



BROTHER!

NO.

PLEASE...
DON'T--

THIS IS HOW
IT ENDS.

IT BEGAN LIKE THIS.

W ELEXINOR, OREGON.
FIVE WEEKS EARLIER.

HIYA, PAUL.



PAUL!
HEY, GREAT
TO SEE YOU,
MAN!



HMM.
WELL LOOK
WHO SHOWED
HIS FACE.

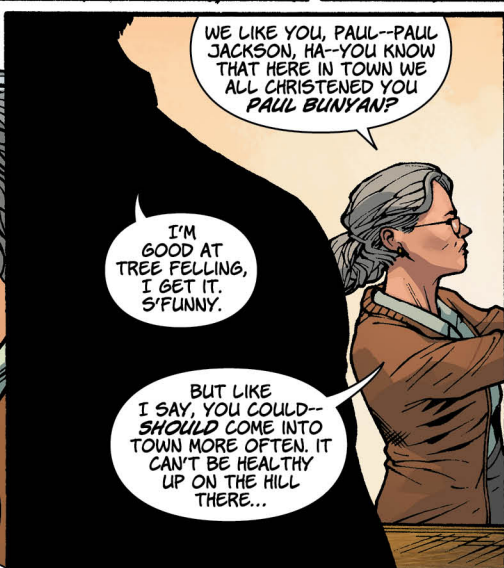
HEY,
MARY.



GIMME A
MINUTE.

BY THE BY,
YOU COULD VISIT
US MORE OFTEN,
IF YOU CARED TO.
NO LAW AGAINST IT.
YOU DO KNOW
THAT?

SURE.



WE LIKE YOU, PAUL--PAUL
JACKSON, HA--YOU KNOW
THAT HERE IN TOWN WE
ALL CHRISTENED YOU
PAUL BUNYAN?

I'M
GOOD AT
TREE FELLING,
I GET IT.
S'FUNNY.

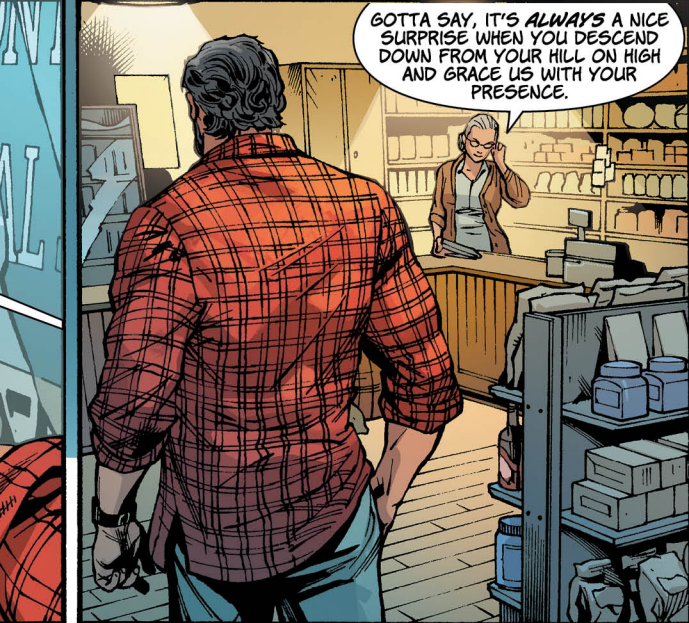
BUT LIKE
I SAY, YOU COULD--
SHOULD COME INTO
TOWN MORE OFTEN. IT
CAN'T BE HEALTHY
UP ON THE HILL
THERE...



...ALL BY
YOUR-
SELF.



PAUL!
HOW'RE YA,
BUDDY?



GOTTA SAY, IT'S *ALWAYS* A NICE SURPRISE WHEN YOU DESCEND DOWN FROM YOUR HILL ON HIGH AND GRACE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE.



CONSIDER YOURSELF "GRACED," THEN. HA! HERE'S MY LIST FOR THIS TRIP.

YOU KIDDING? I KNOW IT BY HEART, AFTER ALL THIS TIME. OATMEAL, COFFEE, JERKY, UNSCENTED BATH SOAP.

THAT'S THE GIST, FEW OTHER THINGS, THOUGH.



I FEEL HEALTHY ENOUGH.

LOOK IT, TOO. I'M JUST SAYING... *DON'T* BE A STRANGER.

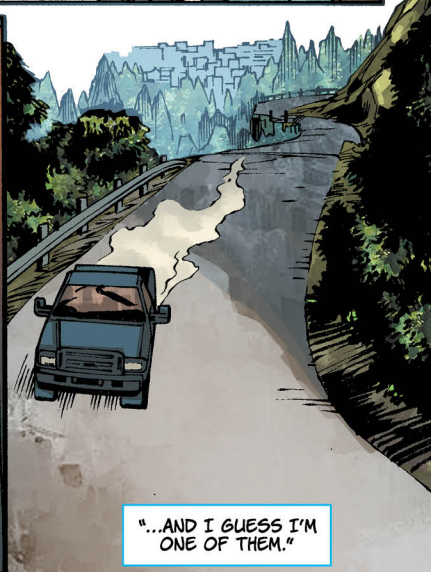
IT'S NOT PERSONAL, I LIKE EVERYONE IN TOWN. I DO. I JUST LIKE MY ALONE TIME.



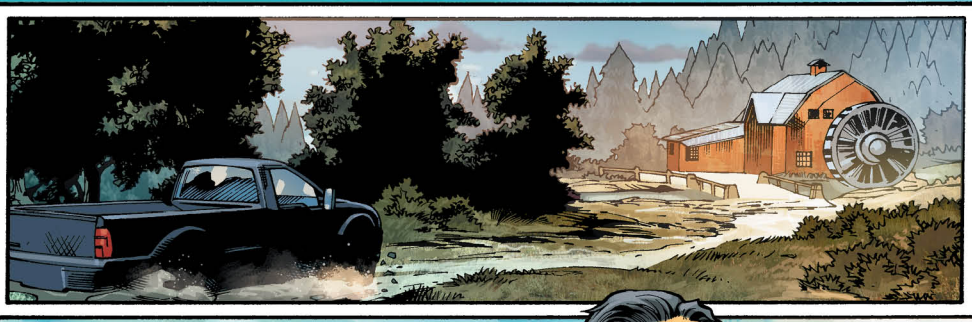
LIKE? I'D SAY YOU WERE MADLY *IN LOVE* WITH BEING BY YOURSELF.

WHATEVER SUITS YOU, I GUESS.

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, AROUND HERE. HOW SOME FOLKS JUST WANT TO *LOSE* THEMSELVES...



"...AND I GUESS I'M ONE OF THEM."



CHILDREN OF THE GODS

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