

Archie and Reggie



Archie treats the girls in his class with kindness and respect, always offering to carry their books.



Reggie obsesses over certain girls in his class and gets angry whenever they rebuff his advances.



Although they sometimes disagree, Archie honors his mother and father, helping them with chores around the house.



Reggie does nothing for his allowance—and once got into a fight with his dad after losing a baseball game.



When the zombie apocalypse happened, Archie stepped up as leader of the group to protect his friends, even if it meant making some hard choices.



Moving from town to town, Reggie withdraws further into himself, consumed by his darkest secret: That he's personally responsible for the end of the world.

It's true
what they
say.

No one thinks
of themselves
as a villain.



Everyone is the
hero of their own
life's story.



I'll give you
an example.

Not long after the spring thaw,
I found four horses in the barn of
an otherwise deserted farm...

Starving, but luckily, there was
some hay in the loft that was
still good--

--that hadn't
gotten wet
and rotted
during winter--

--so I
fed the
horses
from my
hand,
coaxing
them
back to
strength.

Such noble, god-like beasts, horses...

They
were
scared
at first, but
I petted them
and whispered
soothing things
in their ears...

I told them everything
was going to be alright...

...that all they had
to do was trust me.



Then I rode one of them back to camp, leading the other three behind me.



Everyone agreed: The horses were a *game-changer*. We could load our provisions on them, make better time...

Our scouts--Kevin and Ginger--could ride ahead for *miles*, then report back to us in *one hour* instead of *five*.



I was hailed a hero by the rest of the gang.



Mr. Lodge said the horses might make all the difference between us surviving or not.

Veronica kissed me on the cheek and said she always knew I'd step up and come into my own one day.



It's just... who could've predicted it would take a zombie apocalypse for that to happen?



But that's just how life works sometimes. You don't find out who you really are until the world... tests you, I guess.

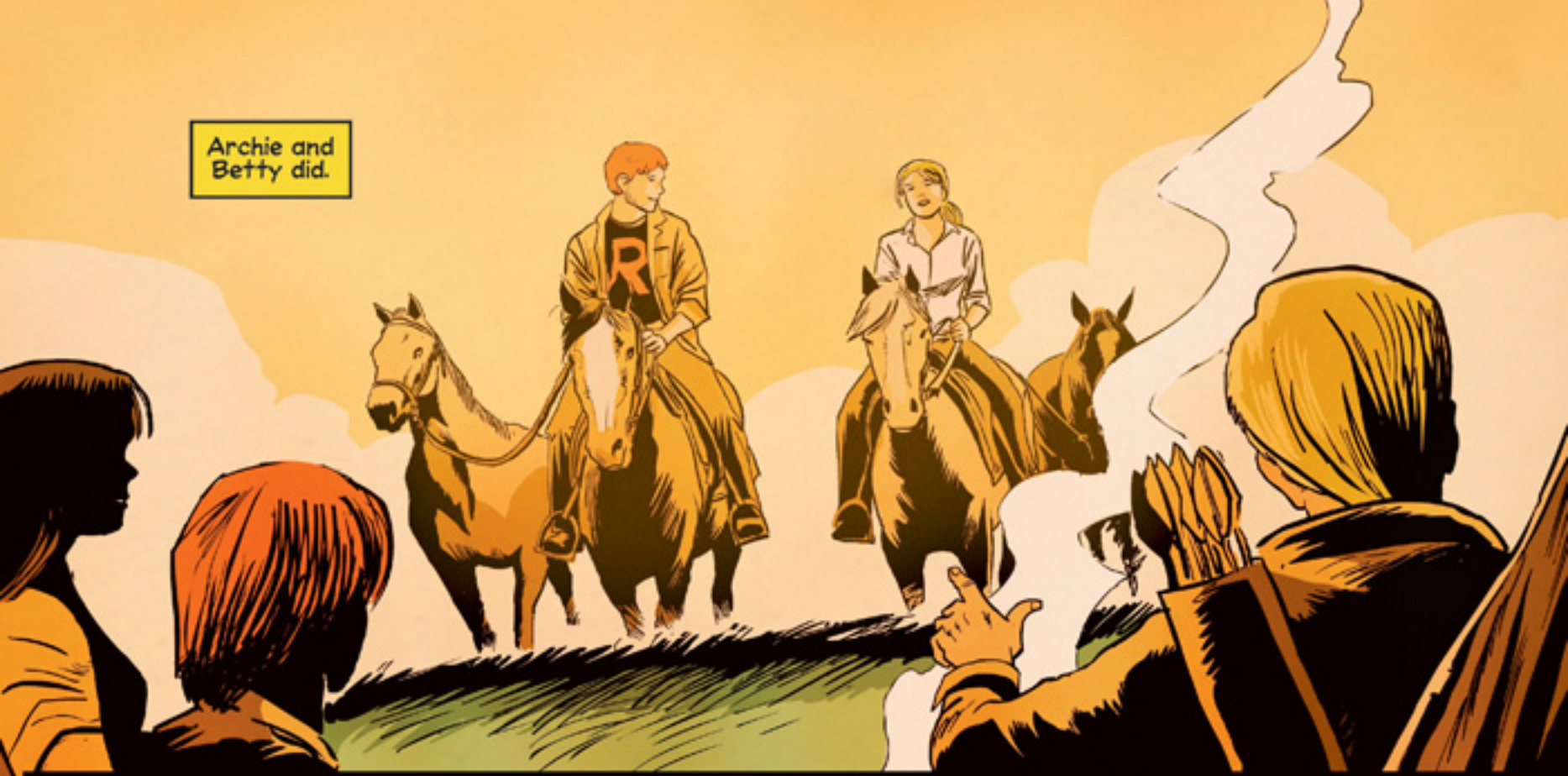


The only thing is...



...I didn't find the horses and lead them back to camp.

Archie and Betty did.



I watched, while everyone else rallied around them, slapping them on the back, congratulating them...



That's me, Reggie Mantle. Always on the outside, looking in...



Have you ever gone to the movies--a big, stupid comedy, for instance--and everyone around you is laughing their asses off...



...except for you, you're not laughing--and you think, "What is wrong with these people? Why does anyone think this is funny?"

