

I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT I THOUGHT I KNEW AT THE TIME ... BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, I WAS HOOKED.

MY LIFE HAD BECOME ABOUT MAKING HER HAPPY.

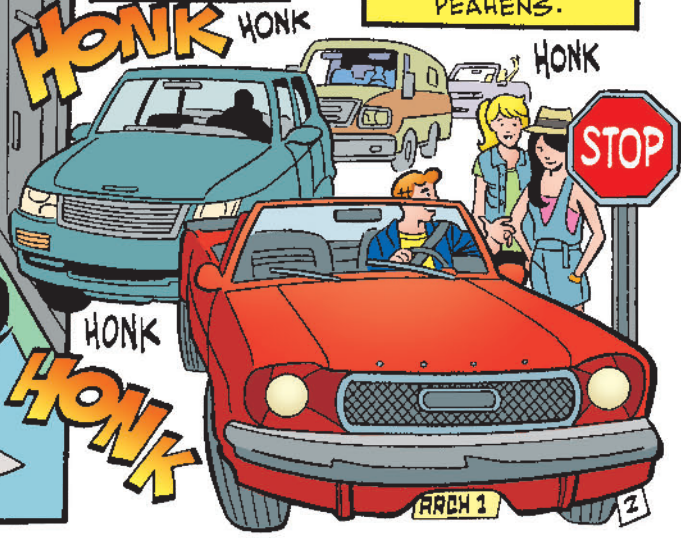
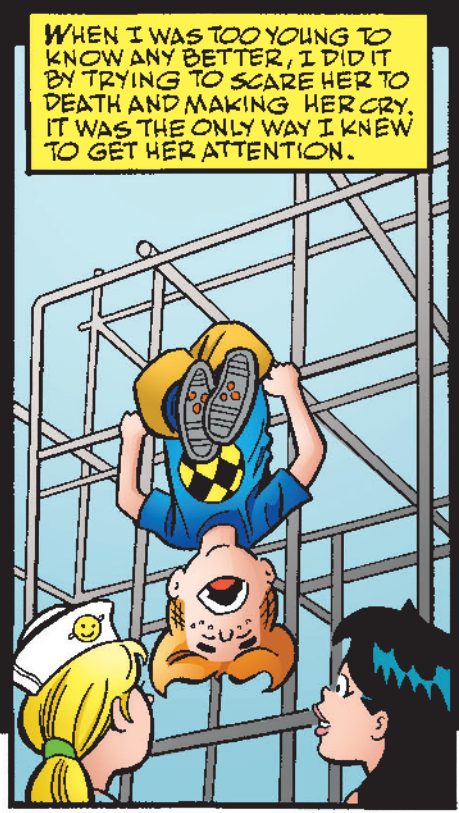
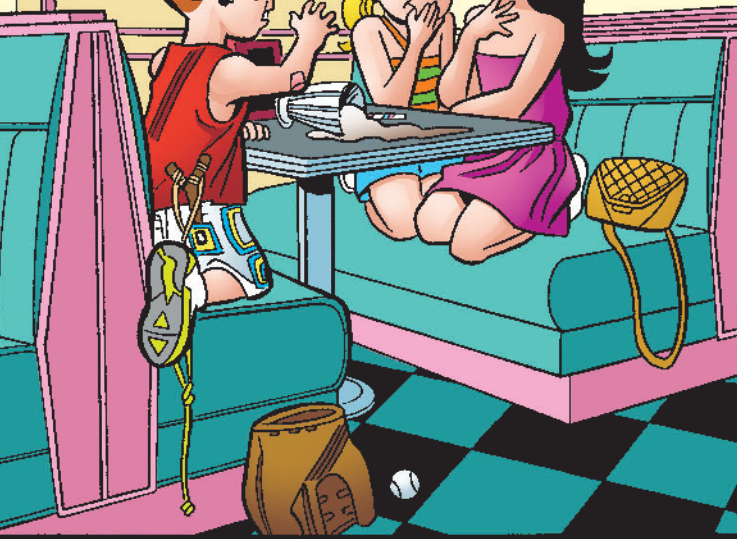
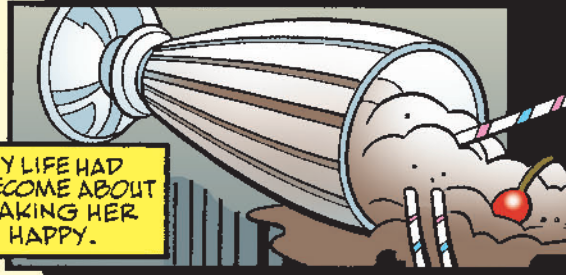
WHEN I WAS TOO YOUNG TO KNOW ANY BETTER, I DID IT BY TRYING TO SCARE HER TO DEATH AND MAKING HER CRY. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I KNEW TO GET HER ATTENTION.

THINGS CHANGED WHEN WE GOT A LITTLE OLDER. I WENT FROM BEING POINTLESSLY LOUD, TO BEING LOUD TO SHOW OFF MY WIT AND PHYSICAL PROWESS.

PROVING I WAS STILL TOO YOUNG TO KNOW ANY BETTER.

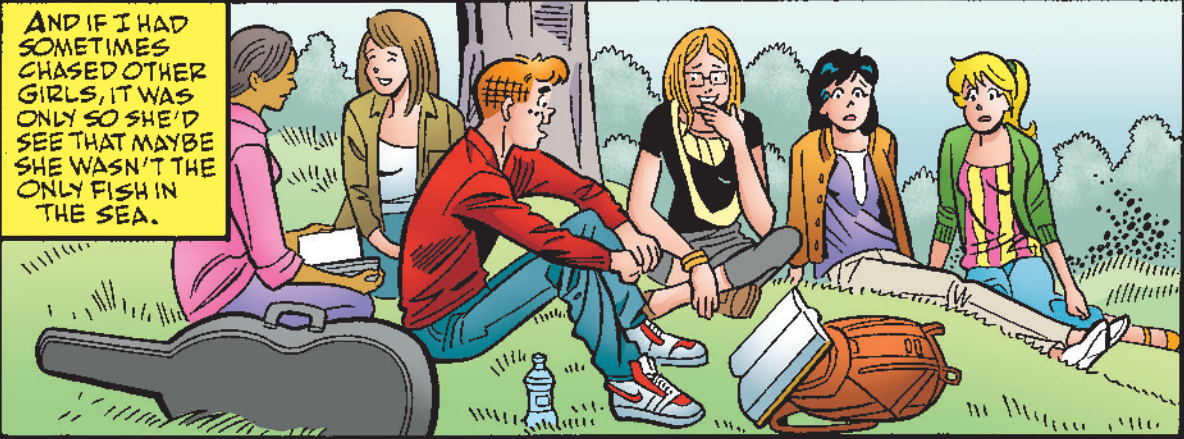
BUT I LEARNED. SLOWLY. IT WAS A CASE OF US BOTH NEEDING TO MATURE.

IF I WAS STRUTTING LIKE A PEACOCK, IT WAS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IMPRESSED THE PEAHENS.



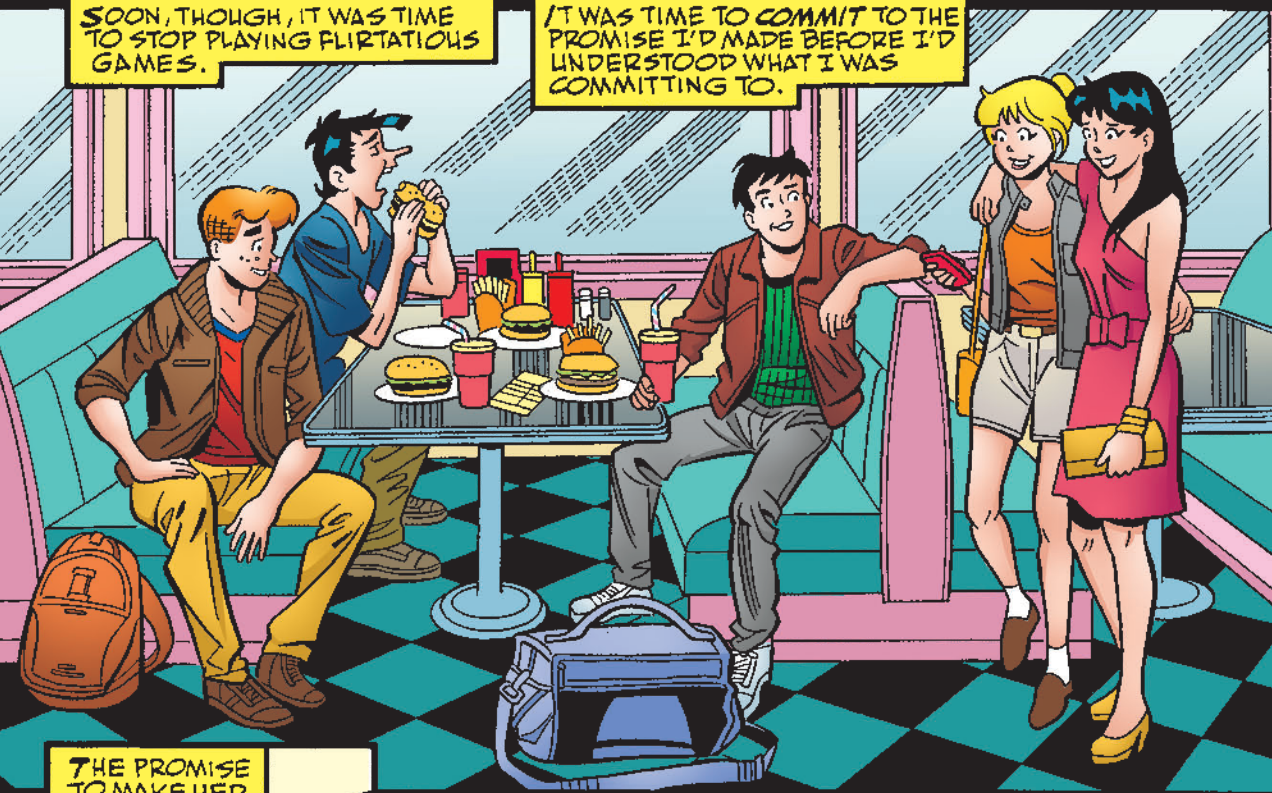


AND IF I HAD SOMETIMES CHASED OTHER GIRLS, IT WAS ONLY SO SHE'D SEE THAT MAYBE SHE WASN'T THE ONLY FISH IN THE SEA.



SOON, THOUGH, IT WAS TIME TO STOP PLAYING FLIRTATIOUS GAMES.

IT WAS TIME TO COMMIT TO THE PROMISE I'D MADE BEFORE I'D UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WAS COMMITTING TO.



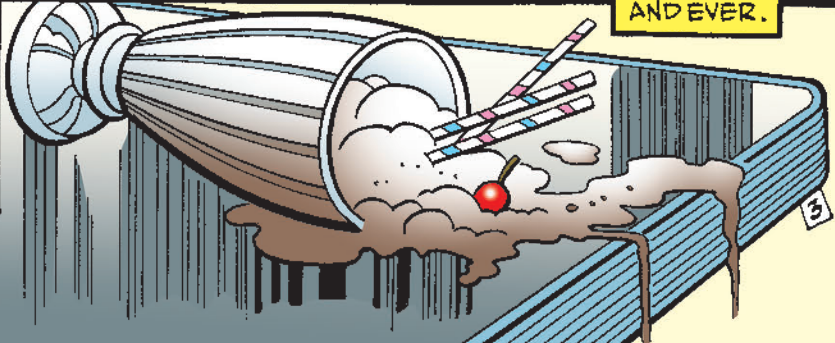
THE PROMISE TO MAKE HER HAPPY.



AND THAT MADE ME HAPPY, TOO.



FOREVER AND EVER.







TODAY. PICKENS  
PARK:

I'M NOT SURE  
I BELIEVE IN  
FATE. THE UNI-  
VERSE IS JUST  
TOO WEIRD TO  
LET ME THINK  
ANY OF THIS  
WAS PLANNED.

BUT THEN THERE ARE THOSE TIMES  
WHEN YOU GOTTA THINK, PLANNED OR  
NOT, LIFE IS AS IT WAS  
MEANT TO BE.

I MEAN, THINGS  
HAVEN'T BEEN SO  
EASY LATELY, BUT  
WHEN IT FINALLY  
CALMED DOWN  
AND THE DUST  
SETTLED...

...THERE I  
WAS, EXACTLY  
WHERE I  
NEEDED TO  
BE, WITH  
EXACTLY  
WHO I  
ALWAYS  
KNEW I  
WANTED AT  
MY SIDE.

So... WHO KNOWS?  
MAYBE THERE IS  
SOMETHING TO BE  
SAID FOR FATE,  
AFTER ALL...





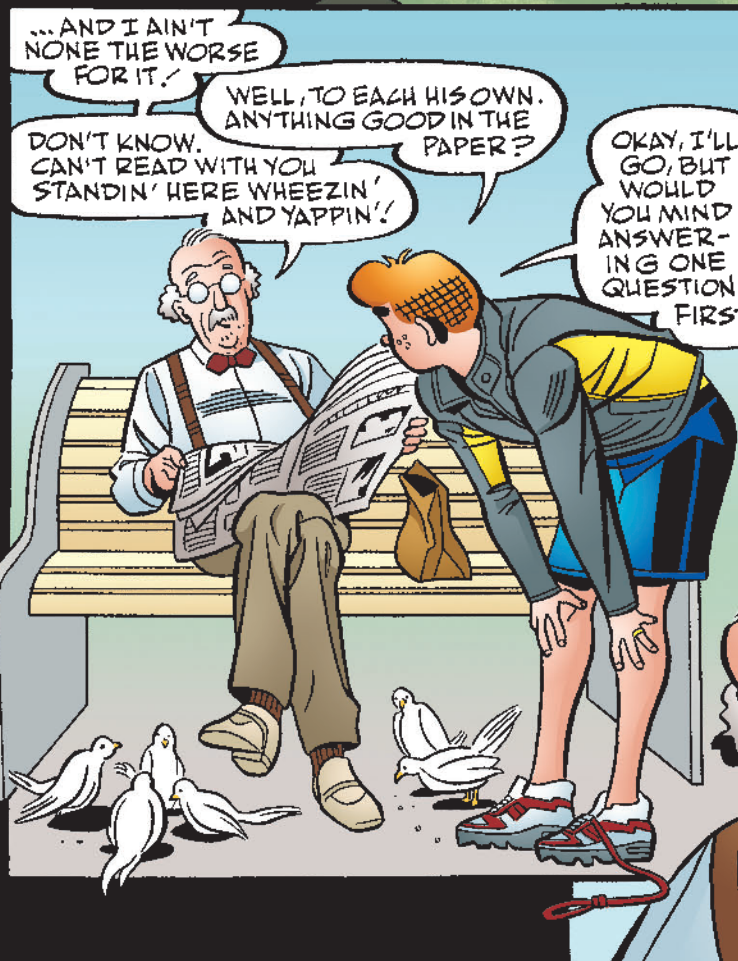
I GUESS I CAN'T COMPLAIN. I MEAN, EVERYBODY'S LIFE IS A ROLLER-COASTER...

...BUT WE'RE ALL SO BUSY HOLDING ON THAT WE FORGET WE'RE NOT ALONE ON THE RIDE!

HEY, THERE, MR. PAYIA! HOW'RE YOU TODAY?

WHO'S THAT-- ANDREWS? WHY THE DEVIL ARE YOU RUNNING? SOMEONE CHASING YOU?

NO, SIR, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD FOR ME! I HAVEN'T RUN, EXCEPT TO CATCH A BUS, SINCE I GOT OUT OF THE ARMY BACK IN '54!...



...AND I AIN'T NONE THE WORSE FOR IT!

WELL, TO EACH HIS OWN. ANYTHING GOOD IN THE PAPER?

DON'T KNOW. CAN'T READ WITH YOU STANDIN' HERE WHEEZIN' AND YAPPIN'!

OKAY, I'LL GO, BUT WOULD YOU MIND ANSWERING ONE QUESTION, FIRST?

ANYTHING...IF IT'LL MAKE YOU GO AWAY!

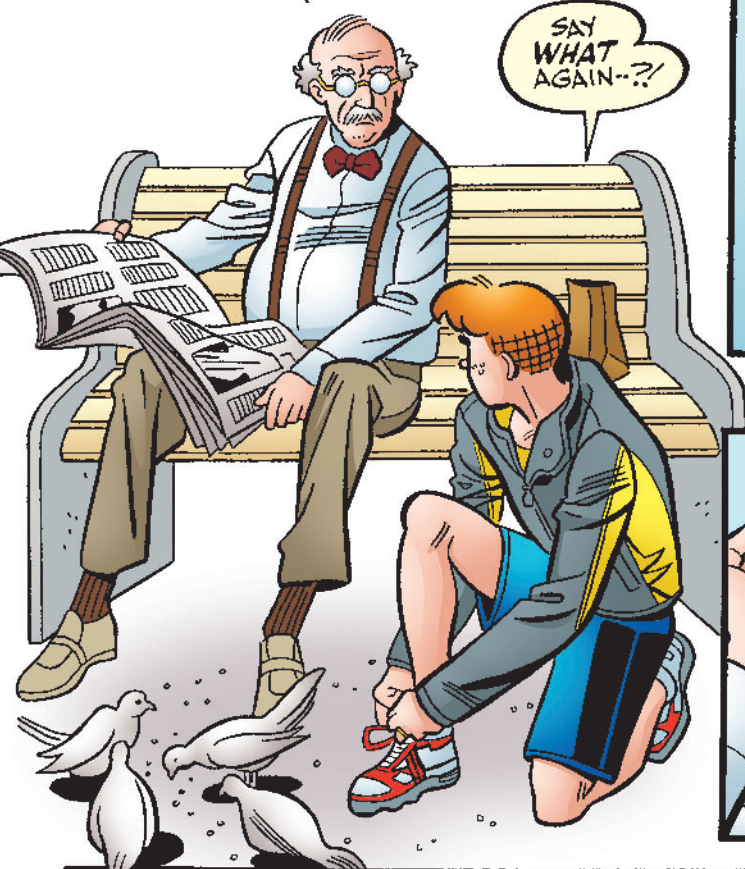
WHY ARE YOU SUCH A GROUCH, WHEN ALL I'M TRYING TO DO IS BE FRIENDLY?!







NO! HE WAS MY LEFT FIELDER WHEN I COACHED LITTLE LEAGUE!



GOT LOTTION IN YOUR EARS? I WAS "FUMBLING" FRED ANDREWS' LITTLE LEAGUE COACH!

