

WAVED OFF

Written by

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INT. BAR - NIGHT

D-list superhero, "The Earwig" (think, The Tick, but kinda gross, and not legally actionable) sits brooding over a beer.

BARTENDER

So you're The Ear Wig, huh? Kind of a gross name.

EAR WIG

You ever seen a bat? Huh? I mean have you ever really looked at a bat? They're gross! With their noses and teeth and... Uggh! Nobody ever gives him grief.

BARTENDER

Yeah, but he--

EAR WIG

Pfah! Civilians. You think getting a name is easy. Just get bit by a radioactive spider, and POOF! You've got a name, a costume, a whole theme.

BARTENDER

Not that easy, huh?

EAR WIG

You think the "The Ear Wig" was my first choice? I started out as "The Silverfish," but a Norwegian baseball team owns the trademark. I got sued in the International Court at The Hague. I tried "The Termite," but I kept getting phone calls about infestations.

BARTENDER

You ever think about moving away from an insect theme?

EAR WIG

(mockingly)

You ever think about moving away from an insect theme?

(beat; normal voice)

You heard about the face off between the two Rigor Mortis, right?

BARTENDER

Hell, yeah! That was you?

EAR WIG

Yep.

BARTENDER

Man, that's gotta hurt. What was he, like 14?

EAR WIG

He was 15! He had a birthday the week before. And he was big boned.

BARTENDER

Still, a superhero hasn't lost a for-the-name smackdown with a supervillain in, what? 10 years.

EAR WIG

Never.

BARTENDER

Really? But what about--

EAR WIG

(VERY EARNEST AND CERTAIN)

A superhero has never lost a smackdown to a supervillain for his superhero name. Ever.

BARTENDER

Until you.

EAR WIG

Yep. And tonight was the last straw. I'm officially through.

Off the bartender's look.

EAR WIG

Howard the Duck waved me off! He's surrounded by Grizzly Barry, Kangaroo Man, and Vacuum Tuba. I'm about to pitch in when he spots me, and waves me off with that little hand-wing-flipper thing. I hope they pounded him into a feathery smear.

The bartender looks down at his shoes.

EAR WIG

Aw, crap. He beat 'em didn't he.

BARTENDER

And Wallaby Woman.

The Ear Wig pounds his head on the bar counter.