

MIDDLEMOST POST

#014 - "Out Of Shape"

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ANGUS (O.S.) 1
Okay. So to recap today's crew
meeting...

Parker and Russell listen to Angus as he stands in front of a large WHITE PAD. There are THREE ITEMS listed on it that Angus refers to.

CUT TO Burt, standing next to Parker and Russell with a sad face. He's got a missing leg, is holding onto a ski POLE, and has a broken SKI jammed through his head.

Parker violently <RIPS> off a piece of the broken ski and shoves it into Burt's empty leg hole. Problem solved!

ANGUS 5
(re: #2)
We're gonna stop drinking from the
toilet.

6 PARKER 6
It won't happen again.

Angus poorly acts, playfully peeking behind the page, really hamming it up.

8 PARKER 8
<GASP!> What is it! What is it!

Angus flips the page. It reads "Parker's Day Off!"

9 ANGUS 9
You get a day off work, kiddo!

There's <FANFARE>. Balloons fall from the ceiling.

10 PARKER 10
<GASPS!> I do?? Is it because I've
been working my little cloud buns
off and doing such a good job on
the mail route??

Parker gestures to his buns... which <POP> off and fall.

11 ANGUS 11
Uh-huh. Uh, that, and I legally
have to give you a day off once in
awhile.

12 PARKER 12
I get a whole day off work! What
should I do?

13 ANGUS 13
You can do anything you want. Heh,
go to town! Ha!

14 PARKER 14
Nah, I've been to town. I'll think
of something more fun to do.

15 ANGUS 15
You enjoy yourself. Uh, Russell and
I gotta get out there and get
working.

16 PARKER 16
Something I don't have to do!

Parker <HUGS> Angus tight.

17 PARKER (CONT'D) 17
Thanks, Angus.

18 ANGUS 18
Ahhh. You're welcome, buddy.

Russell <PANTS> happily as she and Angus exit. Parker waves
them goodbye.

19 PARKER 19
Byeeee!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LATER

TITLE CARD: "A Solid Day's Work Later"

Angus and Russell enter the ship after a long day.

20 ANGUS (O.S.) 20
Hey, Parker! We're home.

21 PARKER (O.S.) 21
I'm upstairs, Angus!

Angus and Russell head upstairs.

22 ANGUS 22
I wanna hear all about the fun
things you did on your day OFF!!--

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LIVING ROOM - CONT.

Angus and Russell have reached the living room and FREEZE on sight of Parker. Both dumbstruck.

REVEAL Parker, huge, lumpy, amoeba-like, completely draped over the entire couch. Imagine Jabba the Hut on an Ikea Couch.

23 PARKER 23
I pretty much just lounged.

24 ANGUS 24
I... I can see that.

The RADIO <BUZZES> to life.

25 PARKER 25
(re: radio)
Shhh. It's my favorite new radio
show. I've been listening to it
alllll day.

Parker <CLICKS> a nob on the radio. An NPR-esque HOST narrates over the airwaves...

26 NPR-ESQUE HOST (O.S.) 26
(on radio)
Welcome back to, "Watching the
Grass Grow." Grass. It grows.

27 ANGUS 27
Um, Parker, did--

28 NPR-ESQUE HOST 28
Very slowly...

Angus frowns at being interrupted by the radio.

29 ANGUS 29
Did you get off the couch at all
today?

30 PARKER 30
I thought about it.

31 ANGUS 31
<SIGH> Uh, Parker, I don't know how
to say this, but, you look ah...

Angus looks to Russell for help. Angus picks up one of
Parker's legs, holding it in the air.

32 ANGUS (CONT'D) 32
... like you lost your shape,
kiddo. I-I think it's from your day
off and not doing anything.

33 PARKER 33
Really? But I feel fine.

Parker tries to get off the couch. It's laborious. Angus and
Russell watch nervously.

34 PARKER (CONT'D) 34
<GRUNTING/HEAVING/GASPING>

He tries grabbing onto a SHELF above him for support, but the
shelf <SNAPS> in half. BOOKS fall from it and hit him in the
face.

35 PARKER (CONT'D) 35
Ooh! Ahh! Ooh!

Parker gives up, still on the couch. His eyes well with
tears.

36 PARKER (CONT'D) 36
(weepy)
Oh, noooo. Will I be stuck like
this the rest of my life?!

37 ANGUS 37

Well of course not! One day on the old mail route and you'll be right back to your normal form again. I'm sure of it.

Parker musters a smile.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

Angus and Russell trudge along the mail route, delivering mail into mailboxes.

38 PARKER (O.S.) 38
<WHEEZING!>

39 ANGUS **39**

How you doing, Parker?

Lagging behind them, trying to keep up, is Parker. He's more like a SLUG than a cloud at this point.

40 PARKER 40
<MORE STRUGGLING EFFORTS>

Parker gives a weak thumbs up, but can barely breathe.

41 PARKER (CONT'D) 41
(strained)
Crushing it!

EXT. GREENWOOD - DAY

Angus and Russell are in a TREE. Angus looks down below.

42 ANGUS 42
Parker, you coming?

43 PARKER 43
Be right there, Angus! <STRAINING
EFFORTS!>

Parker, in the form of a ROCKET, tries floating up to his friends... but barely gets any air before he falls and hits the ground.

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44                                PARKER (CONT'D)                                44
                                Ugggghhh...

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Next, Parker tries morphing into a CAR JACK, trying to push himself up high enough to reach the treetop...

45 PARKER (CONT'D) 45
<PUMPING/REACHING EFFORTS!> Eeeee!

... But he can't. He flails his arms around, eventually grabbing onto the ladder in front of him. He takes hold of a rung, but <SNAP!> It breaks off with a few others, sending him back to the ground.

46 PARKER (CONT'D) 46
Ow...

Angus and Russell look on with concern.

EXT. RED RIDGE - DAY

The MMP crew stands in front of a home.

47 ANGUS 47
(re: Parker)
Package, please.

48 PARKER 48
On it, Angus!

Instead of his normal, swift swan dive into Russell, Parker struggles to even inch towards Russell's mouth.

49 PARKER (CONT'D) 49
<STRUGGLING/GRUNTING>

Parker pulls out a STEP STOOL that he's going to use to climb into Russell. He barely gets on it.

50 PARKER (CONT'D) 50
<MORE STRUGGLING EFFORTS!>

Russell tries to help Parker into her mouth, but Parker rejects it, holding up a hand.

51 PARKER (CONT'D) 51
(strained)
Almost there! <REACHING EFFORTS!>

Parker desperately reaches for Russell's mouth, but he falls over backwards and off the stool. His body makes the sound of <SLOSHING> water.

Parker fights to get back onto the stool.

52 PARKER (CONT'D) 52
<STRUGGLING/STRAINING>

Finally, he makes it on!

53 PARKER (CONT'D) 53
<GASP!>

... But the stool <SHATTERS> beneath him.

54 ANGUS 54
Uh... Ya need help, kiddo?

55 PARKER 55
No, no. I got it. I got it.
<PULLING EFFORTS!>

Parker yanks on Russell's teeth for leverage, but they <POP> out. She sprouts new ones. <CHING!> Parker tosses the old ones aside, then frantically pushes on the ground, trying to get himself back up again. Angus watches. It's painful.

56 PARKER (CONT'D) 56
<MORE STRUGGLING EFFORTS!>

Parker tries to shove himself inside Russell's mouth. His tiny little legs kicking.

57 PARKER (CONT'D) 57
<SQUEEZING EFFORTS> Parker! Squeeze
it in there!

It doesn't work. He finally gasses out and goes limp.

58 PARKER (CONT'D) 58
(meekly)
Help.

59 ANGUS 59
<YANKING EFFORTS!>

Angus pulls Parker out of Russell, but loses his balance under Parker's mass.

60 ANGUS (CONT'D) 60
Ahhh!

Parker <LANDS> on Angus, completely smothering him.

61 PARKER 61
Angus? Where'd you go?

62 ANGUS (O.S.) 62
(from under Parker)
Paaarkeeer...

Angus crawls out from under Parker like some horror movie.

63 ANGUS (CONT'D) 63
<GASPING FOR AIR>

Parker gets weepy and sad.

64 PARKER 64
I'm sorry, Angus. This is all my fault. You were nice enough to give me a day off work, and all I did was sit on my butt. I can't deliver the mail like this. <SNIFFLE>, And delivering the mail is what we do!

65 ANGUS 65
Hey hey hey, don't fret, little nimbus. There's gotta be a way to fix this.

66 PARKER 66
<SNIFFLES>, How?

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - DAY

67 LILY 67
I have no idea how to fix this.

REVEAL the MMP Crew, deflating.

68 LILY (CONT'D) 68
But, I might know something that might know how...

Lily goes to a shelf, pulls down a BOOK titled, "SCIENCE BOOK." She opens it, thumbs through the pages.

69 LILY (CONT'D) 69
Hmm. Oh... kay. Oh no, not this page. Hm. Turn the page. Nuh-huh. Oh maybe here. Four through... oh, hmm. Okay, here we go.

MMP stares at her in suspense as she reads until--

70 LILY (CONT'D) 70
Eureka! Science for the win.

71 ANGUS 71
Well what's it say!? Can it fix Parker?

72 LILY 72
(re: book)
Says here that "clouds can be
reduced and reformed by applying
one of the four phases of matter."
And, we all know the four phases of
matter.

Lily looks at the MMP crew. Beat. Clearly, no one knows.

73 ANGUS 73
Oh yeah, the matter. Heh, the four
ones.

74 PARKER 74
Uh-huh, phases.

Lily pops the science book into a slot in her suit, then
<CLAPS>--turning the lights off and causing the science book
to project onto a SCREEN ahead of them.

We see examples of the FOUR PHASES OF MATTER: **Solid, liquid,
gas, plasma.**

75 LILY 75
The four phases of matter are
solid, liquid, gas, and plasma.

The projection turns off.

76 LILY (CONT'D) 76
All we need to do is turn Parker
into one of these four matters,
then reform Parker back into a
cloud.

77 ANGUS 77
Aw, gee, I don't know. It sounds
kinda dangerous.

78 PARKER 78
Angus, it's science. Since when has
science ever been dangerous?

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - BACK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Angus and Russell try and SHOVE gelatinous Parker into a MINI
FRIDGE. It's a chore!

79 ANGUS 79
<PUSHING EFFORTS!>

80 PARKER 80
(muffled)
Keep pushing, guys! Almost there...

One final <PUSH> with Lily's help and Parker is completely sealed inside the fridge.

81 PARKER (O.S.) (CONT'D) 81
(muffled)
Hey, it's not so bad in here.
Little chilly.

82 LILY 82
You should be frozen solid in...

She looks at her TIMER. It <DINGS!>

83 LILY (CONT'D) 83
That should do it.

They open the mini fridge door. Parker, now a BLOCK OF ICE, comes <SCRAPING> out of it.

84 PARKER 84
Did it work!?

Angus <BANGS> on the ice with his fist.

85 ANGUS 85
That's solid alright.

86 PARKER 86
Woo-hoo!

87 LILY 87
Now, all we have to do is form you
back into a cloud.

Lily puts on GOGGLES and dons a CHAINSAW. She <REVS> it.
Angus and Russell are mortified.

88 ANGUS 88
AHHHH!

The CHAINSAW goes off screen, and we watch as ICE SHAVINGS fly everywhere. Angus and Russell close their eyes, shielding themselves as Lily <SAWS>. Finally, she stops.

89 LILY 89
Done.

Angus and Russell open their eyes.

90 ANGUS 90
<GASP!>

They're relieved to see that Parker looks like himself again!

91 ANGUS (CONT'D) 91
Doggonit, it worked! You're back to
your normal shape, Parker!

92 PARKER 92
I am?

Parker turns to the side, and that's where we see he's PAPER THIN. Just a sheet of ice. He tips over and <CLATTERS> to the ground-- flat as a pancake.

93 LILY 93
Hm. I think I took a little too
much off the back.

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - BACK ROOM - LATER

Lily holds ICE PARKER in a BEAKER over a BUNSEN BURNER.

94 ANGUS 94
For the record, I don't feel great
boiling my little nimbus.

95 PARKER 95
Don't worry, Angus. It doesn't
hurt. <GIGGLES!>

Lily reads from the "Science Book."

96 LILY 96
According to the book, liquid is
one of the more "finicky" phases of
matter. If you heat it too long,
you risk...

Lily stops for some reason.

97 LILY (CONT'D) 97
Oh, no.

Angus panics.

98 ANGUS 98
Risk what!? Why'd you stop?

99 LILY 99
The pages are stuck together. Hold
on. Okay, hmm... Wait. There--oh.
Hmm. Here we go.

100 ANGUS 100
Risk what?! Risk what! <NERVOUS
EFFORTS!>

STEAM rises up all around them. Finally, Lily gets a grip on
the page and continues reading.

101 LILY 101
(reading book)
Evaporation.

They look to the BEAKER and there's NO Parker. But the room
is full of steam.

102 ANGUS 102
Oh, no! Parker! Oh, stupid science!
I knew this was a bad idea. We just
boiled my buddy away!

Suddenly, we hear Russell over by the window, using the
condensation from the room's steam to draw Parker's FACE.

103 ANGUS (CONT'D) 103
Parker! You're okay!

Russell draws a MUSTACHE on Parker's lip.

104 ANGUS (CONT'D) 104
Russell, stop that!... Parker?

CUT IN TO Parker as a million DROPLETS of condensation.

105 PARKER 105
Hey, Angus!... I'm sensing it
didn't work.

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - BACK ROOM - LATER

Lily tinkers with a strange MACHINE. She, Angus, and Russell
all wear matching GOGGLES.

106 ANGUS 106
I have to be honest, I'm not too
impressed with science so far. This
whole "turning Parker into
different phases of matter to get
the kid's shape back" seems like a
bunch of baloney.

107 LILY 107
That's because we haven't tried
plasma.

We see STEAM PARKER inside a glass tube that's hooked up to Lily's contraption.

108	PARKER	108
	Hit it, Lily!	

Lily <PULLS> a LEVER. The machine <POWERS UP>, and an ALARM <BLARES>.

109 ANGUS 109
What is plasma, anyway?

110	LILY	110
	I have no idea.	

Lily types something furiously into the machine. Then, bolts of electricity <FUNNEL> into the tube with Parker. Purple sparks, bright lights. You know, plasma stuff. Parker suddenly disappears from the tube. It looks like the machine might be working!

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111                                LILY (CONT'D)                                111
                                (victorious)
                                <LAUGHS!>

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Once the light and the <ZAPPING> settle, we find Parker, looking like his old self again. He looks himself over.

112 PARKER 112
Look everyone, it worked!

113	LILY	113
	Wow. Science rocks.	

Parker and Lily <HIGH-FIVE>.

114 ANGUS 114

That's great, kiddo! You're back!

Heh! How do you feel?

115 PARKER 115
I feel great.

There's a distinct <HUM> emanating from Parker, along with a green GLOW. Chernobyl vibes...

116 ANGUS 116
Hm. You hear that?

117 PARKER 117
I don't hear anything.

Parker seems to now have a third EYE. When we cut back to Angus, we notice a RHINO HORN that's sprouted on his head.

118 ANGUS 118
That's strange. It's an odd hum.
Lily, you hear it?

On Lily, who now has one crazy buff ARM and a second HEAD growing out of her.

119 LILY 119
Hmm. I do. It's getting louder.
Russell, do you hear it?

On Russell, who shakes her head. She's covered in FUR and <LAYS> a GIANT EGG. Wings crack from the egg as it flies away, <SCREECHING>.

120 PARKER 120
Umm. What was that fourth phase again?

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - OLD STINKHOLE - LATER

The MMP crew and Lily stand over Old Stinkhole. A big plume of GAS <BURSTS> out of it.

121 LILY 121
Gas. Our last hope.

122 ANGUS 122
It breaks my heart to see you go through this, kiddo.

123 PARKER 123
Don't worry, Angus. This is gonna work. Because it... has to work.

Angus and Parker look at each other, tearing up.

124 PARKER (CONT'D) 124
Save the best for last, right buddy?

125 ANGUS 125
Right, buddy.

Parker and Angus fistbump.

126 PARKER 126
CANNONBALL!

Parker cannonballs into Old Stinkhole. Angus stares into the hole intently. Old Stinkhole <RUMBLES>. At first, a teeny tiny <FART> of gas comes up from it, releasing in their faces.

127 ANGUS 127
Parker?

But then, A HUGE WALL of gas <FARTS> out of the hole!

128 ANGUS/LILY/RUSSELL 128
<COUGHING!>

All of the random oddities that the plasma gave them randomly <POOF> away. Angus looks down into the hole, not seeing any sign of the cloud.

129 ANGUS 129
Parker?!

As the gang stares down, Parker appears beside them, looking like his normal self!

130 PARKER 130
What are you guys looking at?

Angus and the others, happily startled, turn to Parker.

131 ANGUS 131
Parker!

132 PARKER 132
Did it work?

133 ANGUS 133
It appears so, kiddo.

Overjoyed, Parker flies into Angus's embrace, but Angus's face puckers. His eyes water as he pushes Parker away from him.

134 ANGUS (CONT'D) 134
(nearly puking)
<WRETCHES!> Oh, boy, boop! The
stink. Oooh...

Parker examines himself. A brown HAZE reeks off of him.

135 PARKER 135
Nooo! It didn't work! Now I just
stink! Lily, what else can we try??
There's gotta be something!

136 LILY 136
I'm sorry, Parker. I'm all out of
science.

She flaps the book around. Parker deflates.

137 PARKER 137
<SIGH>... It's okay. I know you
guys tried. I caused this mess, so
it's only right that I live... in
the mess.

Parker slogs towards Old Stinkhole.

138 ANGUS 138
Parker, where are you going?

Parker glumly sits at the hole's edge.

139 PARKER 139
It's time to face reality, Angus.
I'll never, ever, be my old self
again. From now on, I'll just be
Parker J. Gascloud. You can forward
all my mail to Old Stinkhole.

140 ANGUS (O.S.) 140
Well, then forward MY mail there
too.

Angus joins Parker at the edge of Old Stinkhole. Russell
follows, <BARKING>.

141 ANGUS (CONT'D) 141
And Russell.

Angus looks to Lily, who seems a little hesitant.

142 ANGUS (CONT'D) 142
<THROAT CLEARING EFFORT!>

Lily looks back and forth, then points to herself. *Me?*

143 ANGUS (CONT'D) 143
<CLEARS THROAT AGAIN!>

Angus gestures towards Parker. Lily shrugs, genuinely
confused.

144 ANGUS (CONT'D) 144
<SUPER LOUD THROAT CLEARING!>
Finally, Lily runs over to join them.

145 LILY 145
And me.
She slips a GAS MASK over her face.

146 ANGUS 146
Kiddo, the way you look doesn't
matter. The way you smell doesn't
matter. And what shape you are,
doesn't matter. We love you for
you.

147 PARKER 147
Really? It doesn't matter?
Russell gives Parker a big old <LICK!>

148 ANGUS 148
It doesn't matter.
The four friends all group hug. Slowly, the stink fumes on
GAS PARKER start to disappear, and a <BLAST> of love and
color and light emanates from him.

149 LILY 149
Look, Parker, you're changing.
Parker's suddenly back to his old self! For real this time!

150 PARKER 150
<SNIFFS AN ARMPIT>, Hmm. Not so
rank! I think I'm back to my normal
self!

151 ANGUS 151
Well, it sure looks and smells like
it, kiddo!

152 LILY 152
I think you two just stumbled on
the fifth phase of matter.
The... Doesn't Matter.

153 ANGUS 153
<GASPS!> Did we just master
science??

154 PARKER 154
I think we did!

155

PARKER/ANGUS
<LAUGHING!><WHOOPIING!>

155

Angus and Parker do the "bull dance," and we hear the <SNAP> of a camera. We PULL OUT to reveal a photo of the four of them, frozen in the happy moment, taped inside of the Science Book. The page reads: "PHASE 5: DOESN'T MATTER!" A diagram of the newly five phases of matter is on the page next to it.

THE END.