking innocent. Things will work out.

**Love, Oona**

Got a question? Send it to [bob@thewildstare.com](mailto:bob@thewildstare.com) and Oona will get back to you as soon as she gets her nails done or she can prod the old guy to take dictation.