

HOWARD the DUCK



HOWARD HAS APPARENTLY BECOME A “LIVING NEXUS,” MEANING HE CAN GO ANYWHERE IF HE PUTS HIS MIND TO IT. (WOW, YEAH, I GUESS WE ALL HAVE THAT POWER. YOU’RE REALLY POSITIVE, THANK YOU.) BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY, HE CAN GO TO ALTERNATE UNIVERSES AND EVEN CREATE NEW UNIVERSES WHOLE CLOTH! WHICH, SURE, IS PRETTY NEAT ON ONE LEVEL, BUT ON ANOTHER LEVEL, IT’S A TOTAL PAIN BECAUSE NOW EVERYBODY WANTS A PIECE OF HOWARD. LIKE THIS GUY **THE STRANGER**, WHO WANTS TO TURN HOWARD INTO HIS OWN PERSONAL DOORMAN (DOORDUCK?) TO A UNIVERSE ALL HIS OWN.

NOW SHOCKET AND LINDA (THE FEMALE CLONES OF HOWARD AND ROCKET WHO MADE YOU CRY IN #2) AND TARA HAVE TEAMED UP WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY TO, Y’KNOW, SAVE HOWARD FROM A LIFE OF SERVITUDE DOING MENIAL TASKS FOR AN OVERBEARING BOSS. (HEY, MAYBE THEY CAN PICK YOU UP ON THE WAY BACK!)

OH, AND THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE **THE ULTIMATES #2**, WHICH YOU SHOULD TOTALLY GO READ AFTER THIS IF YOU HAVEN’T ALREADY. GALACTUS GETS A NEW WARDROBE!

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ONE YEAR AGO.

Roberta!

Yes, Mister Wiebe.

No time on the Janssen until you finish inputting last week's findings!

Sorry, Mister Wiebe.

The observatory is not for your hobbies!

It's to explore the heavens for scientific advancement! To find life in the universe! To--

Um--

--Mister Wiebe, the Earth has been attacked by multiple aliens over the years, so I'm pretty sure we solved that mystery.

I--of--of course I know that! I'm talking about aliens who are *nice!* Like--like-- *Close Encounters* aliens who give us little puzzles to unravel and whom we can learn from and teach and...

...What are you even looking at?

Now.

Apologies. I do not enjoy taking lives, but as a *Nexus of All Realities*, you are far too precious a commodity to risk potential rescuers.

Yeah, I feel really precious right now...

Joe 'n' Chip present...

FOWL MOVEMENT!
ugh no no that sounds terrible how about...
DUCK! DUCK! LOOSE!

Look, just trust me! I make a **terrible** prisoner! I'm always going on, like, "Wah, wah, I make a terrible prisoner!" Who needs that kind of aggravation??

You are now a portal with which *The Stranger* will unlock untold universes to study. I imagine you will still hold such power after I remove your tongue.

But we will explore your body later--

Ugh

--as there appear to be more ships en route. You are a sought-after item, little--

Release the duck! For he is now the property of...





--Galactus, devourer of worlds!

oh lord it just doesn't stop

I have met Galactus. I have dined on the finest free-range asteroids with Galactus. You are *not* Galactus.

You speak now with Scout, Herald of Galactus, and I will bid you to watch your tone with me!



Hm.



Ung!



Galactus is no headstrong fool. To wage war with me over this man-fowl is beneath him. Who are you?

I... told you...



I am--



--the Herald--



--of--



--Galactus!

waugh

