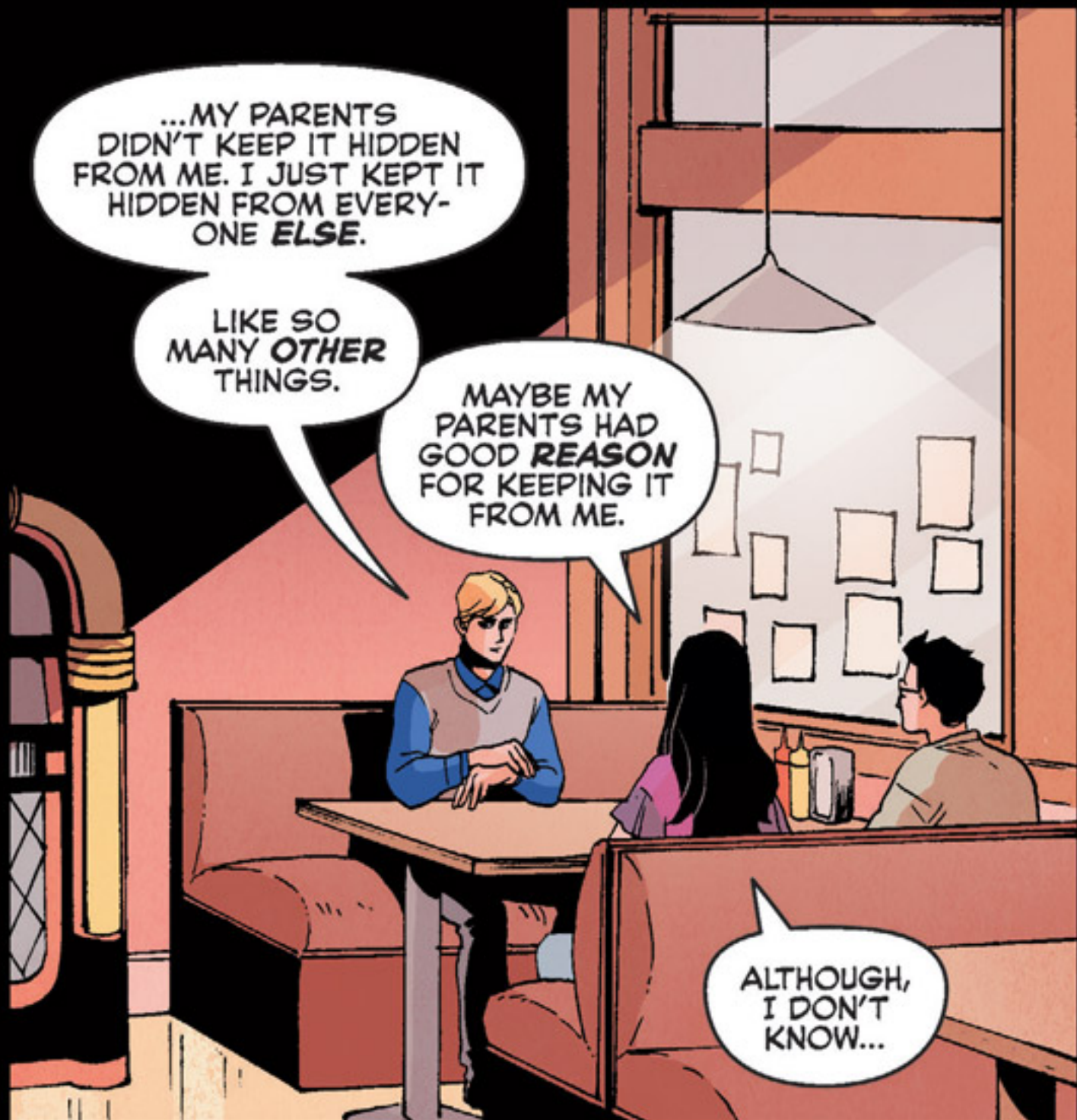




"I FOUND OUT ABOUT MY..."

"...MY VAMPIRISM..."

"...WHEN I WAS REALLY YOUNG. UNLIKE YOU, VERONICA..."



...MY PARENTS DIDN'T KEEP IT HIDDEN FROM ME. I JUST KEPT IT HIDDEN FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

LIKE SO MANY OTHER THINGS.

MAYBE MY PARENTS HAD GOOD REASON FOR KEEPING IT FROM ME.

ALTHOUGH, I DON'T KNOW...



...I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE.



OKAY, BUT, KEVIN-- WHY ARE YOU TELLING US THIS NOW?

BECAUSE... BECAUSE...

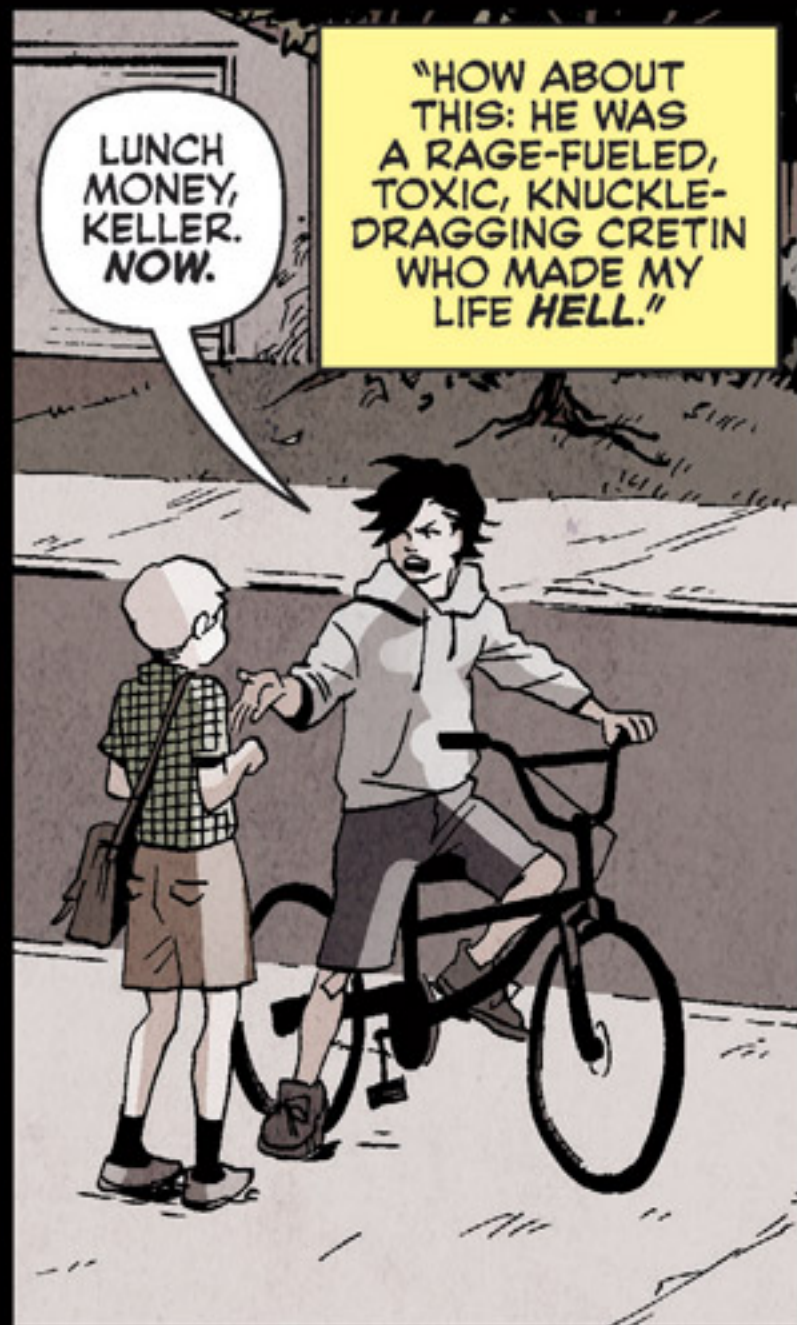


BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENED TO FANGS IS MY FAULT.



"FANGS--EDWARD--
LIVED ON MY BLOCK
WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

"HE WAS...HOW
DO I PUT THIS
DELICATELY?"



LUNCH
MONEY,
KELLER.
NOW.

"HOW ABOUT
THIS: HE WAS
A RAGE-FUELED,
TOXIC, KNUCKLE-
DRAGGING CRETIN
WHO MADE MY
LIFE HELL."



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
FOR SOME DODGEBALL IN GYM
TODAY, KELLER--HOPE YOU'RE
READY!

"I KNEW EVEN
THEN THAT I
WAS DIFFERENT.

"I WAS
ANGRY AND
...CONFUSED.
ABOUT
SO MANY
THINGS."



LOOKEE
HERE,
KELL--

LEAVE
ME ALONE,
EDWARD.

LEAVE
YOU ALONE?
OR WHAT?
Huh?

"AND
ONE
DAY..."



WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO
DO TO ME?



"I JUST..."



"I'D HAD
ENOUGH."



FANGS WAS A MONSTER. BUT NOW, THANKS TO ME, HE'S EVEN *MORE* OF ONE.

AND I CAN TRY TO JUSTIFY IT ALL I WANT-- SURE, HE TORTURED ME. HE HURT ME IN *SO MANY* WAYS. BUT WHAT I DID TO HIM, DAMNING HIM FOR LIFE?

I CAN NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF FOR THAT.

KEVIN, YOU--YOU WERE A *KID*. YOU WERE SCARED AND DEALING WITH *SO MUCH*. YOU CAN'T-- YOU CAN'T PUNISH YOURSELF FOREVER.

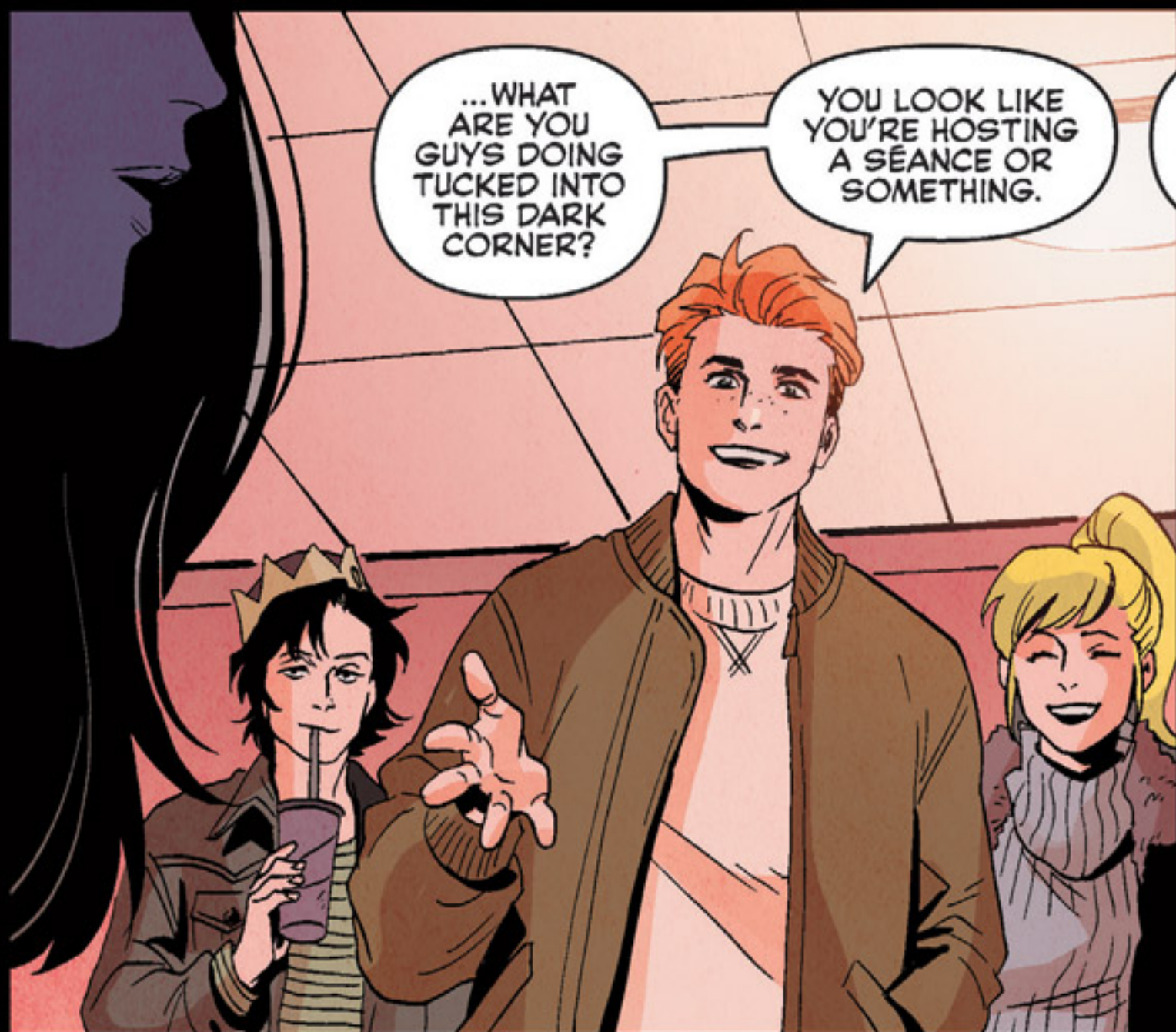
IT DOESN'T MUCH MATTER, DOES IT? THE DAMAGE IS DONE. BESIDES, THAT'S NOT WHY WE'RE HERE.

FOR SOME REASON, FANGS IS *BACK*. AND WHATEVER HE WANTS, IT CLEARLY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH *YOU*, VERONICA.

YEAH, I HAVE NO *CLUE* WHAT THAT'S ABOUT. I CAN BARELY FIGURE OUT MY OWN BAGGAGE, LET ALONE SOMEONE *ELSE'S*.

BUT I'M GUESSING I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT MR. MYSTERIOSO IS AFTER, WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NO--

SPEAKING OF MYSTERIOSO...



...WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING TUCKED INTO THIS DARK CORNER?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HOSTING A SÉANCE OR SOMETHING.



KEV, SCOOSH OVER. JUGHEAD, HOW ABOUT YOU GET SOME MUSIC GOING ON THE JUKEBOX AND--

ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE.



LEAVE? BUT... WE JUST GOT HERE. AND...

...AND WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT THE DANCE YET.

YEAH, Um... MY DAD. HE NEEDS ME FOR...MY HELP. HE NEEDS MY HELP WITH SOMETHING.

YA KNOW... RICH PEOPLE STUFF.

SORRY...



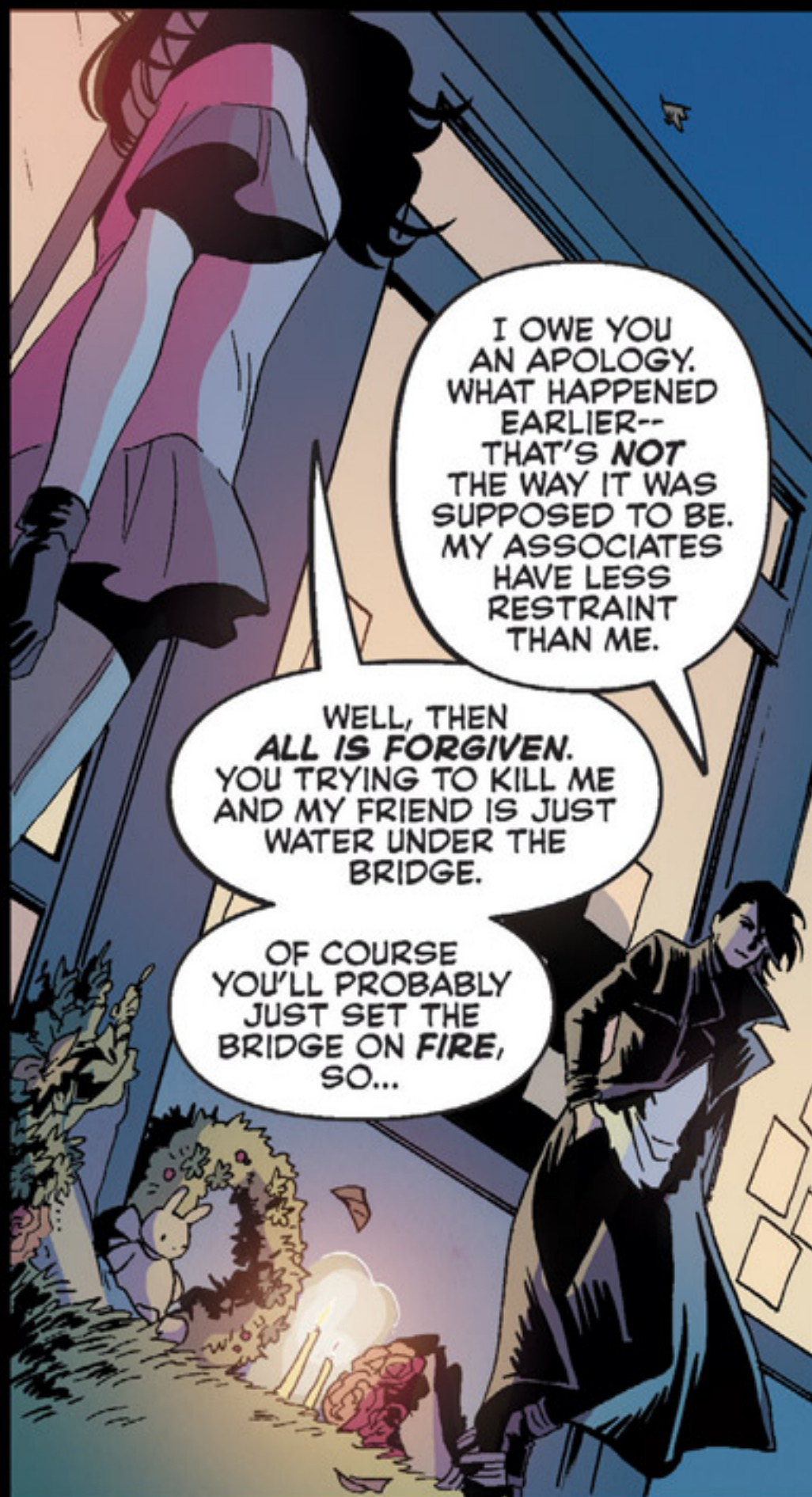
"...I GOTTA RUN."

VEROOOONNICAAAA...



WHO?

HE'S NOT TELLING YOU EVERRRRYTHINNNNG...



I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY. WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER-- THAT'S **NOT** THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. MY ASSOCIATES HAVE LESS RESTRAINT THAN ME.

WELL, THEN **ALL IS FORGIVEN.** YOU TRYING TO KILL ME AND MY FRIEND IS JUST WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE.

OF COURSE YOU'LL PROBABLY JUST SET THE BRIDGE ON **FIRE,** SO...



BUT NOW PLEASE HEAR ME OUT...

YOU KNOW, I LEFT MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS A KID BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY WAY FOR ME NOT TO **DEVOUR THEM.** SO, YOU CAN SAY I'VE BEEN **AROUND.** AND YOU WANT TO KNOW ONE THING I'VE LEARNED?

NOT REALLY.

PEOPLE WHO **RESPECT** YOU...



...THEY TELL YOU THE **TRUTH. THE WHOLE TRUTH.**

I GET THE FEELING NOT MANY PEOPLE RESPECT YOU, RONNIE. BUT--

YOU DON'T **KNOW ME.**



BUT. THEY SHOULD.



AND I'M GUESSING YOU WOULD, RIGHT?

YOU'LL SEE.



DING



YOU'LL SEE...