

Nook's No Refunds

The following cutscene was written as a part of an exercise for The Narrative Department's Master Class series called "No Returns Allowed." The prompt involved three characters from different video games (Customer A, Customer B, and the Vendor), where Customer A wants to return an item for a full refund but the Vendor won't allow it while Customer B waits to purchase their own item.

The scene takes place in **Nook's Cranny**, a little shop within the *Animal Crossing* franchise, and the following is the cast of characters:



[Tom Nook](#), from the *Animal Crossing* franchise, as the Vendor.

Tom Nook is, above all, a businessman. While some might see his focus on profit as greedy, others say he is fair and even generous in helping others by providing loans with no interest rates.



[Eugene McQuacklin](#), from *The Duck Detective: The Secret Salami* game, as Customer A.

Eugene McQuacklin is known as The Duck Detective, but he's been down on his luck due to a divorce and an unhealthy addiction to a duck's favorite treat: bread.



[Misfortune Ramirez Hernandez](#), from the *Little Misfortune* game, as Customer B.

Misfortune is a sweet and bubbly young girl who manages to have a positive, albeit sometimes strange, outlook on life despite all the terrible things life throws her way.

CONTENT WARNING: The following cutscene contains references to adult themes such as **alcohol, drugs, and addiction**. There are also references to possible **childhood trauma** and some **dark humor** due to the characters chosen.

INT. NOOK'S CRANNY - DAY

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN, carrying a loaf of bread, strolls into a small, clean, rustic-looking store and approaches a TOM NOOK, a tanuki with a blue apron wrapped around his waist, standing beside a row of displays with a mix of seed packets, wrapping paper, and umbrellas.

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN
(clears his throat)
Ahem, are you the proprietor of this place?

TOM NOOK
Why, yes, I'm Tom Nook of Nook's Cranny. Is there something I can help you with, hm?

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN
(shifts awkwardly)
Yes, I'd, uh, like to return this bread.

The bell above the door tinkles as MISFORTUNE, a little girl in a pink beret, steps into the shop and waits behind Eugene McQuacklin, humming to herself.

TOM NOOK
(to Misfortune)
Welcome, I'll be with you in a moment!
(to Eugene McQuacklin)
I see. Is there something wrong with your item, hm?

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN
(lovingly strokes the packaged loaf)
Oh no, absolutely nothing wrong with this baby. Sweet, spongy, *intoxicating*..

Tom Nook stares vacantly at Eugene McQuacklin as he takes a deep inhale of the loaf and sighs as his eyes glaze over.

MISFORTUNE
(giggles)
You sound like my mommy when she talks about juice. She says it keeps the

demons inside away. Does bread help you
with the demons?

Eugene McQuacklin snaps out of his reverie and glances down at
Misfortune.

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN
(to Misfortune)
Uh, yeah, I guess you could say that.

Eugene McQuacklin places the loaf on the counter and pats it.

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN
(to Tom Nook)
Look, there's nothing wrong with this
loaf. I'm just getting back together
with the ex-wife, and I promised her
I'd kick the habit. So what do you say?
Help an ol' duck out and give me a full
refund?

TOM NOOK
A refund?

Tom Nook laughs, gripping his belly while his head bobs with
smile lines circling around.

TOM NOOK
Whoa, ho, ho, ho, ho, ho!

MISFORTUNE
(giggles)
Aw, the raccoon is so happy. I like
him.

TOM NOOK
(wiping tears from his eyes)
I'm sorry. That just tickled my funny
bone. Nook's Cranny doesn't offer full
refunds. You can sell the merchandise
back, with a 20% processing fee, of
course. Give me a moment to run the
numbers...

Tom Nook places a paw under his chin, cocking his head to the
side in thought. Misfortune walks over to a display with a
single red balloon.

MISFORTUNE

(to Eugene McQuacklin)

Balloons are my favorite. I'm going to buy a balloon and give it to Mommy. I think it will bring her some happiness since my sparkles don't work for her. And this one's red, just like her juice!

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN

(with a raised brow)

That...that sounds sweet, kid.

MISFORTUNE

(giggles)

Thank you, Mr. Duck. I'm just a little lady who tries her best.

TOM NOOK

(suddenly)

And done! I can buy the loaf of bread from you for 100 bells. How does that sound?

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN

(exasperated)

Bells?!?! What the quack are bells? I paid in cash, and I need it for the bus fare home.

TOM NOOK

(matter-of-factly)

We had to switch currency at Nook's Cranny, and now we only accept bells.

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN

(puffs himself up)

Listen here, Nook, now I oughta-

MISFORTUNE

(interrupts)

No, no, no! Please stop! You sound like Daddy before he fights with Mommy. I can help make it better. Just watch.

Misfortune puts her hand in her pocket, grabs a fistful of something, and then releases it.

MISFORTUNE:

(as glitter flies into the air)

Sha-dan! Happiness for Mr. Duck!

Glitter flutters in the air before covering Tom Nook's fur, Eugene McQuacklin's hat, and the bread loaf.

Tom Nook stares blankly at the glitter-covered loaf while Eugene McQuacklin removes his hat, a shower of glitter spilling onto the floor.

Misfortune giggles at the scene.

MISFORTUNE:

(to EUGENE MCQUACKLIN)

Feel better now?

EUGENE MCQUACKLIN:

(sighs, to Tom Nook)

100 bells, you said? I'll take it. And ring up the girl's balloon, too, while you're at it...