



Kevin Keller: Welcome to Riverdale

Dan Parent

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Kevin Keller is sure making a splash at Riverdale High! Recently elected class president, Kevin has gone from new kid in town to one of the most well-known and popular students in school. Struggling to stay on top of his new duties while trying to find time for a social life, Kevin is subject to all the pratfalls and mayhem that have been a staple of high school life in Riverdale for decades. From his first date to his first prom to his first summer job, it's a year of new beginnings for Kevin. In typical Archie fashion, though, nothing goes off without a hitch--particularly when he decides to ask his romantically-challenged friends Archie, Betty, Veronica, Reggie and Jughead for advice! He even has to face the force of nature that is Cheryl Blossom, who can test the mettle of the toughest teens. But if anyone can make it through the chaos of high school unscathed, it's Kevin Keller!

The most popular addition to the Riverdale crowd in years, Kevin Keller is Archie's first gay character. Fan-favorite writer/artist Dan Parent (Betty and Veronica: Storybook) helms this heartfelt and humorous collection of the first four issues of the ongoing Kevin Keller comic book series (Kevin's past appearances in Veronica and the Kevin Keller miniseries appear in the previously released Kevin Keller hardcover book).

Kevin Keller: Welcome to Riverdale Details

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From Reader Review Kevin Keller: Welcome to Riverdale for online ebook

Sean Kennedy says

After reading the first volume, I was looking forward to this as it promised delving into Kevin dating, etc.

Needless to say, I felt a bit shortchanged. Look, I know these are Archie comics. But when there is a big fuss made over how Kevin is going to be treated just like any other Archie kid, I expected to, y'know, at least *see* Kevin on his first date in Riverdale. Instead we get a huge lead up to the date itself, including Kevin being forced to shop for clothes with Veronica, etc., and then the date arrives... and the story ends.

Likewise, Kevin gets a date for the school dance. His date never shows up.

This is Kevin's romantic and dating life? One stand up and one story that ends when the date begins? I can't help but feel there is a little bit of skirting of 'controversy' here, which is a bit hypocritical seeing we've been privy to the menage-a-trois that is Archie/Veronica/Betty for decades.

Perhaps this is leading to something better in Volume 3. I can't help but admit I'm disappointed after the initial promise when the series began.

Stephanie Goh says

This is banned in Singapore as it features a homosexual boy. I started knowing about Kevin from an issue in "Archie's married life" and he really stood out as one of the more eccentric guys in the series who's brave enough to get out of the closet and be proud of who he is and I admire him greatly and he impacted my life greatly, even though he is just a fictional character.

Jill Jemmett says

I love the character Kevin Keller on the show Riverdale. He's such a fun guy! So I decided to look up the Kevin Keller graphic novels, and I loved this one!

Kevin Keller is the first gay character in Riverdale. This is a huge milestone for the series! He has a very positive experience being gay in Riverdale, because Archie and his friends are supportive of him.

Though Kevin gets a lot of support from his friends and family, the stories also demonstrate some bullying. They meet some of Cheryl Blossom's friends, who are not as supportive and call Kevin names. There is another person who leaves Kevin notes as his secret admirer, but he is not comfortable coming out as gay yet. Though these things are not the worst things that can happen, this story does touch upon hardships that other people face.

I loved these comics! I can't wait to read more about Kevin Keller!

Jess says

I picked this up from the library hoping to delve into the world of Archie and Riverdale. While it was a nice, quick read, it made me realize how much I've grown up since when I originally read Archie as a child. Very cheesy!

I am glad to see, however, that the world of Archie of my childhood has been able to evolve to introducing a gay character into the world.

3/5 Goodreads stars!

Judah says

Great literature it's not, and the attempts at inclusiveness borders on "After school special" levels of heavy handedness. Still Dan Parent points out in his afterword that Kevin's introduction was to give gay kids/teens a place in the Idyllic Riverdale of classic style Archie comics. That's something you really can't complain about.

Andrea says

What's with non-straight characters from the Archie universe and their obsession with food?

To be honest, I decided to read this because I'm reading a couple of books with queer characters that could be used in an ESL classroom. I read Jughead's volume so I had to read Kevin's too. To be honest, this was highly stereotypical. I don't think it could be deemed as problematic because the portrayal is not actually negative, but I feel like the situations and his personality are based primarily on stereotypes of gay people.

Christopher says

The collection of four Kevin Keller comic books titled KEVIN KELLER: WELCOME TO RIVERDALE marks my second venture not only into Kevin's character but also into the ARCHIE comics universe in general, my first being Paul Kupperberg's novel titled KEVIN. Kupperberg's novel intrigued me, as I really liked Kevin's character and wanted to learn more about him; this collection gave me that chance, and I now appreciate Kevin's character on an even deeper level. The collection of comic books does a really impressive job of allowing the reader into Kevin's mind and understanding him, which is something that I think is tough for comic books to accomplish. From this collection, the reader understands Kevin's basic ideologies, his principles, his desires, his motivations, how he reacts to good news and to bad news, and so forth. He is definitely a hero in so many ways, but he is the type of hero who doesn't need to wear a mask, nor does he need any supernatural abilities. He is comfortable in his skin, his environment, and he stands up for others because he knows what it is feels like to be the victim of bullying. He does not discriminate against others and is all-accepting and understanding of others' positions when they're reasonable and not bigoted, and for all of those reasons, he is such a fantastic role model for children and teenagers, as it certainly would be

beautiful if more teenagers could follow this kind of example in school, especially in middle school and high school where bullying seems to largely be a problem. Riverdale High School, the high school in the ARCHIE comics universe, is definitely a utopia, as evidenced by the fact that the homophobic bully Sloan in this collection comes from a different high school. Not once throughout any of the four comic books that make up this collection does Kevin hear any kind of homophobic remark from any of his fellow students, and even his entire family is entirely supportive, and his parents don't regard his sexuality any different than their own, as they frequently compare his dating endeavors to their own when they were his age and first met. I only have a few problems with the collection, but I can't blame the collection because my problems are in conjunction with Kupperberg's KEVIN novel, which was released after this collection, as there seem to be some inconsistencies between this collection and the novel. For example, the introduction to the comics mentions that Kevin had previously faced having been bullied due to his sexuality but does not mention anything about his weight or his interests, which are the reasons why he is bullied at his old high school but not necessarily because he was gay, as he was not out yet. Additionally, there is a flashback scene in this collection that shows Kevin when he was much younger, and he doesn't seem to have lost weight over the years, as he was thin then, as well, an apparent contradiction between this and the novel, and the novel also does not mention anything about two younger sisters. My only other qualm with the novel is that there is a minor character who is revealed to be gay, and the way that it is presented makes it seem as if that is the only reason why he stands up for Kevin when Sloan bullies him, since the character in question does not attend Riverdale, but I shouldn't complain because Kevin certainly has enough heterosexual allies at Riverdale. Overall, however, I really like Kevin's character, and I very much enjoyed this collection of mini-stories, even though I do wish that they had been more linear; for example, Kevin goes out on a date near the end of the first story, but we never find out how the date went since that character, named Brian, is never seen again in the succeeding three stories. I am assuming that that means that they just weren't meant to be. KEVIN KELLER: WELCOME TO RIVERDALE is a lot of fun but is also intelligent, the art very colorful, and I reiterate that Kevin is a wonderful role model for readers.

J.B. says

Yay, gay character at Riverdale. Definitely awesome, even if it's a rich white cis dude. That said, who even reads Archie now? It's not contemporary high school kids, so exactly whom is going to even see this character?

Marjo says

Kevin Keller is such an endearing character, I love him so much. I went into this knowing absolutely nothing about the rest of the Riverdale comics, but in the end I didn't need it. The introduction by the author and the introductory comic at the beginning was enough to understand who all the characters were. I really enjoyed reading these comics about Kevin, who is always positive and has his struggles as the only out gay teen in high school. I feel like every arc they gave him was handled well, which is so refreshing and makes me really happy. If you love comics and are in need of more lgbt+ comics, I'd definitely recommend checking out Kevin Keller!

Chrystal says

Kevin is the best! This collection gave much insight into his back story and has left me wanting more Kevin please!

Ashley says

I wasn't sure what to expect with the Kevin Keller storylines in the Archie universe, but they are exactly what I would hope for in terms of gay representation in *Archie*. I used to read *Archie* religiously, so I know this fits right in. I was pleasantly surprised--I had thought it would be after-school special type of stuff, a gay character wedged into the story where every scene he's in is a lesson for presumably straight readers. I couldn't have been more wrong! The stories show him being a disaster getting ready for a date, competing with the tough kids over beach turf, and going on a family vacation that Veronica tags along and ruins. There is also a story where he gets a secret admirer, and Veronica blabs to the school about it. It was treated so well. There is a note at the end acknowledging that not every gay teen has as easy a time as Kevin, but that the team wanted to show how it should be. There is one character in the tough kid gang who is homophobic toward him, but his friends call him out on it. Definitely after-school special territory, but not out of place in an *Archie* comic.

What I didn't like: has Jughead always been this much of a prick? He was my favourite character growing up, but he's outright nasty to Veronica in every shared panel they have, even chucking a ball at her head when she's not looking. (Kevin laughs. Points off, Kevin.) I always knew Jughead didn't like Veronica, but it was usually in the context of being protective of Archie or sick of Archie's whining. But maybe I just don't remember. He was always a bit of a jerk to Ethel, but I hope he's not a full-on misogynist now.

Recommended for kids who like *Archie* comics. A great example of gay content in books for younger readers. Kevin is treated exactly the same as all the other characters, so it's fantastic for normalizing gayness for future queers and allies. Squeaky clean, as you'd expect, so if they can read it let them at it.

Dione Basseri says

Anyone can be boring. Even gay people.

I wanted to like this book. I mean, I'm queer myself, and Archie comics Inc. actually were a part of my childhood, as a rabid Sonic the Hedgehog fan. But this...was so...yawn-worthy. I didn't expect high drama, and didn't necessarily want it. I mean, not every book o the queer experience needs to be about distrust and pain and struggle. But this book in general is a snooze. There's no real conflict that you can feel ANYTHING about. The first story is about Kevin Keller preparing for a date. The second, he has a secret admirer-er whom asks him to prom. The third, some local townies try to take over the beach, challenging him to a surf-off, which is kind of ridiculous, since it's GOVERNMENT LAND and this nothing would have come of the challenge anyways.

Just, in general...I didn't care. Yes, Kudos to Archie comics for having a gay character. But boo on having no storytelling ability whatsoever.

Chris Vigilante says

I kind of loved this. Kevin has some love interest in this set. He's going on his first date and getting tips from Archie and friends. Kevin had bad luck on dates and is generally just kind of awkward as it is when it comes to dating. It was nice to see since he does come across at just kind of good at everything kind of character at times.

At one point he gets a secret admirer and I was rooting for it so hard. Hoping all the best things. Definitely want this to be followed up on in future issues. The whole thing was too cheesy but these comics are cheesy and I just love it.

I really ship Kevin with someone he probably won't ever be with and it makes me sad. I can't even explain without spoiling but just know I have so many feels reading this.

Loved that there was some variation to the way the homophobic characters are written. I swear I keep saying the same thing in every story with a queer character. I felt like you see different levels in this a little. Not much. It could be better but at least there was some.

Overall I really enjoyed this set of Kevin Keller stories.

Alicia says

I finally met Kevin Keller, and I like him. As much as any resident of Riverdale USA can be, Kevin is a pretty realistic teenager - he's got a family who loves him, but who he doesn't always get along with, friends who respect him, even when they're being snarky or gossipy, and a diversity of interests, from surfing to eating to shopping to acting to sci-fi to boys.

Kevin's gay, and while that facet of his personality does manage to find its way into every storyline - this is still Archie's world, where dating and romance figure large in the lives of these teens - his sexual orientation doesn't usually take top billing or become overwrought or preachy. He's just a kid trying to make it in these crazy comic times. He's a klutz, kind of forgetful, and juggling responsibilities and interests can be tough, and get a bit hectic at times, regardless of who you think is cute. After all, Kevin is the Class President, a lifeguard, and a world traveler. He's also dedicated to his friends and family, and stands up for the people he likes and respects. He's a good fit for Archie and friends, and his adventures and personality stand up to the time-tested favorites like Betty and Veronica, Moose, Dilton, Reggie and the rest of the gang. Was Jughead always such a jerk, though? I don't know that I would have loved him so as a kid if he was so mean back then...

Anastasia says

I admit Riverdale sparked my curiosity regarding the current state of Archie comics. This more recent addition is still amazing wholesome and retro, but a surprising improvement on the heteronormative town I remember from years ago.

