

# HOWARD the DUCK



THIS IS HOWARD. HOWARD **THE DUCK**, IN FACT! HOW DID HE GET THAT NAME, YOU ASK? WELL, UH, BECAUSE HE'S AN ANTHROPOMORPHIC TALKING DUCK? I MEAN, HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU EVER SEEN AN ANTHROPOMORPHIC TALKING DUCK? WOULDN'T YOU PUT **THE DUCK** IN YOUR NAME IF YOU WERE AN ANTHROPOMORPHIC TALKING DUCK? UGH, SOME PEOPLE THESE DAYS... ANYWAY, IN ADDITION TO BEING A DUCK, HE'S ALSO TRAPPED HERE ON EARTH AND TRYING TO REMAIN **SENSIBLE** IN A **WORLD GONE MAD!** SO, Y'KNOW, HE BECAME A PRIVATE DETECTIVE.

HOWARD'S HAD A ROUGH COUPLE DAYS. HE WAS HIRED TO RECOVER A STOLEN NECKLACE FOR A MYSTERIOUS CLIENT NAMED MR. RICHARDS (TOTALLY NOT HIS REAL NAME). BUT AS SOON AS HE RECOVERED IT, HOWARD WAS PROMPTLY MUGGED BY SPIDER-MAN'S AUNT MAY. (DON'T WORRY, IT'LL MAKE SENSE IN A SECOND.) IT TURNS OUT THAT THE ELDERLY OF NEW YORK WERE ACTUALLY BEING HYPNOTIZED BY THE RINGMASTER TO ROB PEOPLE! (OKAY, IT KIND OF MAKES SENSE.) THANKFULLY, MR. RICHARDS SHOWED UP TO SAVE THE DAY! BUT THEN HE REVEALED TO HOWARD AND HIS NEW FRIEND TARA TAM THAT HE WAS **NOT** MR. RICHARDS (I TOLD YOU!), HE WAS ACTUALLY A DANGEROUS OUTCAST SKRULL KNOWN AS TALOS THE UNTAMED!

AFTER GOING TO HIS "GOOD" "FRIEND" DR. STRANGE FOR HELP, HOWARD LEARNED THAT THE NECKLACE WAS ACTUALLY A PIECE OF THE MODERATELY DANGEROUS ABUNDANT GLOVE (WHICH IS TOTALLY NOT AT ALL LIKE THE INFINITY GAUNTLET). IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE (OR AT LEAST A SIZABLE PORTION OF IT), DR. STRANGE, TARA AND HOWARD, ALONG WITH THE HUMAN TORCH, TRACKED DOWN THE LAST ABUNDANT GEM AT THE FORMER HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR. BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT TALOS HAD THE SAME IDEA AND MANAGED TO GET THE GEM FIRST, FINISHING HIS GLOVE AND BRINGING MODERATE DOOM TO THE GALAXY!

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THINGS ARE BAD.

Ha ha ha! My **Abundant Glove** is now complete! Lay waste to this deplorable city, my Abundant Warriors! **Lay waste!**

Hey! Hey! Wake up, you hot putz! This is your fault!

Nnnhhh... No it isn't... Owww...

There's plenty of blame to go around, Tara! Let's just survive this first, okay?

Hello.



I love you.

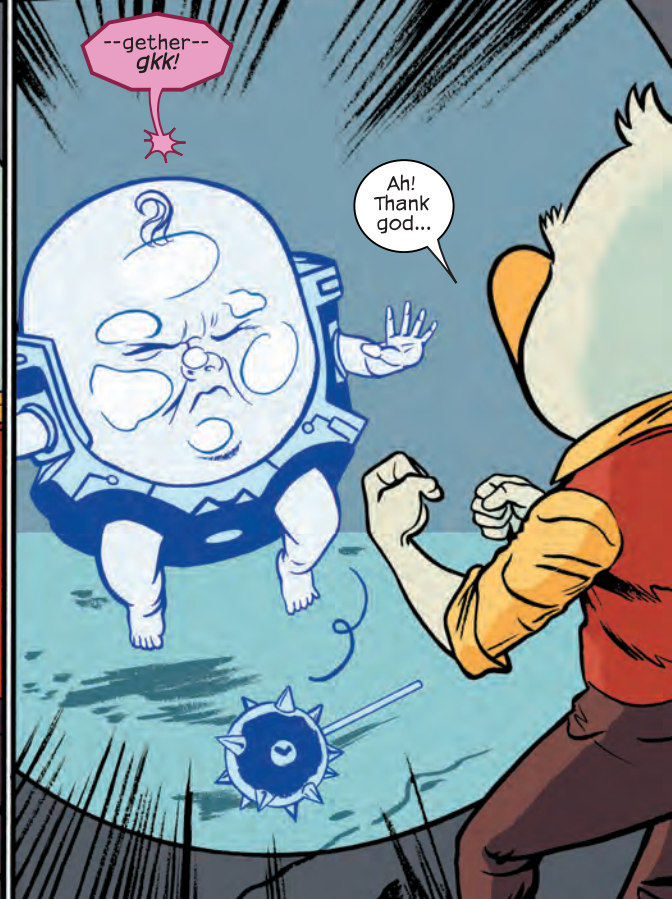
Yeah, this seems to line up with what I know about love.

Let us dance to--



--gether-- gkk!

Ah! Thank god...



# SUPER HERO BATTLE FOR THE FATE OF NEW YORK AND POSSIBLY THE WORLD

A totally original concept from  
Chip & Joe's "Basement Apartment of Ideas."



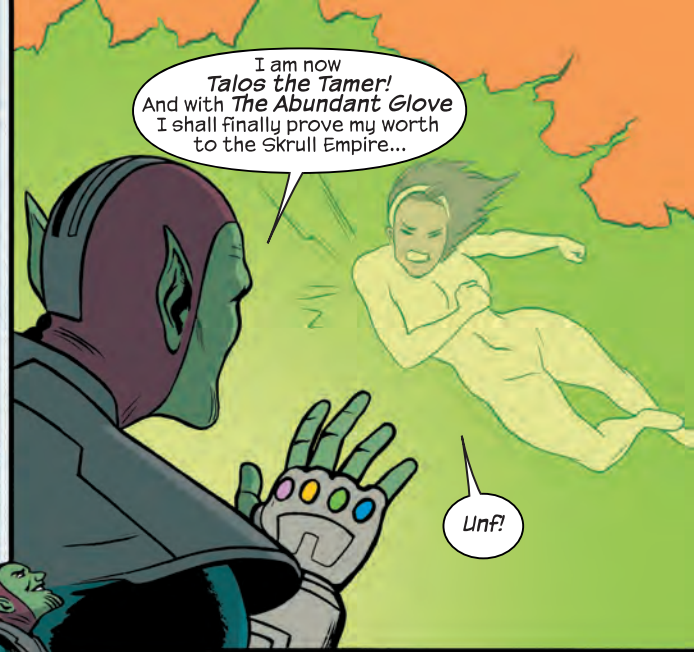
...the cavalry's here.



Hahahaha!  
You pitiable  
creatures!

Unh!...  
Susan...  
thank  
you...

Sure,  
sure, always  
keen to save  
guys with grey  
temples.



I am now  
**Talos the Tamer!**  
And with **The Abundant Glove**  
I shall finally prove my worth  
to the Skrull Empire...

Unf!

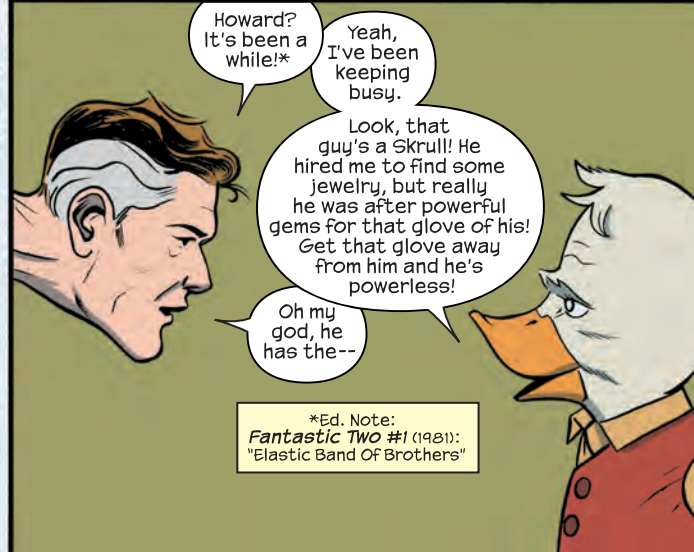


...by  
enslaving  
all of  
Earth!

Johnny!  
What's the  
situation?

I  
said "I  
got this!"  
And then  
I *didn't*  
get this,  
okay?

Hey!  
Stretch!



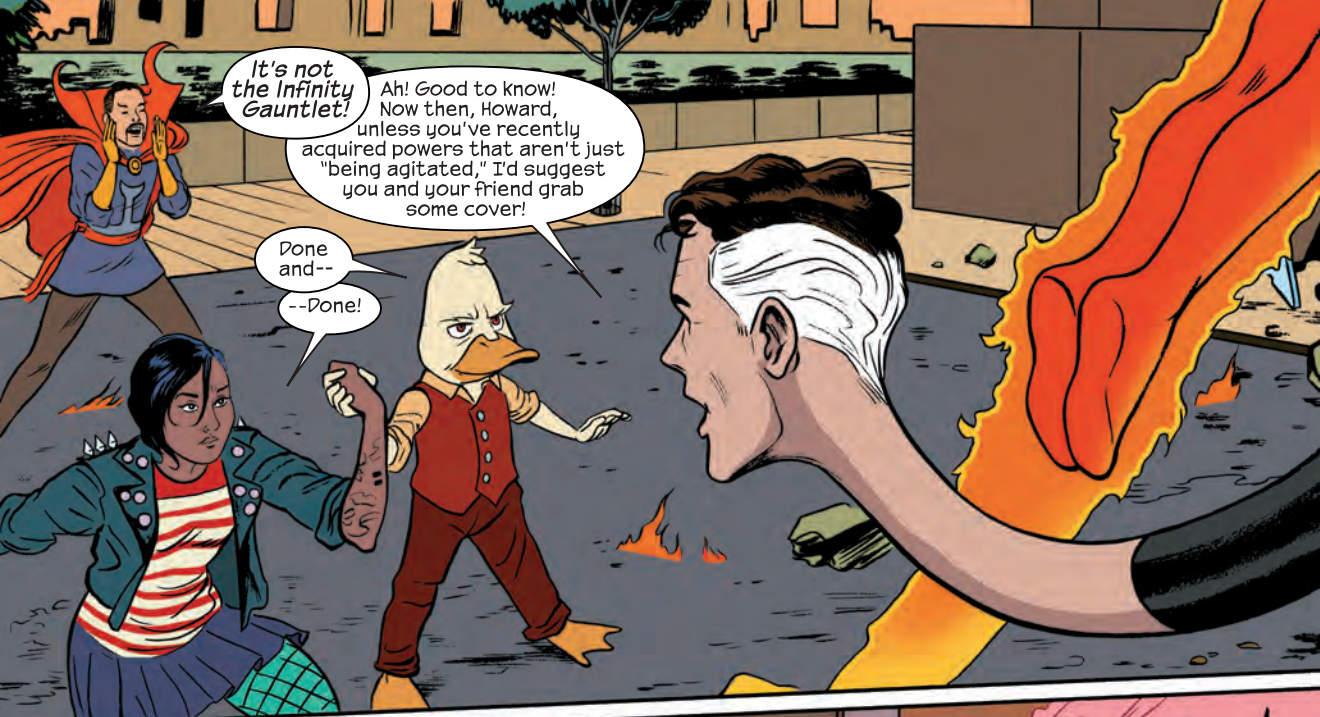
Howard?  
It's been a  
while!\*

Yeah,  
I've been  
keeping  
busy.

Look, that  
guy's a Skrull! He  
hired me to find some  
jewelry, but really  
he was after powerful  
gems for that glove of his!  
Get that glove away  
from him and he's  
powerless!

Oh my  
god, he  
has the--

\*Ed. Note:  
*Fantastic Two* #1 (1981):  
"Elastic Band of Brothers"



It's not the Infinity Gauntlet!

Ah! Good to know! Now then, Howard, unless you've recently acquired powers that aren't just "being agitated," I'd suggest you and your friend grab some cover!

Done and--

--Done!

Doo doo doooo punch punch puuuunch doo-- Howard! Get back here, ya putz! You owe me sixty smackers!\*

Yeah, yeah, maybe *after* the end of the world, Rock of Aged.

This is your fault, Howard, isn't it? Isn't it??

\*Ed. Note: *Three-In-One* #7 (1985): "Cigar Hero"



Yeah, *my* fault for movin' to a city filled with you super-yahoos!

Quit arguing with the nice people saving our lives, you stupid duck!

Let's get off the streets!