

HOWARD the DUCK



MEET HOWARD. HE'S A DUCK AND ALSO THE STAR OF THIS BOOK. I IMAGINE YOU COULD PROBABLY ALREADY TELL HE'S A DUCK AS IT SAYS SO IN THE TITLE, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WITH PEOPLE THESE DAYS. ANYWAY, HOWARD IS NOT JUST A DUCK WHO STARS IN THIS BOOK, BUT HE'S ALSO A **TALKING** DUCK! ISN'T THAT INCREDIBLE? NO? WELL HOW ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE REMAINS **SENSIBLE** IN A **WORLD GONE MAD**? OKAY, FINE, JEEZE--TOUGH CROWD.

ANYWAY, WHEN LAST WE SAW HOWARD, HE HAD TAKEN A CASE TO RETURN A STOLEN NECKLACE TO A MYSTERIOUS CLIENT NAMED MR. RICHARDS, BUT RIGHT AFTER HE RECOVERED IT, HOWARD GOT TRAPPED IN THE WORST KIND OF PRISON--**SPACE** PRISON. WHAT MAKES SPACE PRISON SO MUCH WORSE THAN EARTH PRISON, YOU ASK? WELL, NOT MUCH ACTUALLY (PRISON IS PRISON!), BUT HE WAS TRAPPED IN THERE WITH A TALKING RACCOON NAMED ROCKET RACCOON. (I GUESS TALKING ANIMALS HAVE TO SAY WHAT ANIMAL THEY ARE IN THEIR NAME?)

THANKFULLY, ROCKET'S TEAMMATES--THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!--SHOWED UP TO BREAK ROCKET (AND HOWARD, I GUESS) OUT OF SPACE PRISON, ALLOWING HOWARD TO RETURN TO EARTH WITH THE NECKLACE! WITH HIS LUCK FINALLY TURNING AROUND, HOWARD WAS THEN...MUGGED BY SPIDER-MAN'S AUNT MAY? WAUGH!

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HOWARD the DUCK in...

NOTHING'S GONNA TOUCH YOU IN THESE GOLDEN YEARS

I'm sorry, dear. Was I not speaking #\$\$%& English?

Howard!
You're alive!

Oh, uh, hey, Tara. Yeah, for now.

This lady came in and I thought she was lost because I'm ageist, but then she pulled a gun and cleared out the till!

Hey! You got wheatcakes in your ears?? Gimme your wallet, duck!

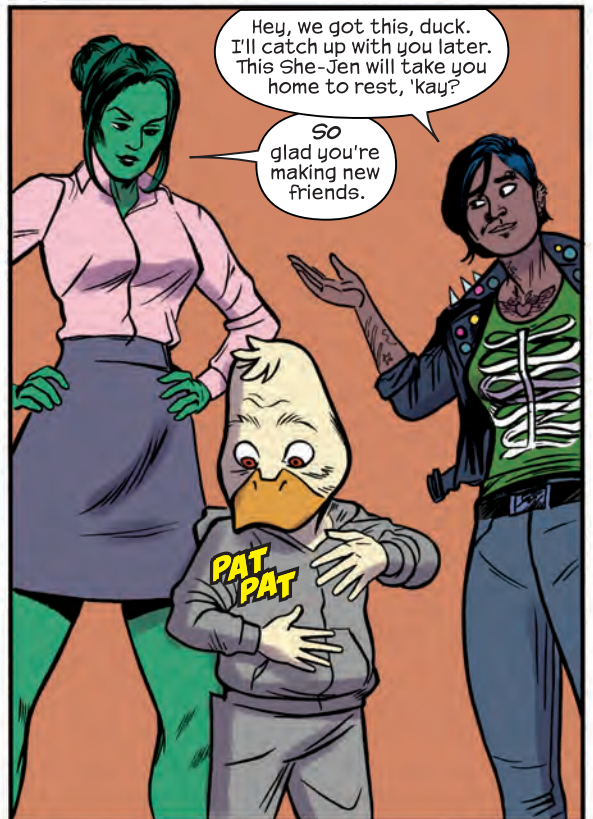
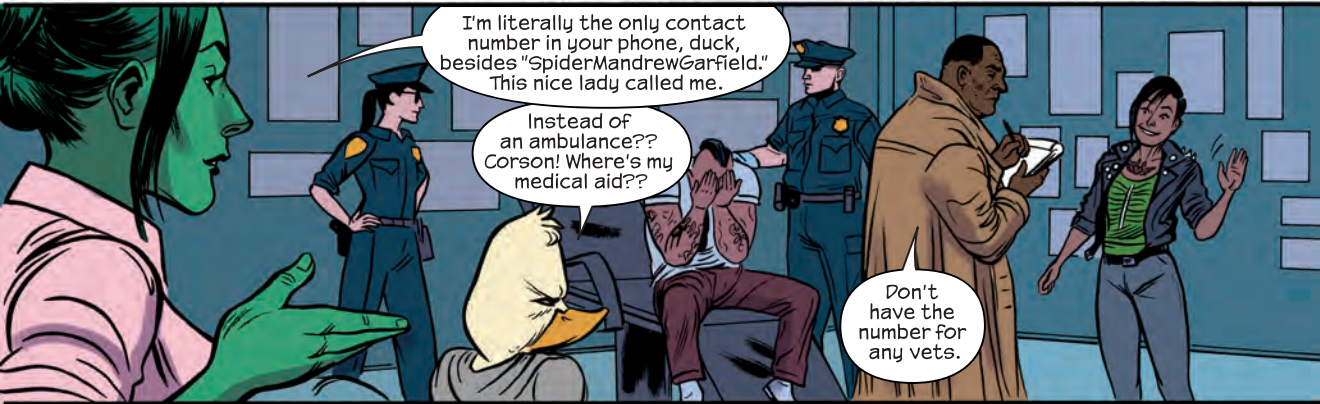
Look, lady, I've had a rough couple of days.

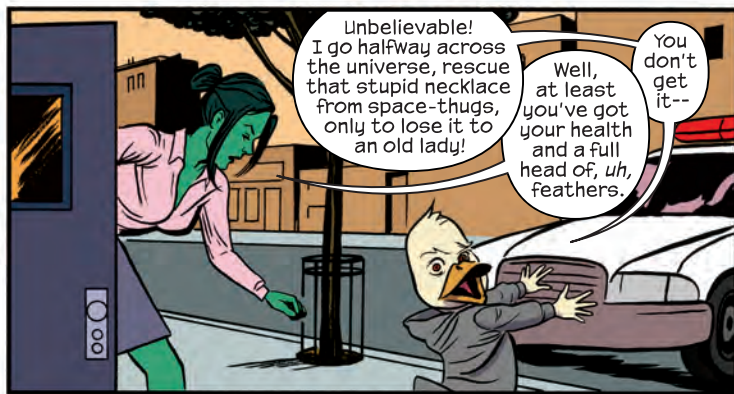
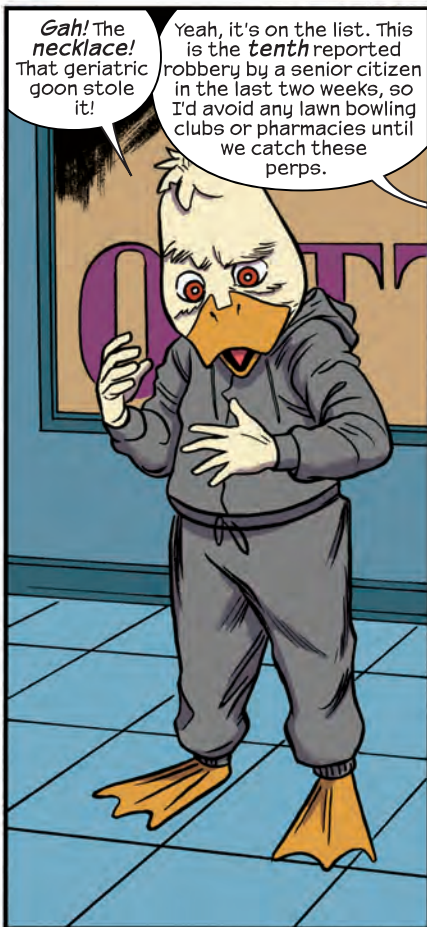
I don't like to play this card, but I *do* know Quack-Fu,* so you should--

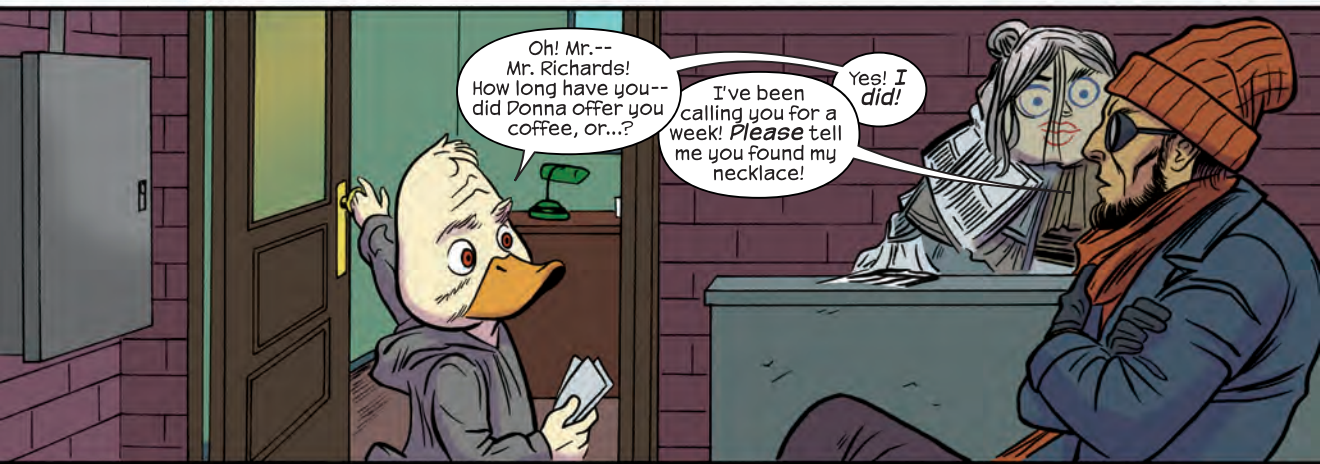


*Ed. Note: Howard learned Kung-Fu in issue #3 from Volume 1 but calls it Quack-Fu for some reason, I--oh! It's 'cause he's a duck! I just got that.

Howard?
Howwward?



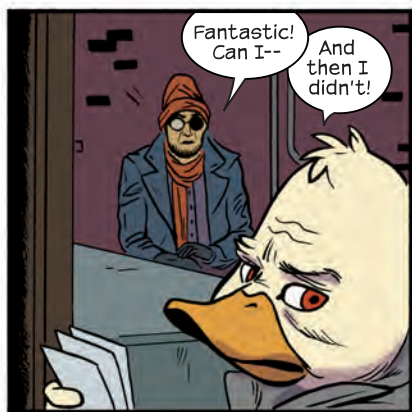




Oh! Mr.-- Mr. Richards! How long have you-- did Donna offer you coffee, or...?

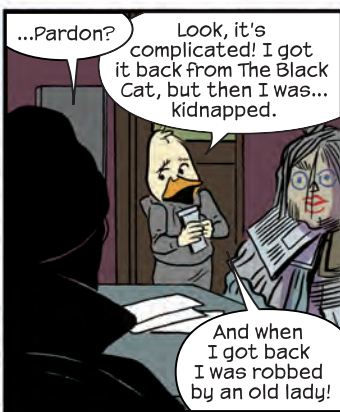
I've been calling you for a week! Please tell me you found my necklace!

Yes! I did!



Fantastic! Can I--

And then I didn't!



...Pardon?

Look, it's complicated! I got it back from The Black Cat, but then I was... kidnapped.

And when I got back I was robbed by an old lady!

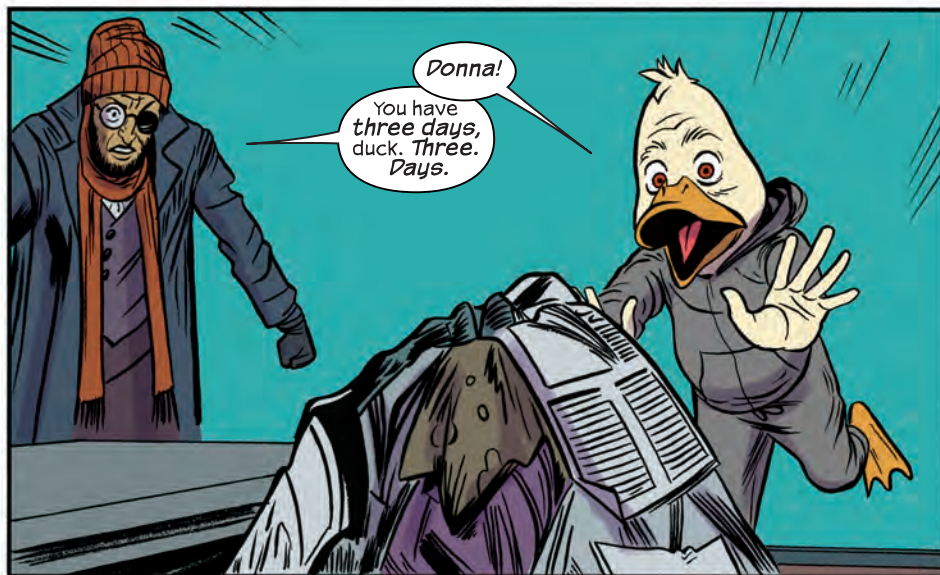


It's just a *minor* setback, though! I'm already working on a plan to get it back, so you'll be adorned in the finest of jewels in no--



PUFF

GRRRAH!



Donna!

You have *three days, duck. Three. Days.*

Donna, sweet Donna. I will avenge you.



Right after I get paid for this job.