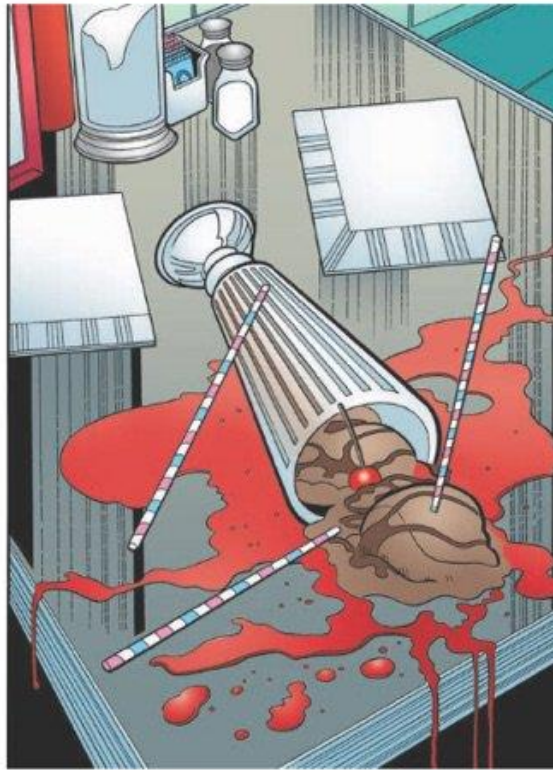


RIVERDALE



Chapter Fourteen: A KISS BEFORE DYING

written by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

Based on characters appearing in Archie Comics Publications

PRODUCER DRAFT 5-22-17

**BERLANTI PRODUCTIONS
WARNER BROS. TELEVISION**



©2017 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

This script is the property of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. No portion of this script may be performed, reproduced or used by any means, or disclosed to, quoted or published in any medium without the prior written consent of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

1 INT. AMBULANCE, DAY 1

ARCHIE sits motionless, staring at his dad being kept barely alive by paramedics. Rilo Kiley's "It Just Is" plays softly in the background.

JUGHEAD (VO)

Parents set the tone for a life. If they're good at it, they set you off thinking that life has structure. That there is an order to things.

2 INT. HOSPITAL, NIGHT 2

Archie continues sitting motionless as the world moves all around him.

JUGHEAD (VO)

So what happens when the rug gets pulled out from under you? When you find out that nobody is actually in charge of things?

3 EXT. CEMETERY, DAY 3

The coffin is lowered into the earth as Archie continues sitting motionless.

JUGHEAD (VO)

How do you go from believing in something to knowing that there's nothing?

Josie & the Pussycats begin singing "Amazing Grace" as Archie gets up and walks away. BETTY, VERONICA, and JUGHEAD get up and follow him. Betty grabs his arm.

BETTY

Archie.

ARCHIE

It was too much out there. Those people didn't know my dad. They're just spectators.

JUGHEAD

Let's get out of here, then.

BETTY

We can do whatever you want,
Archie. It's okay if you want to be
alone, I get that, but
don't...force yourself to be alone.
We're here for you, and we love
you, and we can handle whatever is
going on inside you right now.

HIRAM LODGE (40s, improbably hot) strolls over.

HIRAM

Ronnie, you're not leaving yet, are
you?

VERONICA

No, I was just trying to comfort
Archie.

HIRAM

Archie, yes. You have my most
heartfelt condolences. I knew your
father in school. I don't think he
liked me very much, but I admired
him. He had a true moral compass.

ARCHIE

Thank you, Mr. Lodge.

HIRAM

Please, call me Hiram. Why don't
you come over for dinner tomorrow
night? Nothing fancy, just family
dinner.

ARCHIE

I'd like that. If you'll excuse us.

HIRAM

Of course.

Hiram walks away. Archie and the gang get 3 steps further
away when Cheryl comes up.

CHERYL

Archie. I am so sorry for your
loss. As a recent inductee into the
dead daddy club myself, I know a
little bit what you're going
through. It's a shame your dad's
big leathery hog has to rot away in
the ground, but I'm sure he's in
heaven railing angels now. Betty,
I'll see you at home.

Cheryl walks off.

VERONICA
She'll see you at home?

BETTY
 It's...temporary, I think. She's
 homeless. We're...family.

VERONICA
 Right, because of Polly and Jason.

BETTY
 Yep because of their babies and no
 other reasons.

KEVIN runs up to them. Archie is visibly exhausted.

KEVIN
 Hey guys, I just talked to my dad,
 I thought you'd want to know he
 said there's absolutely no leads at
 all in the case, it's like the
 shooter vanished into thin air,
 anyways see you at school tomorrow.

Kevin runs off.

JUGHEAD
 You'd think after Jason people
 around here would have figured out
 how to be chill about grief.

ARCHIE
 I can't stand it. I know they mean
 well, I really do, but I can't. I'm
 going home.

VERONICA
 Is it okay if we come over a little
 later?

ARCHIE
 Yeah, I'd like that. Just the gang.

BETTY
 Just the gang.

JUGHEAD
 Just the gang.

REGGIE

Yep, just us, the gang.

Everyone tries not to look at Reggie. About 50 feet away, Hiram walks up to ALICE from behind.

HIRAM

Hello, Alice.

Alice's eyes widen in alarm. She regains her composure.

ALICE

Hiram, hello, nice of them to extend the radius on your anklet for this sad occasion.

HIRAM

Pleased to say I can roam at my pleasure within the continental United States.

ALICE

How'd you swing that?

HIRAM

This great new thing called money, I think it's here to stay. You look terrific, Alice. We should get lunch.

ALICE

I mostly eat at work.

HIRAM

Tomorrow you eat out. My treat. I'll text you the details.

He walks away. Alice scowls but in an intrigued way.

4

INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM

4

Archie, Betty, Veronica, Jughead, Kevin, and Reggie are all eating pizza and drinking Illicit Beers while watching Monk.

JUGHEAD

That's what I love about Monk...he's truly an obsessive compulsive detective.

BETTY

What a lot of people would see as a handicap, he actually uses...as an advantage.

ARCHIE

I guess we could all stand to be more like Monk that way.

They toast.

ALL

To Monk!

REGGIE

Yeah Monk is always cleaning his hands.

There is a silence thicker than cream.

REGGIE (cont'd)

You guys stoked for school tomorrow? I love freakin' going into school. All the lunch ladies know me man, I'm a legend when it comes to lunch time.

JUGHEAD

Archie, as the newly crowned Prince of the Southside Serpents, I promise I will do everything I can to see that justice is done for Fred Andrews. He was a good man.

BETTY

Juggy, I don't like when you call yourself that.

JUGHEAD

It's not like I'm going to start selling dimebags! I'm a decoration with a little bit of leverage, like Queen Elizabeth.

REGGIE

Yeah, Arch, my man, if I see the guy who killed your dad I'll punch him in the frickin' nuts until they explode.

VERONICA

Archie, you want to go...upstairs?

ARCHIE

Sure, yeah, I'm pretty beat. You're all welcome to stay as long as you want. My house, my rules, I guess. My mom won't be here for another few weeks.

Archie and Veronica go up the stairs.

5 INT. ARCHIE'S BEDROOM

5

Veronica lays down seductively on the bed.

VERONICA

Come here, ginger beef. Let me make you feel better.

ARCHIE

I can't do that.

VERONICA

It's been days.

ARCHIE

It's not that I don't want to. I do. But...I think us having sex is why my dad is dead.

VERONICA

What?

ARCHIE

It's not like i'm, I'm not placing blame, but if I had been home that night he wouldn't have called me to Pop's. We wouldn't have been there.

VERONICA

What, so my vagina killed your dad?

ARCHIE

No, no, Ronnie, your vagina is really cool. It's such a cool vagina. But my big, stinky hog...it doesn't have the best track record of keeping me out of trouble. I think I just need to be celibate for a while.

VERONICA

Wow.

ARCHIE

It's...I just don't want to keep making everybody's lives worse because with my huge teen dick.

VERONICA
It's not your fault.

ARCHIE
Hearing that doesn't change how it
feels.

Veronica sighs. She gets it.

ARCHIE (cont'd)
I can still snuggle. Snuggling
never caused any harm.

VERONICA
Do you want -

ARCHIE
- hot cocoa? Well yeah sure, yeah,
I guess, if you're offering, like
if it's something you wanted to do
anyways I would drink some.

6 INT. ARCHIE'S LIVING ROOM

6

REGGIE
At football practice tomorrow I'm
gonna eat a whole pizza in front of
everybody so they know I'm really
good at eating pizza.

JUGHEAD
Reggie, I'm gonna put this as
delicately as possible on behalf of
the room. Nobody cares and we all
hate you.

REGGIE
Whatever, you're just jealous
because I'm part of the gang and
you're not.

JUGHEAD
What?

REGGIE
I'm always going out to Six Flags
and stuff with Archie and Veronica
and Betsy and Gay Man and you don't
get invited.

JUGHEAD

Did you guys go to Six Flags
without me?

BETTY

No! No, Jughead, we would never.

KEVIN

We know what Six Flags means to
you.

BETTY

Stop trying to stir up drama,
Reggie.

REGGIE

"Stir up drama" huh? I guess I must
have found THIS in my freakin'
cauldron!

He pulls out a picture of him, Archie, Betty, Veronica, and
Kevin on a roller coaster.

JUGHEAD

I can't believe this.

BETTY

It was when you were sick with food
poisoning! It just happened
organically, we didn't plan it!

JUGHEAD

I don't care if I'm dead, if you go
to Six Flags, you bring Jug Jug.

BETTY

I know. I'm sorry.

REGGIE

If you got on a roller coaster it
probably wouldn't work, because of
how you are bad to hang out with.

Jughead stares daggers at Reggie. A garden snake slithers
out of Reggie's shirt.

REGGIE (cont'd)

AHHHHHH!

Reggie freaks out and trips and falls into a big old pail of
water.

BETTY

Looks like you're all wet, Reggie!

Reggie scowls. Everybody laughs at Betty's joke.

KEVIN

I wonder how that snake got in here.

Jughead looks in the mirror.

JUGHEAD

Yeah. How.

7

INT. RIVERDALE HIGH AUDITORIUM

7

Mr. Weatherbee and Mayor McCoy are holding an assembly. Archie shifts uncomfortably in his seat as she speaks.

MCCOY

Students of Riverdale High, I know that it has been a rough year for us all. Many of you have lost a dear friend, some of you have lost parents. Specifically Cheryl Blossom and Archie Andrews. For those of you who don't know Archie, he is a beautiful red-haired boy with a strong young body and absolutely no dad at all. That's why Principal Weatherbee and I have decided to throw a fundraiser concert for Archie and his dead dad. The Fundraiser Concert for Archie and Archie's Dead Dad will be tonight in the gym and I'm thrilled to announce we were able to book Riverdale's own Josie and the Pussycats. Thank you, and god bless.

She leaves. Principal Weatherbee approaches the podium. He smiles widely.

WEATHERBEE

I am the Principal.

A tiny spider walks up his face, he does not notice.

8

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

8

Archie is walking out of the assembly when Moose walks up to him with full Condolence Face on.

MOOSE

Hey Archie, I just wanted to say, I heard about your dad's heart getting blown up at the hamburger restaurant, that's real rough. Are you okay?

ARCHIE

I'm fine, Moose. Just grieving.

MOOSE

Wow! I would be doing SO BAD if I was you. I would cry all day and night and curse that wicked old crone God for taking my dad from me. See you later I guess.

Moose walks away. Betty, Jughead, and Kevin walk up to Archie as they all head toward class.

JUGHEAD

You don't have to go this concert thing.

ARCHIE

It's okay. People will expect me there.

BETTY

Archie they're just trying to sweep this under the rug! Don't let them parade you around like you're mommy's good boy, wearing the little bow-tie she got you and nothing else. You shouldn't tempt mother like this. Father will be home soon.

KEVIN

Yeah don't do the thing she said.

ZHANE, a new student, walks over. He is wearing a handsome vest.

ZHANE

Hey, are you Archie? The guy the mayor was pointing at?

ARCHIE

Uh, yeah.

ZHANE

I just wanted to say that was messed up, exploiting your private grief like that. My name's Zhane, I'm new in town.

BETTY

It's nice to meet you Zhane, I'm Betty.

ZHANE

Thank you Betty! I'm new in town, I just broke up with my boyfriend and I don't know if I like it here sorry I am BABBLING, I always do this.

Kevin's face is a too-friendly mask.

JUGHEAD

Hey, that's okay! It's endearing. You seem like a very sweet guy. My name is Jughead, and this is Kevin.

KEVIN

A pleasure to meet you Zhane. So glad there is a...second gay person at this school.

ZHANE

Wow, just us?! Small town I guess.

KEVIN

Yes, that is the reason. Small minds. Come with me I'll give you the...special gay tour of Riverdale High.

ZHANE

Sounds like a blast! See the rest of y'all at lunch! I brought brownies if you want any.

They walk away.

9

INT. EXTREMELY NICE STUDENT LOUNGE

9

Archie, Betty, Veronica, Jughead, and Reggie are joshin' around teen style on the couches when Kevin comes in, sweaty and nervous, wearing Zhane's vest.

KEVIN

Zhane wanted me to tell you all that he moved away, to Europe.

BETTY

Darn! He seemed like such a cool guy.

JUGHEAD

Nice vest.

KEVIN

Oh yes he gave to me his vest, as a trophy. Of friendship!

REGGIE

Anyways, like I was saying, I actually prefer having diarrhea. It's easier!

Jughead smirks and looks at Archie and Betty.

JUGHEAD

Hey Reg...I got you a present.

REGGIE

A present for me? After how I treated you?

A beat.

REGGIE

I'm glad you finally acknowledge me as your alpha.

Jughead hands Reggie a tube of peanut brittle.

REGGIE (cont'd)

Hell yeah bitch, I love nut-based confections.

JUGHEAD

I think you'll be...startled by how much you enjoy it.

REGGIE

Nah I have pretty measured expectations.

Reggie opens the can up and ka-blam! A bunch of spring loaded cloth snakes are unloaded upon him. Reggie flings himself off the couch and backs up against the wall. He is pale and panting. Everyone points and laughs at Reggie, except Betty who is stone-faced.

REGGIE (cont'd)

I'll kill you, Jughead!

JUGHEAD

That's what happens when you tango with the master of disaster.

Reggie storms out.

BETTY

Juggy, a word.

Betty leads Jughead out by the hand.

ARCHIE

Do you think she's going to do some hand stuff to him as a reward for delighting us all with that prank?

VERONICA

Yes.

10

INT. STAIRWELL

10

Jughead is unbuckling his belt.

BETTY

What are you doing?

JUGHEAD

Gettin' ready for hand stuff!

Betty rebuckles his belt. Jughead is confused.

BETTY

I'm not rewarding that behavior Jug Jug. I know you've made a lot of new...friends, but the halls of Riverdale High are no place for gang warfare!

JUGHEAD

Reggie stepped to me. And you all -
you ALL betrayed me at Six Flags. I
restored balance.

BETTY

He's just gonna get angrier and
come after you harder now! The only
way to kill your enemies is to make
them your friends Jug.

JUGHEAD

What about poison

BETTY

You know what I mean.

JUGHEAD

You're one cool customer, Betty
Cooper.

BETTY

Someone's gotta keep you in check,
Jughead Jones.

They hug. The shot lingers a while.

BETTY

So like if you wanted to do hand
stuff to me that would be okay
actually.

11 INT. OLIVE GARDEN, NOON

11

Alice walks up to a booth where Hiram is sitting.

HIRAM

You found the place, I'm glad.

ALICE

Don't get mixed up, Hiram. I'm here
to interview you. You're a famous
criminal and this is a good career
opportunity for me. And I've been
dying to try Riverdale's hottest
new spaghetti restaurant.

HIRAM

Uh huh.

Their server, LEANNE, walks up.

LEANNE

Hey, welcome to Olive Garden! Can I start you off with some drinks?

HIRAM

I'll have a bottle of red wine...

He slips a 20 into Leanne's apron.

HIRAM (cont'd)

Poured into a pitcher of coke.

LEANNE

Yes, sir! And for you miss?

ALICE

Chastity water!

LEANNE

What?

ALICE

Hot water with three lemon peels in it! Chop chop!

12 INT. POP'S

12

Reggie and DILTON are both eating big hamburgers.

REGGIE

So then I said actually, I prefer having diarrhea.it's easier!

DILTON

Woah and then -

REGGIE

Yeah, then they all started cheering for me and saying stuff like "Reggie is our dear friend" and "we're all aware that Reggie's dad also died recently."

DILTON

That's so cool Reggie.

REGGIE

Dilton do you think Jughead would be mad if I asked his sister Veronica out on a date?

DILTON

I think he would like it, but isn't she dating the red orphan?

REGGIE

A valid point from a genius friend.

They both take huge gulps from their drinks.

REGGIE (cont'd)

What if I trick her?

DILTON

Trick her how?

REGGIE

At the big memorial dance, I could just...do all the stuff from a date, but it would be at public event so if shes like "you are trying to date me" I can be like "you are a crazy woman, I am just having fun in a normal way."

DILTON

And you called ME a genius! As a long time member of the gang, I fully endorse this romantic scheme.

13 INT. JUGHEAD'S TRAILER 13

Jughead walks in and set down his heavy bookbag. He opens an incognito tab on his laptop and types in "pornhub.com/sapiosexual" when a greasy sack hits his head. He slams his laptop shut and turns around to see where the hot bag of hamburger sandwiches came from, only to find FP standing behind him, notably out of jail.

FP

Figured you'd be hungry.

14 TITLECARD: RIVERDALE 14

15 INT. COOPER HOME 15

Cheryl is standing in the kitchen, surrounded by smoke and covered in marinara. Alice and Betty walk in.

BETTY

Cheryl! What on Earth!

CHERYL

I'm sorry, I'm sorry I was trying to make a big spaghetti dinner to thank you and your family for the kindness you've shown me but I've never been in a kitchen and don't know what spaghetti is, I just know it's what our servants ate.

BETTY

Trying to make dinner? All you've made is a big mess!

ALICE

Her heart was in the right place.

Hal and Polly walk in.

POLLY

And so his whole plan was to trigger and apocalyptic race war, but the twist was he WANTED white people to lose.

HAL

That's wild. Woah, what happened to the kitchen?!

ALICE

Cheryl tried to make a spaghetti dinner for us all.

HAL

Wow, what she really made was a big mess.

BETTY

I already let her know.

HAL

Well, say, spaghetti sounds swell, and none of us have eaten it today, so what's say we all go to that new spaghetti restaurant?

ALICE

Spaghetti... restaurant?

HAL

Yeah, let's load up the car, the
Coopers are going to the Olive
Garden!

BETTY

This rules!

POLLY

I'm going to eat spaghetti and it's
going to make the babies in my
tummy italian.

16

INT. OLIVE GARDEN

16

The Coopers and Cheryl enter, Alice trails behind them.
Betty has tears in her eyes.

BETTY

It's more beautiful than I ever
imagined.

CHERYL

It's like a Burger King dressed up
as a restaurant for Halloween.

POLLY

I am also here. A so heavy with-a
my little bambinos!!!!

Leanne, the server from before, walks over. Alice freezes.

LEANNE

Table for 5?

POLLY

7 if you count the spaghetti
rascals inside my guts!

LEANNE

We do. Come with me.

Leanne seats them in a big round booth

HAL

Wow! We're like the Rat Pack!

LEANNE

Oh, Alice! Wow, we've got an Olive
Garden super fan over here!

ALICE

I have never been to this building
and I hate spaghetti with my life.

LEANNE

No, remember? You had a huge spicy
pasta lunch? You ordered like nine
chastity waters?

ALICE

Noodles are worms made of bread and
the only thing I drink is Sunny D.

LEANNE

You were eating with a man who
smelled like special leather.

Alice gets up and throws her water in Leanne's face.

ALICE

I'm going to go eat dinner
somewhere that the wait staff
aren't liars with an agenda, anyone
who wants to join me is more than
welcome!

Alice leaves. There is a brief silence.

HAL

So tell me about this calimari.
What the heck is it?

17

INT. LODGE APARTMENT

17

Hermione and Hiram stand in the living room.

HERMIONE

So what's your plan?

HIRAM

Plan?

HERMIONE

Hiram, I'm glad you're home, and I
do care for you, but let's not
pretend being in jail for 3 months
fundamentally changed your
personality.

HIRAM

Oh, but it did, mi amor. I'm an
honest man now. Plain-spoken.

HERMIONE

Honest, you say. How was lunch with Alice Cooper?

HIRAM

(performatively unfazed)
Illuminating.

HERMIONE

Such plain speech.

Veronica and Archie walk in.

VERONICA

Daddykins, mommykins, sorry we're late!

Hermione hugs Archie tight.

HERMIONE

How are you holding up?

ARCHIE

The local news wanted to interview me for a segment on the county's hottest mourning teens.

VERONICA

I don't know if having a number painted on his van made that guy the news.

ARCHIE

Then what was he, a van racer?!

HIRAM

Archie, have you ever had...beef?

ARCHIE

What? Yes.

HIRAM

Sorry, I've been rich so long I don't know which experiences are exclusive to me. Tonight we will be eating filet super mignon, which is a kind of beef you can only buy on Millionaire Island.

VERONICA

You went to Millionaire Island without me?!

HIRAM

I had it shipped, Daddy has to stay
in the continental United States.

VERONICA

Wow, a landlocked daddy. Things
have really changed for old
Veronica Lodge.

SMITHERS runs out of the kitchen wearing a big apron over
his doorman uniform.

SMITHERS

The filet super mignon!
It's....burnt!!!

Hiram pours a glass of scotch, drinks it, and then smashes
the glass on his own head.

HIRAM

Do you see my head bleeding,
Smithers?!

SMITHERS

Sir, I'm sorry, I -

HIRAM

DO YOU SEE BLOOD GUSHING DOWN MY
FOREHEAD, SMITHERS?!

Smithers inspects his forehead.

SMITHERS

I don't.

Hiram claps him on the back.

HIRAM

(Jocular in the way only the
wealthy are)
That's because I have a thick skin!

SMITHERS

Very good, sir, very good.

HIRAM

Now leave my fucking house.

18 INT. POP'S

18

Hermione, Hiram, Veronica, and Archie are eating hamburgers.

HERMIONE

Is it weird for you, being here?

ARCHIE

Huh?

HERMIONE

On account of your dad.

ARCHIE

My father was killed by a lone gunman, not delicious diner fare served at a reasonable price.

VERONICA

I'm sure Sheriff Keller is hard at work catching your dad's killer.

HIRAM

In case you were wondering, I didn't have your father killed for sleeping with my wife.

VERONICA

What?

HIRAM

You're smart kids, smarter than the Sheriff, I'm sure it wasn't inconceivable to you that a wealthy man with loose morals and a motive might have orchestrated a revenge killing. Do you have any idea how cheap it is to order a hit in Riverdale? I spent more on the filet super mignon.

ARCHIE

Well, I'm glad you're being upfront, I guess.

HIRAM

I thought your father was a good man, Archie, and I liked that he was keeping Hermione company. Are you familiar with cuckoldry?

Hermione starts chewing really loudly.

ARCHIE

I can't say that I am sir, is it a kind of sport?

HIRAM

(chuckling like Santa Claus)
I suppose you could call it that!

HERMIONE

Boy, these hamburgers are tee-riffic, huh?

HIRAM

Cuckolds like myself, we love knowing that our wife is getting porked by some other dude. For many it's about being sexually humiliated by a superior man. For me, I love knowing that a dude uglier and poorer than me is railing my wife.

HERMIONE

Should we get dessert??

HIRAM

Your father did that for me. And I will always be grateful. If there is anything - ANYTHING - I can do to aid your investigation, I will do it. You have my world.

ARCHIE

You're a good man, Mr. Lodge. Hey Veronica, should we get going to the big concert?

Archie looks to where Veronica was, she is gone. He looks over to see she is by the door on the phone. She walks over.

VERONICA

Sorry, I missed everything after my dad said he didn't kill your dad.

HIRAM

I would be happy to summarize.

HERMIONE

Hiram I will bite down on my capsule I swear to God.

VERONICA

Jughead wants us to come over to his place.

19 INT. JUGHEAD'S TRAILER 19

Veronica and Archie walk in to see Betty and FP arm wrestling while Jughead claps.

ARCHIE

You're out of jail!

FP gets up and gives Archie a big hug.

FP

I'm sorry to hear about your old man.

ARCHIE

There's nothing you could have done.

FP

Maybe not, but there's something I can do. I think I know who killed him.

20 COMMERCIAL BREAK. 20

21 INT. LUXURY HOTEL ROOM PRESENTED ON GREEN SCREEN 21

The TRIVAGO GUY steps out.

TRIVAGO GUY

It's the famous problem...you're going on a luxury vacation with all your friends. The quiet guy...

A Trivago Guy wearing glasses and reading a book shushes him.

TRIVAGO GUY

The sports fan...

A Trivago Guy wearing a beer hat freaks out at the TV and flips over a bowl of chips.

TRIVAGO GUY

Hippie Jeff...

A Trivago Guy in a dreadlock wig does a weird jig.

TRIVAGO GUY (cont'd)
 And Ms. Darrow, the wretched
 spinster...

A Trivago Guy with long white hair work in a bun wearing a shapeless orange dress pours a cup of tea and then spills it all over herself.

TRIVAGO GUY (cont'd)
 And clearly you can't all stay in
 the same room! So book a whole
 heaping mess of hotel rooms on
 trivago.com, the only hotel website
 for the world that will come when
 the world is washed clean by the
 Rain of Venom.

The Trivago Guy begins bleeding from his eyes.

TRIVAGO GUY (cont'd)
 Whoops, looks like my time is up!
 Soup's on, buddies!

The Quiet Guy, the Sports Fan, Hippie Jeff, and Ms. Darrow swarm upon the Trivago Guy, skeletonizing him almost instantly.

ANNOUNCER
 Trivago.com: have a place to sleep
 when the New Day comes.

22 INT. JUGHEAD'S TRAILER, AS BEFORE

22

ARCHIE
 You know who killed my dad?

FP
 I have an extremely good hunch.
 See, the Southside Serpents weren't
 always a biker gang. We're older
 than this damn town. When this land
 was first settled, it was by
 European mystics. They came here in
 search of a legendary creature,
 Deus Anguis.

BETTY
 The God Snake.

FP
 You are just whip smart, you know
 that? The Cult of Deus Anguis

(MORE)

FP (cont'd)
 thought he slept beneath what we
 now call Sweetwater River. They
 thought worshipping this god snake
 would bring blessings to them,
 which I guess worked okay, there's
 a town here now. The cult mostly
 died out around the 70s, but
 there's still a sect of Orthodox
 Serpents. From what I understand,
 they're know to make...sacrifices
 from time to time.

VERONICA
 And you think Fred was one of those
 sacrifices.

FP
 I know how it sounds, but they've
 knocked over diners all over the
 county.

BETTY
 It's worth looking into, but how?

FP
 They're having a ceremony tonight
 under the bridge.

JUGHEAD
 I'll go. I'm the golden boy of the
 Serpents right now.

BETTY
 Jughead, no.

JUGHEAD
 Fred Andrews did a lot for me. I
 owe him this much. Everybody else
 go to the memorial concert, I'll do
 this.

BETTY
 If you get shot I'm not patching
 you up. That's not going to be our
 dynamic.

JUGHEAD
 Fair enough.

VERONICA
 Hey, who bailed you out?

FP laughs as a father does.

FP

That's an extremely good question.

23 INT. MOTEL ROOM 23

Alice and Hiram are just completely railing each other. We pan away from this to the closet, which has slats through which you can see Hermione drinking a Big Gulp.

24 INT. RIVERDALE HIGH AUDITORIUM 24

Archie, Veronica, and Betty enter the auditorium, which is decorated in huge print outs of Fred's driver's license and frowny face emojis.

ARCHIE

I don't know if I can do this.

VERONICA

There is no shame - none - in bailing.

Mayor McCoy and Principal Weatherbee walk up to Archie.

MCCOY

Mr. Andrews, so glad that Riverdale's hottest dadless ginger could be here.

In the background Cheryl crushes a glass in her hand.

MCCOY

After Josie and the Pussycats perform, we'd like you to go up and say a few words about your dad and how people shouldn't move away just because of the 300% spike in murder.

ARCHIE

I don't feel comfortable doing that.

Mayor McCoy hugs him.

MCCOY

(Whispering)

If you don't it's going to be a 400% spike you Carrot Top looking-ass puke.

The hug breaks.

MCCOY (cont'd)
I'm sure you'll make the right
choice.

Archie walks off, upset. Veronica tries to follow him but he
shakes his head no.

WEATHERBEE
I was born from an egg.

25 EXT. UNDER THE BRIDGE

25

A beautiful dining room table is set up, cloaked figures are
congregated around it. Jughead approaches.

JUGHEAD
Hiss it to me, buddies!

The cloaked figures all turn toward him.

CLOAKED FIGURES
Hiss it to me my good snake!!!

Their leader removes their cloak, revealing himself to be
JOAQUIN, Kevin's former lover.

JOAQUIN
So glad you could come, Jughead.

JUGHEAD
I thought you left town.

JOAQUIN
I had an objective to complete. It
has been completed.

JUGHEAD
Should I tell Kevin you're back?

JOAQUIN
Christ, no.

The Serpents sit down. Joaquin gestures for Jughead to sit
at the head of the table.

JUGHEAD
Oh, gosh. All this for little old
me? How'd you even...know I'd be
coming?

JOAQUIN

The God Snake's hiss can be heard
by those who are listening.

26

INT. AUDITORIUM

26

Veronica and Betty are drinking punch.

BETTY

I feel like we haven't hung out in
weeks. You know, like, hung out
properly.

VERONICA

It's been weird. We've both been
living in Weird County, USA.

BETTY

Uh, yeah...in the township of
Weirdstock!!!

VERONICA

I haven't even asked if you've
gotten any CoverGirl brand
cosmetics lately.

Betty takes out a tube of CoverGirl Total Tease Mascara.

BETTY

Just this fun but flirty mascara.
It only retails for \$7.94, which is
a bargain at twice the price.

CHERYL

Guess I'll have to get used to
bargains, huh!!!

Betty and Veronica shriek.

CHERYL (cont'd)

I was under the table. Father
always said I was a good hider.

Reggie strolls up with a single red rose.

REGGIE

Ronnie, I was wondering if you'd
like to -

VERONICA

Go somewhere else? Sure yes yes.

Veronica jogs away, Reggie follows behind her.

CHERYL
Guess it's just us Blossoms!

BETTY
I'm a Cooper.

CHERYL
Okay, sure, I'll be a Cooper too.
What should we talk about?
Rationing grain?

BETTY
Cheryl, I'm going to walk away and
you're not going to follow. Okay?

Cheryl grabs her.

CHERYL
Please don't. I know I'm a lot but
my dad killed my brother and
himself and I burnt my house down
and that's a lot for somebody who
had a normal childhood but I
didn't, I think you can guess
pretty accurately I had a weird,
weird childhood and I don't know
how to be. I don't know how you
talk to someone without it being a
vaguely sexual power play. I want
to learn.

BETTY
Okay. What is...one of your
hobbies?

CHERYL
Killing animals!

There is a silence.

CHERYL (cont'd)
Was that the wrong -

BETTY
Me too. I...also kill animals.

CHERYL
Like, birds, squirrels.

BETTY
Yeah, not like, dogs and cats.

CHERYL
Of COURSE not.

BETTY
Maybe a raccoon.

CHERYL
It's our right as humans.

BETTY
God gave us animals to murder
whenever we want.

CHERYL
(Tears of joy in her eyes)
Yeah he did! God's the best!

BETTY
People get so judgy if you tell
them though!

CHERYL
Well I'll keep it a secret. We can
have lots of secrets, you and me.

27 INT. BACKSTAGE AT THE AUDITORIUM

27

Josie, Dilton, Moose, and Midge are all hanging out.

DILTON
Are you nervous, Josie? With the
big talent scout out there in the
audience?

JOSIE
I mean yeah, but what about you?
You have your early-entrance
interview at MIT tomorrow. You
should go home!

MOOSE
Hey, none of us would miss our best
friend's big performance.

MIDGE
Yeah, it's been a crazy year for
all of us - my dad trying to kill
himself...

MOOSE
Kevin bullying me back into the
closet...

DILTON
I got addicted to pain killers..

JOSIE
And I got kidnapped by that duke.

MOOSE
But we got through it all TOGETHER.

Principal Weatherbee enters.

JOSIE
Waldo!

They group hug Principal Weatherbee.

WEATHERBEE
I just wanted to say, before your
big performance, how proud I am of
you - all of you.

The hug breaks. Weatherbee smiles.

WEATHERBEE (cont'd)
My dad was a vial of goo they found
in an asteroid and my mom was a
turtle.

28 INT. RIVERDALE HIGH AUDITORIUM

28

Reggie has Veronica in a corner. He gives her a cup of punch.

REGGIE
I heard you like juice so here is
some.

VERONICA
Well, thanks, Reggie.

REGGIE
Your hair looks really healthy
today.

He gives her the single red rose. His hand is cut up from clutching it.

REGGIE (cont'd)
This is a kissing vegetable I
bought you, it cost a hundred
dollars because I'm also rich.

VERONICA

Is that what you want? To kiss me?

REGGIE

Little Orphan Manny isn't doing it. Lips like those aren't supposed to go unknissed. Nor a neck like that, or breasts for that matter. Every inch of you beckons to any healthy young man, kiss me, take me.

VERONICA

Wow, Reggie, I didn't know you had such a poet's soul.

REGGIE

You like it? It's from a porno my mom wrote.

29

EXT. UNDER THE BRIDGE

29

A hooded waiter sets a plate with a hamburger, french fries, and a milkshake in front of Jughead.

JUGHEAD

Yummy!

He starts scarfing down this tall feast.

JOAQUIN

Do you know the truth of the God Snake? I know you know OF him, you wouldn't be here if you couldn't hear him hissing.

JUGHEAD

(mouth full)

Yeah that kooky snake, say, you got any olives?

A small platter of olives is set before him.

JOAQUIN

The God Snake is a loving God. Beneath the river, he slumbers. We make sacrifices in the hope that one day, he will wake up and make the world right again. He is sleeping, and this world is his nightmare.

JUGHEAD
Sacrifices, huh?

JOAQUIN
Yes. The living avatar of Deus
Anguis must consume these
sacrifices of food and drink, to
gather the strength to swallow the
river and wake up God.

Jughead looks down at his plate. He searches his eyes for somebody else, anybody else who is eating. Not a soul. His mouth goes slack and his tongue falls out. The tip, ever so slightly, is forked.

JOAQUIN (cont'd)
It is *such* an honor to have you
here.

30 INT. RIVERDALE HIGH AUDITORIUM

30

Mayor McCoy stands on stage.

MCCOY
And now, the moment you've all been
waiting for...a solemn tribute to a
pillar of the community.

Josie and the Pussycats come out wearing mourning veils as McCoy exits.

JOSIE
(singing soulfully)
It's been so long since I saw
you...and you know when you're gone
there's nothing that I can do...so
come back here and grind up on
me...let me back up on you...one
last time...

PUSSYCATS
(singing)
Fred Andrews, we'll never forget
you...

31 EXT. UNDER THE BRIDGE

31

Jughead is freaking out.

JOAQUIN

You've always known the truth,
Jughead. Serpent born is the good
serpent prince, the one who will
free us.

JUGHEAD

Look, I'm a weirdo, okay? I'm not
normal. I'm a freakazoid. I'm a
thoughtful introvert, sure. I'm a
sweet goffik prince, yeah. But the
living avatar of an ancient god? Ya
GOTTA be kiddin' me!!

Joaquin tosses a mouse in the air and Jughead reflexively,
effortlessly swallows it. He is shocked by his own actions
and runs off. A cultist rises to chase him but Joaquin holds
him back.

JOAQUIN

All of the other avatars refused
the call too. We need only wait.

32

INT. RIVERDALE HIGH AUDITORIUM, AS BEFORE

32

JOSIE

(singing, REALLY bringing it
home)

Grind up on me
one...last...tiiiime!

A banner of Fred's dead body but with his eyes photoshopped
open and his mouth photoshopped into a smile is unfurled.
McCoy takes the stage as the Pussycats take a bow and leave.

MCCOY

What a good town we have, with a
band and an arts scene and we'll
build a mall some day. Before we
end the festivities tonight, we
have one more speaker. Archie
Andrews!!!

Archie walks out. As he enters McCoy hands him a speech
while making pointed eye contact. He begins reading from it.

ARCHIE

Riverdale...mama mia what a town,
which my dad liked building stuff
in, so it would be disrespectful to
me, a grieving child to leave just
because murder is happening
constantly. And - you know what?

Archie throws the speech into the air.

ARCHIE

Riverdale is just a town, and it's where my dad was murdered for no reason. Most of you didn't know him and I don't need you to pretend you did. Archie out!

He runs off stage. Veronica chases after him. Reggie chases after her but he trips and falls into a mop bucket. Mayor McCoy storms the stage.

MCCOY

Looks like Reggie's all wet, folks!

The entire auditorium erupts into applause.

33 EXT. RIVERDALE HIGH, MORNING

33

Cheryl and Betty are anxiously watching something just off screen when...snap! Their trap worked, they've captured a pigeon. It's little legs are broken.

CHERYL

How many feathers do you think we can get before it dies of fear?

BETTY

It's our duty as scientists to find out.

Cheryl smiles gratefully.

34 INT. RIVERDALE HIGH, HALLWAY

34

Archie walks in, trying not to be noticed. Dilton points at him.

DILTON

Hey, everybody, look who it is!
Archie the cool rebel!

Everybody applauds him and then disperses. Veronica walks up to him.

VERONICA

Hey, Red. How's tricks?

ARCHIE

I know it's not cool I ran off. I know.

VERONICA

You're going through a lot, and I get it, and I can be patient.

Reggie walks by with his dick just, bulging through his shorts.

VERONICA (cont'd)

Up to a point. I am in your life now. I've planted a flag. So you can open up to me, and let me in, or I'll have to move on. Mama's got options...and I'm Mama.

Archie kisses her.

VERONICA (cont'd)

That's a step in the right direction.

35

INT. STUDENT LOUNGE

35

Archie, Betty, Jughead, and Veronica are all sitting down when Kevin enters, sweaty, panicked, and wearing a fedora.

KEVIN

Dylan had to move away suddenly but he gave me his hat that's why I have it he moved to a country with no phones at all.

VERONICA

Wow, all these kids who keep moving here for one day are so generous.

KEVIN

Yeah, cool, what's up, your dad still dead?

ARCHIE

Yeah...

JUGHEAD

I checked into the cult thing, they're... harmless. Just a bunch of kooks. No way they did anything.

36 INT. RIVERDALE HIGH HALLWAY

36

The gang walks to their next class.

FEMALE VOICE (VO)

They have to stay in the dark. I know it hurts, I feel for you. I would never have chosen this, but the timetable has accelerated.

37 EXT. RIVERDALE HIGH

37

The voice, a girl with white hair is talking to a man in a hood.

WHITE HAired GIRL

They can't know anything is amiss. They'll have to think I'm just plain old Sabrina Spellman...high school sophomore. And you understand your role in all this. You understand why it has to be this way.

We pan to see from her POV - the man in the hood is Fred Andrews. He nods.

FRED

If anything happens to my boy, you're dead.

SABRINA

If we don't stop the Rain of Venom, we're all dead.

On top of a hill, they are being watched by cloaked figures. Joaquin stands, smiling. The cloaked figures take off hoods, revealing 8 different Trivago Guys. Joaquin smiles.

END.