

MIDDLEMOST POST

#009 - "Love Letters"

Written by

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WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 6/22/20
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 7/1/20
WRITERS DRAFT #3 - 7/7/20
FIRST DRAFT - 7/17/20
BOARD DRAFT - 7/24/20
BOARD DRAFT REVISION - 7/28/20
REC DRAFT - 9/9/20
SHIPPING DRAFT - 11/18/20

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - DAY

PARKER and RUSSELL pace anxiously (like a family in a hospital waiting room), eyes on the bedroom door. From the noises we hear, it's clear Angus is on the other side of it.

1 ANGUS (O.S.) 1
 <PAINED EFFORTS>

2 PARKER 2
 <ANXIOUS EFFORTS>

Parker checks his watch. It <TICKS>.

3 PARKER (CONT'D) 3
 <SIGH> He's been in there an awful
 long time, girl. Think the big
 guy's gonna pull through?

From the bedroom we hear...

4 ANGUS (O.S.) 4
 AHHH! I'm not gonna make it!

Russell <WHIMPERS>. Parker pats her on the head.

5 PARKER 5
 It's okay, girl. If anyone can fix
 Angus, it's Lily.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - SLEEPING QUARTERS - CONT.

LILY, wearing a surgeon's MASK, hovers over ANGUS. We can't see Angus's face though, nor what Lily's working on. She <TAPS> her face in thought.

6 LILY 6
 Hmm... Tweezers.

One of Lily's robotic arms <PASSES> TWEEZERS to her other arm. She goes in...

7 LILY (CONT'D) 7
 Alright, I'm going in.

Lily leans in with the tweezers, slowly, dramatically. The music <SWELLS>. Angus sweats.

8 ANGUS 8
 <NERVOUS EFFORTS>

As the tweezers inch closer to Angus, we finally see what ails him. It's a STRAY BEARD HAIR--oddly long, corkscrewed, and out of place. Lily's tweezers pinch it.

9 LILY 9
This is one of the worst cases of
"weird beard" I've ever seen. Now,
hold still.

Lily <YANKS> at the hair, propping her foot up for support.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - SAME TIME

Parker and Russell have their ears against the door when...

10 ANGUS (O.S.) 10
OWWWWW! <CONTINUED PAINED EFFORTS>

Parker and Russell leap into each other's arms.

11 PARKER 11
I can't stand to hear my best bud
in so much pain.
(to Russell)
Can I get an inside hug, girl?

Russell <OPENS> her mouth. Parker <DIVES> in.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - SLEEPING QUARTERS - CONT.

Angus's stray beard hair is even WORSE now! It's somehow longer, curlier, and <SPRINGING>. Lily <TOSSES> the tweezers over her shoulder.

12 LILY 12
Well, that was a bust.
(holds out hand)
Chainsaw.

One of Lily's arms <HANDS> the other a CHAINSAW. She <REVS> it. Angus is mortified.

13 ANGUS 13
Nope.

Angus <STOMPS> out of the room.

14 LILY 14
Is it something I said?

Lily accidentally <DROPS> the chainsaw.

15 LILY (CONT'D) 15
Oops.

It proceeds to <MOW> across the deck of the ship, creating a huge gash.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - CONT.

Angus walks past Russell, shielding his beard.

16 ANGUS 16
Don't look at me, Russell. I'm a
monster! <CRIES HYSTERICALLY!>

Angus runs off. The chainsaw mows down a flag, then flies off the ship. Parker <POPS> out of Russell, holding a BOX.

17 PARKER 17
Is it over already??

Lily stands in the doorway, removing rubber gloves from ALL of her hands. They <SNAP>.

LILY
Unfortunately, there was nothing I could do. I'm afraid he's going to have... a "bad beard" day.

Thunder <CLAPS>. A shadow flashes on Lily's face in the shape of a beard.

19 PARKER 19
Oh, poor Angus.

Lily notices the BOX Parker is holding.

LILY
What's in the box, Parker?

LILY

21 PARKER 21

Oh! I found it waaaay down in
Russell's belly. It says "Top
Secret" on it. We probably
shouldn't open it, though. You
know, because it says "Top Secret."

Parker and Lily share a knowing look.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The BOX is now OPEN, its contents spilling out. Stacks of LETTERS are scattered everywhere. Lily reads one, puts on reading SPECTACLES.

22 LILY 22
(reading)
"To my one true love. I am
rudderless without you. A pedal
boat with no pedals. A sailboat
with no sails. Will we ever meet
again? Love, Angus R. Shackleton
III."

CLOSE ON: Parker and Russell, <WIPING> TEARS, emotional wrecks.

23 PARKER 23
(chokes up)
<SNIFFS> That is so beautiful!

Russell <BLOWS> her nose using Parker. Parker <DRIPS> with snot.

24 LILY 24
I'm starting to feel a little
guilty that we opened the "Top
Secret" box.

25 PARKER 25
But, if we had never opened it, we
would have never found all of these
love letters Angus wrote. Love
letters that he's clearly too shy
to send.
(proclaims proudly)
That's it! I, Parker J. Cloud, will
stop at nothing until I find the
big guy's secret lost love!

Parker strikes a HERO POSE on top of a large stack of
letters. Thunder <CLAPS> as a PINK HEART flashes behind him.

26 LILY 26
How are you going to do that,
Parker?

27 PARKER 27
Uh, I think it's pretty obvious,
Lily.

EXT. BLUBERG HOME - LATER

Parker <KNOCKS> on a door. A BLUBERG WOMAN (BLINCIDENTAL2)
<OPENS> it to find an excited Parker, holding a LETTER.

28 BLINCIDENTAL2 28
Hmm?

29 PARKER 29
Hi! I'm Parker. I'm going door-to-
door reading my good friend's
personal and private love letters
in hopes of finding the very
special person the letters were
intended for.
<CLEARS THROAT>
*"To my one true love. Your warm
embrace would melt the coldest of
polar ice caps..."*

The Bluberg Woman blushes, then melts.

30 BLINCIDENTAL2 30
<SWOONS!>

(Each time we cut away from Parker, he's in a different Neighborhood, in front of different people, reading the letter.)

31 PARKER 31
(reads)
*"Every breeze carries your memory,
and every sunset, your smile."*

An ELDERY WOMAN (YLINCIDENTAL3) <POPS> her teeth in and smiles.

32 YLINCIDENTAL3 32
<GIGGLES!>

33 PARKER 33
(reads)
*... You're my secret crush, and
that secret crush is crushing me
...*

A MOM (GRINCIDENTAL5), DAD (GRINCIDENTAL8), and KID (GRINCIDENTAL4) stand at a door. GRINCIDENTAL8 covers his KID's ears and <PUSHES> them away.

34 GRINCIDENTAL5/GRINCIDENTAL8 34
<SWOONING!>

35 PARKER 35
(reads)
*"... Like the coral reefs, I'm
dying to see you once again..."*

Parker now reads to a COW. It <WAGS> its tail and <COCKADOODLED00S> like a chicken.

36 PARKER (CONT'D) 36
(reads)
*"... My heart weighs heavy with
each moment we're apart. Like an
anchor, stuck in the muck of life."*
(stops reading)
Sooo, you think these letters were
written for you?

A HUSBAND and WIFE--DOUG and NANCY. Nancy is way into this.

37 NANCY 37
Oh, yeah. Totally me.

38 PARKER 38
Yeeee!

Parker <MORPHS> into a heart! Doug gives Nancy a disapproving look.

39 DOUG 39
In your dreams, Nancy.

Doug <SLAMS> the door on Parker. Parker's heart <CRACKS>.

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - DAY

Parker talks with Lily.

40 PARKER 40
<SIGH> Whoever said finding
someone's true love was easy, never
had to read their boss's love
letters door-to-door before.

41 LILY 41
You can't give up now, Parker.
You're in too deep.

42 PARKER 42
I know, and love is in the air!

43 LILY 43
<SNIFFS THE AIR>
I thought I smelled love.

44 PARKER 44
But at this rate, it's gonna take
FOREVER to find the big guy's lost
love. If only there was a way to
read the letters to the whooooole
mountain at once.

A nearby RADIO <SQUAWKS>.

45 LILY 45
Hmm... What about the radio?

46 PARKER 46
I don't know, Lily. You really
think Angus would be this much in
love with a radio?

Lily just stares at Parker, <BLINKING>.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BATHROOM - DAY

Angus stares at that one obnoxious beard hair in the mirror.
He tries to <PLUCK> it, but it only <SPLITS> into TWO PIECES.

47 ANGUS 47
ARGH! Stupid hair!

Russell <TAPS> Angus.

48 ANGUS (CONT'D) 48
Huh? What is it, girl?

She <PRODUCES> a container of "BAD BEARD BALM" on her tongue.

49 ANGUS (CONT'D) 49
(re: balm)
"Bad Beard Balm?" Can't hurt to
try. Thanks!

Angus <GRABS> and reads the container super fast.

50	ANGUS (CONT'D)	50
	(reads)	
	Apply small amount... don't get in	
	eyes... never leave on longer than	
	a minute, blah, blah, blah.	

Angus <POPS> the lid off and <SLAPS> a handful of the stuff on his beard.

51 ANGUS (CONT'D) 51
Go big or go home, right, Russell?

Russell gives Angus some finger-guns, <CLICKING> her tongue. Angus <SMACKS> his face and <SMOOTHES> down the stray hairs. It works! They stay in place!

52 ANGUS (CONT'D) **52**

Hey, hey! Will you look at that?

Angus's beard <SHINES> with new life.

53 ANGUS (CONT'D) 53
The beard's back, baby! Hahaha!
Oooh yeah! Alright, there.

Angus and Russell <HIGH-FIVE> and do a happy dance. Right then, Derek "THE DRIZZ" Drizzle can be heard coming from the nearby RADIO:

54 THE DRIZZ (O.S.) 54
(on radio)
This is Derek "The Drizz" Drizzle
with "The Romance Hour." Our guest
today is... Parker J. Cloud.

Angus freezes.

55 ANGUS 55
Say what now?

EXT. ORANGEFIELD - WINDMILL RADIO STATION - SAME TIME

Classic windmill, but it's been modified into a RADIO STATION. Ham radio equipment at the top. Very DIY.

56 THE DRIZZ (O.S.) 56
(on radio)
Uh, you say you're trying to find
the lost love of your best pal in
the whole world?

INT. ORANGEFIELD - WINDMILL RADIO STATION - SAME TIME

Small, make-shift radio station. Parker sits across from Drizz, speaking into his own MIC.

57 PARKER 57
That's correct, Drizz.

58 THE DRIZZ 58

And you plan to do that by reading
an entire box full of love letters?
Live? On air? To the entire
mountain?

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BATHROOM - SAME TIME

On Angus, completely dumbstruck.

INT. ORANGEFIELD - WINDMILL RADIO STATION - SAME TIME

Parker <SLAMS> the box full of letters on the table.

59 PARKER 59
Correct again, Drizz.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BATHROOM - SAME TIME

60 ANGUS 60
THE CLOUD'S GONNA DO WHAT!?

61 THE DRIZZ (O.S.) 61
(on radio)
I gotta say, you're one good
friend, Parker J. Cloud.

62 PARKER (O.S.) 62
(on radio)
Oh, I would do anything in the
world for...

63 ANGUS 63
No, no, no. Don't say my name,
don't say my name--

64 PARKER (O.S.) 64
(on radio)
... Angus R. Shackleton III. He
lives on a ship! On the top of the
mountain!

65 NOOOOOO! ANGUS 65

INT. WINDMILL RADIO STATION - A LITTLE LATER

Parker is in the middle of reading one of the many letters,
live on air.

66 PARKER 66
(read)
"Like a foghorn misses the fog.
Like a kite misses the wind. You
octopi my heart."

We find the Drizz tearing up, totally enamored.

67 THE DRIZZ 67
Wow. I mean... You know, that gets
you right here.

He points to his heart.

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68                                THE DRIZZ (CONT'D)                                68
                                Hey, read another one.

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69 PARKER 69
You got it, Drizz.

Parker starts into another letter.

70 PARKER (CONT'D) 70
(reads)
"You're the pineapple of my eye--"

<BOOM!> Angus BURSTS through the door. Russell follows.

71 ANGUS 71
 <HEAVING> PARKER... stop...
 reading. Now!

72 Angus! PARKER 72

73 THE DRIZZ 73
Hey, this is Angus?!

Drizz slides on over to Angus.

74 THE DRIZZ (CONT'D) 74
(to Angus)
May I just say, your words, they--
they move me, sir.

Angus <FLICKS> Drizz away. He <CRASHES> into the wall.

75 THE DRIZZ (CONT'D) 75
Eee!

76 ANGUS 76
No, you may not. Parker, what in
the world do you think you're
doing?!

Angus quickly <COLLECTS> all the letters. He's really heated.

77 ANGUS (CONT'D) 77
This is my private property, meant
for no one but me, myself, and I.
Not you, not Russell, not Derek
"The Drizz" Drizzle, and definitely
not the entire mountain!

78 PARKER 78
But, I was only trying to help.

79 ANGUS 79
Help do what? Embarrass me?

80 PARKER 80
No! Find your one true love! I
thought I was doing a good thing.
But, I can tell by that vein in
your neck that I did a bad thing.

TIGHT ON Angus's neck VEIN, pulsing with rage.

81 ANGUS'S VEIN 81
<ANGRY GIBBERISH>

82 ANGUS 82
Parker, I hid those letters in a
box, inside a walrus, for a reason.
So that NO one would ever read
them. Ever.

Parker feels horrible.

83 PARKER 83
<CRYING!> I'm so sorry, Angus! I
got caught up in the love! I didn't
mean to make you mad at me!

84 ANGUS 84
Okay, my little nimbus. There's no
need for the waterworks, Parker.
Let's just forget this whole thing
happened and move on. No harm, no
foul.

RIGHT THEN, <NOISE> of a CROWD can be heard outside. MMP and
the Drizz poke their heads out of a window to see the
lovestruck horde.

85 CROWD 85
(chanting)
Angus! Angus! Angus!

86 ANGUS 86
Okay, that's a foul.

87 MRS. SHORT 87
Angus!!! I'm your long lost love!

88 TINA 88
I love you, Angus!

Mrs. Short <PUSHES> Tina out of the way.

89 MRS. SHORT 89
No she doesn't! Not like me!

90 CROWD 90
<ROWDY WALLA>

People hold up SIGNS professing their love for Angus. It gets
rowdy.

91 THE DRIZZ 91
Hey! It looks like this whole
mountain has Angus Fever!

92 PARKER 92
You think your lost love is
somewhere down there?

93 ANGUS 93
No, Parker. I do not. This whole
thing has gotten way out of
control. We need to find a way
outta here.

94 THE DRIZZ 94
Hey, you're at the top of a
windmill, my dude! Afraid there's
only one way in and one way out...

EXT. WINDMILL RADIO STATION - BASE - CONT.

The crowd has completely surrounded the bottom of the windmill, still calling for Angus.

95 CROWD 95
(chanting)
Angus! Angus! Angus!

The DOOR at the base <OPENS>.

96 ORINCIDENTAL5 96
It's Angus!

Nope. It's just Russell and Parker exiting, trying to play it cool, and not doing a very good job at it.

97 PARKER 97
Sorry, it's just us. Parker and
Russell. Just two buds leaving a
windmill.

Russell looks a lot LARGER in the gut area. Like an anaconda that's eaten a deer. But in this case, the deer is Angus. We can see his outline inside her tummy as she drags herself away with great difficulty.

98 RUSSELL 98
<STRAINED EFFORTS><PANTING>

99 ORINCIDENTAL5 99
Boo! I want Angus!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAILROOM - LATER

Parker <SHOVES> Russell through the doorway.

100 PARKER 100
We're in the clear now, Angus. You
can come out.

Russell <BURPS> Angus out of her mouth, guck all over him.

101 ANGUS 101
(to Russell)
<GROSSED OUT EFFORTS> You just had
to eat tacos today, didn't you?

Russell <EATS> a TACO. She smiles bashfully and makes a <DOLPHIN NOISE> with gunk in her teeth.

102 ANGUS (CONT'D) 102
Lock the door, Parker. Hurry.

103 PARKER 103
I'm pretty sure nobody followed us.

112 PARKER 112
<SNICKERS!>

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - CONT.

The MMP crew reaches the ship deck. Climbing up the side of the ship are more and more CITIZENS.

113 ROCK DUDE (O.S.) 113
Angus!

The MMP Crew <SCREECHES> to a halt when they see them.

114 ROCK DUDE (CONT'D) 114
Dude, Angus! I'm coming for your
love, Angus!

115 ANGUS 115
<SCREAMS!> We gotta get out of
here! To the crows nest!

Angus <ZIPS> off and climbs up to the CROWS NEST. He <LANDS> safely inside.

116 ANGUS (CONT'D) 116
Pheew!

Suddenly, Angus realizes that Parker and Russell didn't follow him up.

117 ANGUS (CONT'D) 117
Parker?? Russell?? Hmm?

He looks down and sees Parker and Russell, still on the deck, about to be swarmed.

118 PARKER 118
Okay, everyone. Let's try and be
civilized here--

Nope. The horde just <PLOWS> over Parker and Russell to get to the crows nest.

119 CROWD 119
<RUNNING/YELLING WALLA>

120 PARKER 120
(completely squished)
--or not...

121 ANGUS 121
Nooooo!

The crows nest starts to <SHAKE>. Two GOURDS (GORDY and ORINCIDENTAL6) are trying to <CHOP> it down with axes.

122 CROWD 122
Angus! Angus! Angus! Angus!
Angus has had it.

123 ANGUS 123
ENOUUUUGH!!
The crowd hushes and freezes. The Gourds stop chopping. The
Rock Bros <DROP> their Bro.

124 RED RIDGE BRO #3 124
Bro.

125 ANGUS 125
This obsession over a few measly
love letters is ridiculous and is
gonna end now! You really wanna
know who those letters were
intended for?

126 CROWD 126
(collectively)
YEEEEAAAAH!
Parker morphs into a pump, pumps Russell back full of air and
off the deck. Back to normal, they look up at Angus.

127 ANGUS 127
Fine. I'll tell ya. It's true.
Angus R. Shackleton III has a long
lost love.

128 RANDOM CITIZEN (O.S.) 128
I knew it! It's me!

129 ANOTHER CITIZEN (O.S.) 129
Shut up, Amanda!

130 ANGUS 130
And that lost love is...

Everyone leans in with anticipation, even Parker and Russell.

131 CROWD 131
<GASPS!>

132 PARKER/RUSSELL 132
<GASPS!>

133 RED RIDGE BRO #1/RED RIDGE BRO #2/RED 133
RIDGE BRO #3
Bro??

134 ANGUS 134
... The ocean.
(drifts into thought)
(MORE)

ANGUS (CONT'D)

The deep blue. My true love. So calm, so gentle. Yet, if you take her for granted, she'll drown you. Big time. <SNIFFS> I can smell her salty air now. I can hear the waves lapping against the bow of the ship. Lap. Lap. Lap. If I close my eyes tight, I can still see--

135 CROWD 135
<ANGRY GRUMBLING>

136 ANGUS 136
Hey, where you goin'?

Angus looks down, realizing everyone is leaving. All except Parker and Russell, who are fully engaged... and one remaining Red Ridge Rock Bro.

137 RED RIDGE BRO #1 137
Bro. The ocean is a toilet for fish. Ughhh...

Disgusted, Rock Bro walks off. Angus <SLIDES> down the pole and meets up with Parker and Russell.

138 PARKER 138
Angus!

139 ANGUS 139
I know, I know! I made a huge fool outta myself! I never should've--

140 PARKER 140
Shh shh shhhh.

Parker puts a finger up to Angus's mouth.

141 PARKER (CONT'D) 141
I just wanted to say that I don't care that everyone thought what you just said was lame and corny and a complete waste of their time. Because Russell and I thought it was... <SNIFFS>
(chokes up)
... beautiful. Just like your letters.

Both Parker and Russell hug Angus. It warms his heart.

142 ANGUS 142
Thanks, you two.

143 PARKER 143
And, may I add, your beard looks amazing!

144 ANGUS 144
It does, doesn't it? Well you can
thank Russell's beard balm for
that.

Angus proudly runs his hand through his beard AND THE ENTIRE BEARD <COMES OFF> in one piece, which Angus is completely unaware of. Parker and Russell are horrified.

145	PARKER	145
	<GASP!>	

146 What? ANGUS 146

Parker and Russell are too stunned to speak.

147	ANGUS (CONT'D)	147
	No, seriously. What??	

Parker and Russell slowly back away and run off.

148 PARKER/RUSSELL 148
<SQUEALING!>

Angus is still oblivious.

149 ANGUS 149
 (calling after them)
W-W-WHAT?!

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.