

MIDDLEMOST POST

#001 - "Chore Or Less"

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EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Angus stands next to a giant WHITE PAD, little POINTER STICK in hand. As he speaks, he <SMACKS> each of his talking points on the pad with his stick.

1	ANGUS	1
	Okay, to recap our crew meeting, this week, we're gonna focus on delivering the mail, delivering the mail WELL, and making sure we deliver the mail well.	

The above is literally written as priority #1, #2, and #3.
Parker and Russell are standing at attention like soldiers.

2	PARKER	2
	Yes, sir, Captain, sir!	

Russell accidentally <SMACKS> herself in the eye while trying to give a salute.

3	ANGUS	3
	Okay then, any new business?	

4	PARKER	4
	Russell ate a weird bug yesterday.	

Parker morphs into the bug and <BUZZES>.

5	PARKER (CONT'D)	5
	Eeeet sounded like deeeees.	

Russell <EATS> him.

6	PARKER (CONT'D)	6
	<MUFFLED HIGH PITCHED BUG NOISES>	

7	ANGUS	7
	Noted. I have new business, and it's about chores.	

Parker pops out of Russell's mouth upon hearing that word.

8	PARKER	8
	Chooores?	

9	ANGUS	9
	This is a list of chores I do around the ship.	

Angus <FLIPS> the sheet on the white pad revealing a ridiculously long list of chores under his name. The unfurling sheet nearly crushes Parker and Russell.

10 PARKER 10
Ah! Run for your lives!

11 ANGUS 11
As you can see, heh, it's quite a
bit.

Parker and Russell gawk at the list.

12 PARKER 12
<GASP!> Oooh! It's happening,
Russell!

13 ANGUS 13
I think it's time we add your name
right next to mine.

Angus <SCRIBBLES> Parker's name on the pad.

14 PARKER 14
Angus, it would be an honor and a
privilege to join you in the
chores.

Parker <POPS> off, returns with a MOP and BUCKET.

15 PARKER (CONT'D) 15
Can I start now?!

16 ANGUS 16
I'd be a fool to say no.

17 PARKER 17
Yes!!

Angus heads towards the front door, donning a fashionable
SCARF and SUNGLASSES.

18 ANGUS 18
I'm gonna head into town. You two
get to it!
(proudly)
What a kid!

Angus exits. Parker and Russell stare around the room.

19 PARKER 19
Let's do this!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CHORE MONTAGE

- Parker <RAINS> and <THUNDERS> over a full sink of dishes.

20 PARKER 20
Rinsing the dishes!

Parker <TOSSES> the dishes to Russell, who <STACKS> them like a Chinese Acrobat.

21 PARKER (CONT'D) 21
Time to air dry!

Parker morphs into a fan and <BLOW DRIES> them, then <JAMS> all the dishes in the cabinet.

- Parker turns into a PLUNGER and plunges the toilet.
<SQUISH!> <SQUISH!> Water <SPLASHES> everywhere. Parker
emerges from the toilet looking soggy.

22 PARKER (CONT'D) **22**

Whyyyyy.

- Russell uses Parker like a Shamwow and <SMEARS> the cloud's face back and forth on a port hole window.

23 PARKER (CONT'D) 23
<BEING SQUISHED EFFORTS>

Russell <HONKS> happily.

- Parker uses Russell to <VACUUM>.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - END MONTAGE - CONT.

Angus arrives at the door carrying groceries.

24 ANGUS 24
<HUMMING>

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Parker hears Angus from outside. He looks out the window, giddy with anticipation.

25 PARKER 25
 <GASP!> It's Angus! Quick, let's
 get this all done! Oh, he is gonna
 be so impressed!

Russell continues to <VACUUM LOUDER> and faster, sucking up anything and EVERYTHING!

EXT./INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Angus <ENTERS>.

26 Huh? ANGUS 26

Angus takes in the ship. It appears "clean," audibly <SHIMMERING>.

27 PARKER 27
All done with those chores, Angus!

28 ANGUS 28

Wow. You really did it, Parker! The floors are polished, the clutter is gone, and--

Angus sees Russell not looking so good. In fact, she looks downright ill.

29 ANGUS (CONT'D) 29
How come Russell's green?

Right then, Russell pukes up all the items she sucked in.

30 RUSSELL 30
 <PUKING/WRETCHING SFX>

The last thing that she upchucks is a BATHTUB. It heads straight for Parker and Angus!

31 PARKER/ANGUS 31
 <SCREAMING!>

They <DIVE> out of the way as the bathtub <CRASHES> into the wall.

32 PARKER 32
Don't worry, I'll clean it up!

33 ANGUS **33**

 Hmm... Hmm??

Angus notices:

Parker face-shaped <SMUDGES> on all the windows....

34 ANGUS (CONT'D) 34
What??

The steady <STREAM> of WATER coming from the bathroom...

Kitchen cabinets <BULGING> and about to burst.

Angus goes to open the cabinet, but before he can, dishes come tumbling out, hitting him in the face. <CRASH!> Parker comes by, using Russell to <VACCU> everything back up.

[illegible]

Angus is NOT happy.

36 ANGUS 36
CREW MEETING!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LATER

Angus paces back and forth in front of Parker and Russell.
Parker looks all sorts of sad.

37 PARKER 37
I'm sorry I let you down, Angus. Am
I gonna lose my chore privileges?

38 ANGUS 38
Of course not. This is not your
fault. If anyone is to blame, it's
your old pal, Angus.

39 PARKER 39
Buuuut I'm the one who washed your
underwear in Russell's water bowl.

40 ANGUS 40
That's not-- wait, you did what?

41 PARKER 41
Who? What? Nothing. <WHISTLES!>

42 ANGUS 42
 <SIGH> You don't know what you
 don't know, and there's a lot you
 still don't know.

43 PARKER 43
I don't know what you mean.

44 ANGUS **44**

Parker, I'm gonna show you how to
do the chores, like I shoulda done
in the first place.

45 PARKER **45**

Me and you? Doing chores? Together?

46 ANGUS 46
How's that sound?

Parker crashes into Angus and <HUGS> him tight.

47 ANGUS (CONT'D) 47
Ah, I take it you like this idea.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - ANOTHER CHORE MONTAGE!

- Angus tightens the sheets on a freshly made bed. Parker and Russell watch, totally engaged.

48 ANGUS 48
A bed is not made correctly until
you can bounce a coin off it.

Angus drops a COIN on the bed. <ZING!> The coin shoots off the bed and right back into Angus's hand.

- Angus <DUSTS> a table using a feather duster.

49 ANGUS (CONT'D) 49
Some people go counter-clockwise
when they dust. Those people are
wrong.

- Parker and Russell's enthusiasm is waning.

- Angus shows Parker and Russell a rusty WATERING CAN.

50 ANGUS (CONT'D) 50
If I could, I'd punch rust right in
the face!

- Angus's instructions continue, OVERLAPPING as we look at Parker and Russell's shifting bored expressions.

51	ANGUS (CONT'D)	51
	Now, this is what I call the 29	
	steps to a properly folded flannel.	
	Step one...	

52 ANGUS (CONT'D) 52
Let's talk stains.

53 ANGUS (CONT'D) 53
Just because you flushed it, don't
mean it's gone.

54 ANGUS (CONT'D) 54
Soap scum. Where does it come from?

55 ANGUS (CONT'D) 55
There's a lot of different nozzle
settings on your average spray
bottle.

FINALLY:

- Angus holds up a SPRAY BOTTLE of cleaner. Parker and Russell might as well be dead of boredom at this point. Angus gives the bottle a squirt, but nothing comes out.

56 ANGUS (CONT'D) 56
Hm. Empty! We'll need to go to the
store--

57 PARKER 57
OH, I'LL GO!!

Parker and Russell wrestle each other for the bottle.

58 PARKER/RUSSELL 58
<WRESTLING EFFORTS>

Parker gets to the bottle first and he's off in a flash, leaving Russell behind.

59 ANGUS 59
(to Russell)
Great. Okay, now where were we? Oh
yeah, nozzles...

EXT. SOMEWHERE STORE - ESTABLISHING - LATER

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - CONT.

Parker's lifeless cloud body lays across Lily's counter.

60 PARKER 60
Angus said, "you don't know what
you don't know," and boy was he
right. I didn't know chores were so
boooooorrrrring!

Lily hands Parker a new SPRAY BOTTLE.

61 LiLY 61
Of course they're boring, Parker.
They're chores.

62 PARKER 62
But Angus loves chores! He even
whistles while doing them. I wanna
love chores as much as Angus, but I
don't.

Parker squirts some of the spray onto Lily's counter and
wipes it, morphing into a SCRUBBER.

63 LiLY 63
Does Angus know this?

Parker <POOFS> back into form.

64 PARKER 64
No, but I think I should tell him
the truth before he finds out from
somebody else.

65 LILY 65
That you don't want to do chores
anymore.

66 PARKER 66
It's gonna break the big guy's
heart.

67 LILY 67
You're very brave, Parker.

68 PARKER 68
I know, Lily. I know.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LATER

Parker <CROSSES> his name off the white pad on the chores list. Angus looks beyond belief.

69 ANGUS 69
What do you mean, "chores aren't
your jam?"

70 PARKER 70
It's just probably best if we go
back to the way it was.

71 ANGUS 71
Oh, you mean when I was doing all
the chores. By myself.

Parker caps the marker he was using.

72 PARKER 72

Exactly. That way, I won't have to feel like I'm disappointing you anymore. And it's, ya know, it's a win-win.

73 ANGUS 73
A "win-win," huh? Well how do I
win?

74 PARKER 74
You get to do all the chores, and
you love chores!

75 ANGUS 75
Parker, I don't love chores.

76 PARKER 76
You don't?

77 ANGUS 77
No. Not one bit.

78 PARKER 78
Then you should just stop doing
them, Angus. Then we can not do
chores together!

Angus glances at Russell.

79 ANGUS 79
(sarcastically)
Great idea! Nobody does chores! Oh,
getting rid of chores will free up
my day. I can add that second nap
I've always talked about.

80 PARKER 80
Wow, thanks for being so
understanding, Angus.

81 ANGUS 81
No, thank you. I look forward to
not doing chores with you.

82 PARKER 82
Me too.

Parker <ZIPS> off. Angus <CROSSES> his name off the chore
list and looks to Russell, who seems a bit baffled by all
this.

83 ANGUS 83
Ya see Russell, this is what you
call a "teachable moment." I give
the kid one day before Parker
realizes the importance of chores.

CUT TO:

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DAY

The S.S. Steadfast has stink lines emanating from it.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

We find Angus neck deep in trash, laundry, and dirty dishes.
Flies <BUZZ>. It's like an episode of *HOARDERS*. Russell
<POPS> her head free from a mound of garbage. She glares at
Angus.

84 RUSSELL 84
ARF ARF!

85 ANGUS 85
 (to Russell)
Okay, so it's taking a little
longer than expected. But the kid's
gonna crack. Trust me.

Right then, Angus gets <BONKED> in the back of the head by a carton. It came from a carefree Parker, who floats into the room just above the trash line. He's <DUMPING> cereal into a bowl.

86 PARKER 86
 <SINGING>

Russell doubles down on her Angus glare.

87	RUSSELL	87
	<WALRUS NOISE>	

88 ANGUS 88
(to Russell)
Fine, I'll say something. But for
the record, I'm doing it under
protest.

Parker <SIFTS> through the trash and finds a spatula, which he <JAMS> into his cereal as a spoon.

89 ANGUS (CONT'D) 89
Parker, we need to talk.

90 PARKER 90
Sure thing, Angus. Just let me put
my dishes away.

Parker looks for a place to put his cereal bowl. He goes to put it on top of Angus's head when Angus stops him.

91 ANGUS 91
No, Parker.

92 PARKER 92
Fine. Nyaaaa!

Parker <CHUCKS> the bowl across the room. We hear <SLOW MOTION WHOOSHING> as it spins through the air. <DING!> It lands on a pile of trash.

Beat. Suddenly, there's a <BOW BREAKING CRUNCH> and <LOW RUMBLING> as the ship starts to tilt off the mountain!

93 PARKER (CONT'D) 93
Is it just me, or does the ship
sound funny?

94 MAAYDAAAAY! ANGUS 94

95 PARKER 95
Whooooaaa!

<WHOOSH!> ALL the garbage and debris <CRASHES> to the "low end" of the ship. Our crew gets picked up by a trash wave!

96 PARKER/ANGUS 96
<SCREAMING>

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - SAME TIME

Random CITIZENS stop and gawk at the ship hanging precariously on the mountain.

97 CITIZENS 97
<MURMURING>

From the TOWN HALL, MAYOR PEEVE and RYAN notice.

98 MAYOR PEEVE 98
What is this? Why are they
gathering about? Is this an
uprising, Ryan?

99 RYAN 99
No, sir, look!

Ryan points to the S.S. Steadfast barely hanging on.

100 RYAN (CONT'D) 100
It's the Middlemost Po--

The Mayor <SHOVES> Ryan out of the way for a better look.

101 MAYOR PEEVE 101
It's that stupid, stupid ship! It's
falling from the mountain! Finally,
we'll be free from that wretched
shadow.

The ship, which had been tilting away from the sun, tilts back to cover the sun. The shadow returns.

102 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 102
<ANGRY GRUMBLING>

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

The MMP crew are trapped behind a wall of garbage.

103 PARKER 103
ABANDON SHIP!

104 ANGUS 104
The crew of the Middlemost Post
does NOT abandon ship.

105 PARKER 105
Is it because women and children go
first, and you're neither of those
two?

106 ANGUS 106
No. All we have to do is get the
old girl balanced out. Which means--

107 PARKER 107
Me, Russell, and this bathtub
should go to the other side.

108 RUSSELL 108
<WALRUS NOISE!>

109 PARKER 109
On it!

Parker hops into the bathtub and slides to the other side of
the ship with Russell.

110 ANGUS 110
No, no, no, no, no, no, no!

Too late! Another <RUMBLE>. The ship <TILTS> completely in
the OTHER DIRECTION, sending Angus and the debris tumbling
again...

111 ANGUS (CONT'D) 111
I take it back! Abandon ship!!

112 PARKER/ANGUS 112
Whoa! / Ahhhh!

113 PARKER 113
Uh, guess we need a little more on
the other side.

Parker and Russell paddle in the tub back to the other side
of the ship, sending the trash and Angus tumbling once again.

114 ANGUS 114
AAAAAHHHHH!!!!

The ship <TEETERS> back and forth, back and forth.

115 ANGUS/PARKER 115
Whhooaaaa!

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - SAME TIME

The Mayor and Ryan stare up at the continually teetering ship. They catch glimpses of the sun as the ship moves.

116 MAYOR PEEVE 116
Yes! Yes! The sun!

Peeve runs back and forth, trying to catch the sun's rays.

117 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 117
Noo! Yes! <GRUMBLING> Oh! I hate
that ship so much, Ryan!

The exhaustion from running back and forth causes him to <COLLAPSE> in Ryan's arms.

118 RYAN 118
I know you do, sir. I know.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Parker and Russell desperately paddle through the debris.

119 PARKER 119
<SCREAMING>

Suddenly, Angus careens past them through the air.

120 ANGUS **120**

Ahhhhh!

Parker and Russell come to a halt as Angus flies into the porthole window. He's stuck, until a tiny COIN <BOUNCES> past Parker and Russell and <DOINKS> Angus in the butt. Angus <POPS> out of the window and falls.

121	ANGUS (CONT'D)	121
	<SCREAMING>	

122 PARKER/RUSSELL 122
 <SCREAMING>

123 PARKER 123
Man overboard! What have I done,
Russell?! We've lost Angus.

SUDDENLY, the ship <SCREECHES!> They're falling again! Russell and Parker clutch each other for comfort.

124 PARKER (CONT'D) 124
This is it! We're going down!

But the ship is leveling, not going down.

125 PARKER (CONT'D) 125
Why does down feel like up?

126 ANGUS (O.S.) 126
(from outside)
PARKER!

127 PARKER 127
<GASP!>

128 ANGUS (O.S.) 128
(from outside)
Parker!

Parker races to the porthole, pokes his head out.

129 PARKER 129
Yessss...??

130 ANGUS (O.S.) 130
(from outside)
Parker!

He looks down, notices something.

131 PARKER 131
Angus!!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - SAME TIME

Angus holds up an entire side of the ship like ATLAS.

132 PARKER 132
You saved us!

133 ANGUS 133
(struggling)
I can't... hold her up... forever.
If she goes... she'll head straight
for the city.

Parker sees the crowd of CITIZENS watching with anticipation.

134 CITIZENS 134
<CHEERING>

135 LILY 135
You can do it, Angus!

136 MAYOR PEEVE 136
No he can't!

137 ANGUS 137
Parker... I can't do this...
without your help, buddy.

Parker <POOFS> to his buddy's side.

138 PARKER 138
Tell me what to do, I'll do it!

139 ANGUS 139

There's only one thing... we can
do. But they're not your jam... and
I have to... respect that.

140 PARKER 140
You mean chores? Sure, they're not
my jam, but doesn't mean I can't
try! We have to save the Middlemost
Post, and if that means doing
boring chores, then chores it is!

Parker <ZIPS> off! Angus smiles proudly.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - YET ANOTHER CHORE MONTAGE!

141 PARKER 141
Ready, Russell?

Parker and Russell bust out chores like there's no tomorrow:

- Parker uses Russell as a sled as she <SUCKS> up trash.

- Parker stops Russell, pulls out some <GLINTING> MOUTHWASH. He <POURS> it into Russell's mouth. Russell <SWISHES> it around in her cheeks, then <SPITS> all of the furniture back into place.

- Angus continues to struggle with the ship.

142 ANGUS 142
 <STRUGGLING EFFORTS> Hurry,
 Parker... I can't hold it for
 long...

- Parker <TORNADO CLEANS> the dishes and blows them into neat stacks in the cabinet.

143 PARKER 143
 <BLOWING EFFORTS>

- Parker uses a real plunger to <PLUNGE> the toilet instead of using himself. All clean!

144 PARKER (CONT'D) **144**

Yeahhh!

- BACK TO Angus, who's now switched to using his legs to hold up the ship.

145 ANGUS 145
 <STRUGGLING EFFORTS>

- Parker neatly folds LAUNDRY and puts it in a drawer.
- Parker stares at the watering can.

146 PARKER 146
 (re: RUST on the can)
 Okay, rust! It's just you and me
 now! AHHHHH!

147 THE RUST 147
 <HIGH PITCHED SQUEAL>

<POOF!> It disappears. The can <SPARKLES> clean.

- Angus has switched back to holding the ship up with his hands. He's sweating profusely.

148 ANGUS 148
 <STRUGGLE EFFORTS>

One of Angus's SUSPENDERS <TEARS>, barely hanging on.

149 ANGUS (CONT'D) 149
 (re: suspenders)
 Don't quit on me now, pants! Hold
 strong!

The suspender <BREAKS> off, revealing a little bit of Angus's butt.

150 ANGUS (CONT'D) 150
 Parker! Hurry!

- Parker dusts a shelf.

- Parker makes a bed. Russell goes to hand him a coin, but Parker pulls out an entire JAR OF COINS and dumps them on top. They <RICOCHET> off the bed and around the ship. Parker and Russell <HIGH-FIVE>.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - SAME TIME

The CROWD watches the drama play out.

151 ANGUS 151
 Parker!

152 MAYOR PEEVE 152
 <MUNCHING ON POPCORN> This is
 getting good, Ryan!

Angus's second suspender <POPS> off, and his pants drop to his ankles. Angus's full butt is revealed, and the light of God shines from it and onto the citizens of Somewhere.

153 CITIZENS 153
<GROANS!> <GASPS!> <SHOCKED WALLA>

154 MAYOR PEEVE 154
(re: Angus)
<LAUGHS> Look everyone, it's a full moon!

No one laughs at the Mayor's joke.

155 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 155
Ryan, nobody laughed at my funny.

156 RYAN 156
Maybe they didn't hear you, sir?

157 MAYOR PEEVE 157
They heard me, Ryan. They all heard me.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Parker <POOFS> next to Angus.

158 ANGUS 158
<STRUGGLING EFFORTS>

159 PARKER 159
The chores are all done, Angus!
Every last one of them. You can let go now.

160 ANGUS 160
You did them all?

161 PARKER 161
Yup! I can't promise I did them all
the way you taught me. But, I tried
my best.

162 ANGUS 162
That's all I can ask for. <DEEP
BREATH>

Angus lets go. The boat <STEADIES> back to its normal position. Angus pulls up his pants.

163 ANGUS/PARKER 163
<SIGH OF RELIEF>

164 ANGUS 164
You did it, kiddo.

Parker <FLUTTERS> into Angus for a hug. Angus melts into it.

165 ANGUS (CONT'D) 165
Now you see why these chores need
to get done. If they're not, things
can get, well... pretty messy.

166 PARKER 166
Yup. People can lose their pants.

Angus looks up and sees Russell poking her head out a window,
watching the two below.

167 ANGUS 167
 (re: Russell)
What'd I tell ya? Teachable moment.

168 RUSSELL 168
 <WALRUS NOISE><SPITS!>

Russell pukes out the BATHTUB. It plummets down the mountain.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - SAME TIME

The crowd has dispersed. The show's over. The Mayor and Ryan
make their way home.

169 MAYOR PEEVE 169
Well, that was stupid.

170 RYAN 170
Agreed, sir.

171 MAYOR PEEVE 171
Not to mention anti-climatic.

172 RYAN 172
I mean, you call that an ending?

<SMASH!> The bathtub takes the Mayor out, leaving Ryan alone.

173 RYAN (CONT'D) 173
Sir?!

FADE OUT:

THE END.