

MIDDLEMOST POST

#011 - "Lady of the Tree"

Written By

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WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 7/6/2020
FIRST DRAFT - 7/10/2020
BOARD DRAFT - 7/14/2020
REC DRAFT - 8/27/2020
SHIPPING DRAFT - 11/5/2020

EXT. FOREST - DAY

PARKER zips around the foliage of an ENCHANTED FOREST, having a ball.

1 PARKER 1
<GIGGLES!>

Suddenly, Parker notices something out of frame.

2	PARKER (CONT'D)	2
	<GASP!>	

He's gone.

3 PARKER! ANGUS (O.S.) 3

ANGUS & RUSSELL appear, standing on a path far behind Parker.

4 ANGUS (CONT'D) 4
Please, stay on the path!

Parker, very much off the path and in the form of a WATERING PAIL, <WATERS> a patch of ENCHANTED OTHERWORDLY FLOWERS.

5 PARKER 5
Buuut Angus, these enchanted
flowers need water! You can't
expect me *NOT* to water enchanted
flowers.

At that moment, the flower Parker had been watering sprouts to life and <GROWLS> right in Parker's face... followed by giving him a sweet <KISS> on the cheek.

Angus <GRABS> Parker by the pail handle and quickly "waters him" over the flower bed.

6 ANGUS 6
There! All watered. Now, back to
delivering the mail.

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

The whole MMP crew now walks along the path. Angus looks puzzled.

7 ANGUS 7
I don't think I've ever seen this
part of the forest before.

8 PARKER 8
But I thought you knew every nook
and cranny of Mt. Middlemost.

9 ANGUS 9
Technically, I know every cranny--
not every nook.

Angus pulls a PACKAGE out of his back pocket, analyzes.

10 ANGUS (CONT'D) 10
Okay, says here it's going to a
"Lady of the Tree" located at "Tree
in Forest." Well, that's not
helpful at all. It's gonna take
forever to find it--

11 PARKER (O.S.) 11
Is this it, Angus?

Parker stands next to a big old tree with exposed roots and a wooden door. A sign next to it conveniently reads "LADY OF THE TREE" and points in the door's direction.

12 ANGUS 12
Oh. Well. Nice work, Parker.

Angus and Russell join Parker at the tree. Parker <KNOCKS> on the door.

13 PARKER 13
Package delivery!

Suddenly, the door <CREAKS> open... but no one's there! MMP is cautiously peaking inside when BATS come <SHOOTING> towards them. Angus jumps into Russell's arms out of fear.

14 RUSSELL/ANGUS 14
AHHH! <FEARFUL SHIVERING EFFORTS>

As the horde of bats dissipates, one of them gets caught in Parker's mouth. Gross!

15 PARKER 15
<SPITS OUT BAT>

Angus and Russell eventually open their eyes and look at each other. Angus hops out of Russell's arms, dusts himself off.

16 ANGUS 16
In any case, new plan. Uh, we leave
the package at the door.

Russell vigorously <NODS> in agreement.

17 PARKER 17
Don't be silly! Like you always
say...

Parker <POOFS> into a buff imitation of Angus and strikes a hero pose.

18 PARKER (CONT'D) 18
"At the Middlemost Post, we give it
our most!"

Parker <RIPS> off his Angus imitation's shirt, then <POOFS>
back into normal form and <ZIPS> through the door. Angus
reaches for him.

19 ANGUS 19
Wait!

He <FACEPALMS> himself.

20 ANGUS (CONT'D) 20
Aw, way to go, Angus. You went
ahead and taught the kid *TOO* well.

INT. HOUSE IN TREE - ROOT CELLAR - LIVING AREA - DAY

MMP enters. The room is filled with various POTIONS and
suspicious VILES on shelves. A weird SPIDER <SHRIEKS> at
them, then ducks into a hole in the wall.

Parker doesn't clock any of the above.

21 PARKER 21
Hellooo? Middlemost Post!

Angus and Russell take in the room.

Russell pauses in front of a CURSED MIRROR, not noticing that
her CREEPY REFLECTION is staring at her from behind. Her
reflection <POKES> her in the back, and she finally turns and
sees it. It's super gruesome. Terrified, Russell <SQUEALS>
and runs right into Angus's back. Angus nearly drops the Lady
of the Tree's package.

Suddenly, Parker's hand juts into frame. On it is a ROCK
PUPPET that wears GLASSES. He scares the poop out of Angus.

22 ANGUS 22
Gaahh!

23 PARKER (O.S.) 23
Look, Angus! A rock puppet!

24 ANGUS 24
Okay! Time to go! Drop the package.
We're out of HEEERYAAA!

Angus turns to leave and -- BOO! He suddenly finds himself
face to face with the LADY OF THE TREE (old lady, a bit
helpless, bird nest on her head). Angus and Russell fall
over.

25 LADY OF THE TREE 25
Hello.

Angus is frozen, can't speak. Parker <ZIPS> in, totally unaffected.

26 PARKER 26
Hi! I'm Parker. We're from the
Middlemost Post. Are you the Lady
of the Tree?

27 LADY OF THE TREE 27
Indeed, I am. Although, I suppose I
should finally change my name to
OLD Lady of the Tree. <CACKLES!>

28 PARKER 28
Hehehe! You're funny! Isn't she
funny, Angus?

The Lady smiles like a snake.

29 LADY OF THE TREE 29
<HISSING THROUGH HER SMILE>

30 ANGUS 30
Not exactly the word I was
thinking.

Suddenly, BONY HANDS <MASSAGE> Angus's cheeks.

31 ANGUS (CONT'D) 31
Ah!

32 LADY OF THE TREE 32
Angus, hmmm? Like the steak? <LICKS
LIPS!>

Angus recoils.

33 ANGUS 33
Welp. Here's your package, ma'am.
Best if we scoot. Eugh!

Angus turns to leave and once again finds himself face to
face with the Lady.

34 LADY OF THE TREE 34
Please, won't you stay and keep an
old lady company, hmmmmmm? I haven't
had company in soooo long.

A WORM <CRAWLS> up the Lady's face and into her mouth.

35 ANGUS 35
Nooo.

36 PARKER 36
You always say...

Parker <POOFS> into another Angus imitation.

37 PARKER (CONT'D) 37
"A moment of your time might mean
an eternity to someone else."

38 ANGUS 38
Parker, you read that from a
fortune cookie.

Parker <POOFS> back into normal form.

39 PARKER 39
We'll be happy to stay awhile.

40 LADY OF THE TREE 40
That's wonderful!

The Lady turns to Angus so only he can see, then:

41 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 41
(whispers to Angus)
Not wonderful for you.

42 ANGUS 42
<GULP!>

The Lady resumes her regular form for Parker.

43 LADY OF THE TREE 43
Who wants some hard candy!?

44 PARKER 44
I do! I do!

She <ZIPS> off. Angus <PULLS> Parker close.

45 ANGUS 45
Parker, we gotta get out of here. I
think this old tree lady might
be... a witch.

The witch <DROPS> a JAR OF HARD CANDIES. It <SPILLS> candy
everywhere.

46 LADY OF THE TREE 46
(pitifully)
Well, if that's what you think of
me, you don't have to stay.

47 PARKER 47
Look, Angus. She's not a witch.
She's just a sad and lonely lady.

48 LADY OF THE TREE 48
Leave if you must. I can build my
rocking chair you so kindly
delivered all by myself.

She <DUMPS> out the contents of the package onto the floor.
HUNDREDS OF WOODEN PIECES spill out.

49 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 49
Time to put these bony and brittle
fingers to work. <ASSEMBLING
EFFORTS>...

She holds up pitiful, bony fingers. One of them <SNAPS> off.
Then, she bends down to pick up a piece of wood, <SLIPS>, and
lands on her back with a <SMACK!> She's having a really rough
go at this...

50 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 50
<SCREAMING><WRITHING IN PAIN>

After a painful struggle, some of the ceiling falls on top of
her and catches on fire.

51 PARKER 51
The least we can do is put together
the chair for her, Angus. You could
probably do it super quick! You're
sooo good at building things.

52 ANGUS 52
A solid point there.

<CRASH!> The lady looks even more wrecked and swallowed up by
the building pieces surrounding her.

53 LADY OF THE TREE 53
No, it's fine. I can do it. OW!
Splinter!

Angus is breaking. He's not heartless.

54 ANGUS 54
Like I've always said, "At the
Middlemost Post, we give it our
most."

Angus hero poses. Russell <FACE PALMS>, not loving this idea.

55 PARKER 55
You do say that!

56 ANGUS 56
Russell, directions.

Russell <PRINTS> the DIRECTIONS out of her mouth and into
Angus's hand. <PLOP!>

57 ANGUS (CONT'D) 57
 Let's build...

58 LADY OF THE TREE 58
 Oh! I'm so happy to hear it!

Suddenly, the splinters that the Lady had been covered in from her multiple injuries <SINK> into her skin.

INT. HOUSE IN TREE - ROOT CELLAR - KITCHEN - LATER

CLOSE ON: a JAR OF OGRE TOES as they're pulled off of the shelf by the Lady of the Tree. She puts them into what looks like a SHOPPING CART.

59 LADY OF THE TREE (O.S.) 59
 We'll need some of these, hmmm...
 and some of this.

Turns out, the shopping cart is Parker, who's filled to the brim with ingredients.

60 PARKER 60
 <GIGGLES!>

Parker <POURS> everything he was holding in his cart into a CAULDRON. Afterwards, he examines the various jars in the room, including a BEAKER of EYEBALLS that <RELEASES> a plume of smoke.

61 PARKER (CONT'D) 61
 Whatcha makin'?

62 LADY OF THE TREE 62
 A very special smoothie for your
 delicious-- I mean delightful
 friend, Angus.

Parker <DROPS> a jar he was examining and <POOFS> back over to the lady.

63 PARKER 63
 <GASP!> Angus loves smoothies!

64 LADY OF THE TREE 64
 With only the freshest ingredients.

As the Lady reaches for something on a shelf, the contents of a jar of SPIDERS fall onto Parker.

65 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 65
 Oh!

Parker <POPS> the jar off his head to reveal spiders <CRAWLING> all over his face.

66 PARKER 66
<LICKS UP SPIDERS><SPITS THEM INTO
CAULDRON> Ooh. That's fresh
alright!

67 LADY OF THE TREE 67
Could I trouble you for a pinch of
lightning, hmm?

68 PARKER 68
Thunder or no thunder?

69 LADY OF THE TREE 69
Hold the thunder, please.

70 PARKER 70
<MAKING LIGHTNING EFFORTS>

Parker produces a LIGHTNING BOLT <FART> from his butt and
hands it to her. She <THROWS> it in the cauldron, <BUBBLING &
BOILING>. Her eyes glow menacingly as she stirs.

71 LADY OF THE TREE 71
<EVIL LAUGHTER!>

Suddenly, she stops laughing and looks at Parker... who
grins, completely oblivious to what's going down.

72 PARKER 72
<LAUGHING WITH HER!>

INT. HOUSE IN TREE - LIVING AREA - SAME TIME

Angus tries to use a TINY ALLEN WRENCH to <SECURE> a bolt. As
hard as he tries to <FIT> it, the bolt is way too big.
Meanwhile, Russell is precariously holding all of the parts
together on her back.

73 ANGUS 73
<WRENCHING EFFORTS> Steady,
Russell! Steady!

Russell falls over, <KNOCKING OVER> what they had built so
far. Angus <TOSSES> the tiny allen wrench over his shoulder.

74 ANGUS (CONT'D) 74
The tool they provided is useless.
Good thing I brought my own.

He <WHIPS> out a much BIGGER, MANLIER ALLEN WRENCH. He
<SPINS> it around like a baton.

INT. HOUSE IN TREE - ROOT CELLAR - KITCHEN - CONT.

Parker has his head deep in the cauldron.

75 PARKER 75
<SNIFF> Ripe.

His head <SHRIVELS> from the "ripe" stench as he emerges. He shakes the wrinkles out.

76 LADY OF THE TREE 76
One final ingredient, and the
potion--I mean smoothie--should be
ready.

The Lady of the Tree reaches into her NEST HAT and retrieves a CHICK. She holds the chick over the cauldron and <"BAPS"> it on the bottom like a ketchup bottle. A WORM falls out of the bird's mouth. <PLOP!>

77 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 77
There!

78 PARKER 78
Wow! You sure know your way around
a kitchen. And to think, Angus
thought you were a witch!

79 LADY OF THE TREE 79
Eh, happens all the time.

80 PARKER 80
Really? Why?

81 LADY OF THE TREE 81
Because I am a witch!

She whips out the stick she'd been using to stir the "smoothie." Turns out, it's a BROOM! She <HOPS> onto it and starts sailing across the room, <BLOWING> right through Parker.

82 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 82
<EVIL LAUGHTER>

She <SNATCHES> up a BOTTLE on a shelf as she passes it, then flies back, <DROPPING> it in the cauldron.

83 PARKER 83
You're a... a... a... a--

84 LADY OF THE TREE 84
Witch? Yes. But, I'm a good witch.

Parker is instantly relieved. No questions asked.

85 PARKER 85
PHEW! Okay, good. Oof! Was worried
you were a bad witch for a minute
there.

86 LADY OF THE TREE 86
If anything, I'm just
misunderstood. (getting emotional)
Do you know what it feels like to
be misunderstood?

87 PARKER 87
Do I? I'm a kid and a cloud. I'm
misunderstood ALL the time.

88 LADY OF THE TREE 88
Then you'll keep my secret from
your friend, Angus? One
misunderstood friend to another?

89 PARKER 89
Girl, I gotchu.

Suddenly, the Lady <POOFS> up behind Parker.

90 LADY OF THE TREE 90
Groovy...

91 PARKER 91
I can do that one too.

Parker <POOFS> from one side of the Lady to her other side.

92 LADY OF THE TREE 92
Impressive! What about this?

The Lady lifts her dress revealing spindly SPIDER LEGS. She
does a funny <JIG>. She sucks her legs into her head, making
it look like she's been decapitated, <FLIPS>, then releases
her legs again and <LANDS> in the splits.

To top that, Parker turns into a CHICKEN and does a <DANCE>
of his own.

93 PARKER 93
<SILLY CHICKEN DANCE NOISES>

The witch <CLAPS>.

94 LADY OF THE TREE 94
Fantastic!

<DING!> A timer on top of the cauldron sounds.

95 PARKER 95
Sounds like the smoothie's ready!

96 LADY OF THE TREE 96
And just in time.
(deep demon voice)
I'm starving.

107 LADY OF THE TREE 107
Oh dear! It appears your friend
worked so hard that he's taking a
much deserved nap.

108 PARKER 108
He does work hard...

109 LADY OF THE TREE 109
Help me get him to the rocking
chair, hmmm?

110 PARKER 110
My pleasure.

Oblivious, Parker <POOFS> into a SHOVEL and lifts Angus onto the spit. The witch uses her magic to <SUMMON> ROPE and <TIE> Angus to it. Russell grows concerned, looks to Parker, who has no clue.

111 LADY OF THE TREE 111
Nice 'n tight.
(then)
Hmm, it's so drafty in here. We
should make him a fire.

The Lady <SHOOTS> a BOLT from her finger that ignites the WOOD under the spit. <WHOOSH!> A fire erupts.

112 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 112
Can never be too toasty. I'll be
right back with the steak knives.

She <ZIPS> from the room.

113 PARKER 113
Okay!

Russell <WHINES>, clearly worried. Angus slowly wakes up.

114 ANGUS 114
<SNIFFING> What's that smell? Is
there something burning?

115 PARKER 115
Hey Angus! How was the nap?

116 ANGUS 116
Parker! Am I on fire?!

117 PARKER 117
Uh, let me check, big guy.

Parker quickly ducks underneath the spit. We don't see what he sees. Then, he pops back up matter-of-factly.

118 PARKER (CONT'D) 118
Yup. But only your butt.

This hits both Angus and Parker at the same time...

119 ANGUS/PARKER 119
MY BUTT'S ON FIRE! / YOUR BUTT'S ON
FIRE!

We see Angus's butt trying to dodge the flames.

120 ANGUS 120
Ahhh! Hot buns! Hot buns! Hot buns!

121 PARKER 121
I got an idea, Angus!

Parker <RAINS> over Angus, but the magical flames won't die.

122 PARKER (CONT'D) 122
EEK! Russell, go get the good
witch, she can help!

123 ANGUS 123
Parker! She's the one clearly
trying to COOK and EAT me!

124 PARKER 124
Oh no no. She's a good witch,
Angus.

125 ANGUS 125
Then why is she standing there with
a giant knife and fork!?

Parker turns around to find the Lady of the Tree, KNIFE and
FORK in hand--ready to eat.

126 LADY OF THE TREE 126
Hmm, looks like dinner's almost
ready.

Russell <GROWLS>, then charges and <BARKS> at the Lady. But
the scary REFLECTION that Russell saw of herself in the
mirror earlier reaches out and <GRABS> Russell, restraining
her. Russell <BARKS> for help!

127 PARKER 127
(to Lady)
You told me you were a good witch!

128 LADY OF THE TREE 128
(shrugging)
Eh, I lied. I'm a bad witch. And
your beefy mariner friend looks
delish!

Parker grows angrier, darker, meaner looking. He <ZAPS> with electricity.

129 PARKER 129
You messed with the wrong cloud,
lady. <SCREAMS!>

Parker lunges forward when we PULL OUT to reveal Parker is now suddenly tiny and INSIDE a CRYSTAL BALL! Even Parker's screaming gets tiny. Parker <SLAMS> into the wall of the ball, <BANGING> on the glass.

130	ANGUS	130
	Parker! Buddy!	

131 PARKER 131
(high munchkin voice)
Angus!

LADY OF THE TREE

Now, where was I? <GASP!> Right. I
was about to serve myself some
fresh Angus tartare.

The Lady makes her way towards Angus. Her bottom legs skitter across the floor like a crab.

133	Ahhhhh!!	ANGUS	133
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Russell <WHINES>, still struggling against her mirror self.

134 PARKER 134
I'm sorry, Angus. This is all my
fault.
(hysterical)
We should have just left the
package at the door like you said!

135 ANGUS 135
It's okay, buddy. I forgive you.
Just don't cry.

136 PARKER 136
I can't help it! It's just so sad!

Parker's eyes well with tears. The Lady continues running at them.

137 ANGUS 137
 (crying)
I know! I've had a good life,
though, Parker. And that life was
made better by you being in it,
kiddo.

The Lady is almost upon them. She readies her fork and knife.

138 PARKER 138
<BAWLS>

Water fills the crystal ball.

139 ANGUS 139
<BAWLS>

140 RUSSELL 140
<BAWLS>

Suddenly, just as the witch lowers her knife and fork towards Angus, the fire underneath him <GOES OUT>. A single TEAR forms on her face.

141 LADY OF THE TREE 141
You two are really good buds,
aren't you?

142 ANGUS 142
The best buds!

143 PARKER 143
In the whole world!

144 LADY OF THE TREE 144
<SIGH.> I, too, had a best bud
once. We did everything together. I
miss him.

She pulls out a PHOTO of her and her old best bud--a GUY who looks an awful lot like HOWIE PERRY.

145 PARKER 145
What happened to him?

146 LADY OF THE TREE 146
He did something stupid, and I
turned him into a tiny rock puppet.

She looks to the ROCK PUPPET from before, who's sitting on a shelf.

147 ANGUS 147
I would never do that to my little
nimbus.

148 LADY OF THE TREE 148
I know, and it's beautiful.

The Lady raises her finger and <TWIRLS> it, causing the rope around Angus to <UNRAVEL>. Angus <HITS> the ground.

149 PARKER 149
I knew you were a good witch!

150 LADY OF THE TREE 150
 Go. Before I change my mind.

You don't have to ask Angus twice. He <GRABS> the crystal ball with Parker, <FREES> Russell, and races off with them.

151 PARKER 151
 Thanks for choosing the Middlemost Post!

Angus <SLAMS> the door.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Angus and Russell sit at the table, anxiously awaiting dinner. Parker <ZOOMS> in with three PLATES of food.

152 PARKER 152
 Here ya go! Fresh out of the oven!

He <PLOPS> the plates on the table.

153 ANGUS 153
 Oh, looks good, kiddo!
 (pauses)
 There's no creepy crawlers in it,
 are there?

Parker appears above Angus's shoulder.

154 PARKER 154
 Creepy crawler free!

He <POOFS> away.

155 ANGUS 155
 Dig in, everyone. If there's one
 thing we've earned today, it's a
 nice relaxing meal.

<KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!> Someone's at the door.

156 ANGUS (CONT'D) 156
 Well who can that be?

Angus gets up and heads to the door. He <OPENS> it to find...
The Lady of the Tree!!

157 LADY OF THE TREE 157
 Hellllllooooo.

158 ANGUS 158
 AAAAAAH!

Parker swoops in.

159 PARKER 159
I invited a guest for dinner,
Angus! You always say, "Just
because you're a witch, doesn't
mean you should eat alone."
(off Angus)
I'm paraphrasing.

160 LADY OF THE TREE 160
Hope you don't mind, but I brought
a friend.

She holds up the scary ROCK PUPPET.

161 LADY OF THE TREE (CONT'D) 161
And a salad.

She holds up a SALAD. A salad that she <VOMITS> a bunch of
BUGS and WORMS into! She smiles at Angus with bug filled
teeth, and the big guy passes out.

162 ANGUS 162
<FAINTING EFFORT!>

THE END.