

MIDDLEMOST POST

#017 - "Dog's Best Friend"

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Holding a package, ANGUS sneaks towards a fenced-in yard. He's in full stealth mode, using trees for cover. He peeks through a pair of BINOCULARS, eyeing his target.

1 ANGUS 1
 (wipes brow)
Pheew.

<SQUEAK!> Angus cringes. He stepped on a dog's squeaky TOY - a mangled rubber MAIL MAN DOLL with its head ripped off.

Thundering from behind is BRUTUS, a giant, ferocious looking dog! It stares Angus down, <GROWLING> and <SALIVATING>. Suddenly, it charges!

4 PARKER 4
Lookout, Angus!

Angus drops the package and braces for...

6 ANGUS (CONT'D) 6
 <LAUGHS> Okay, Brutus! Okay, you
 got me! Enough with the stinky
 slobber. You win.

7 PARKER 7
I'm not one for smack talk, Angus.
But Brutus kinda owns you.

Back on Angus, who gives Brutus a big ol' belly rub.

8 ANGUS 8
Who's a good boy? Who's a good
boy?? I'm sorry, Parker, you were
saying something about being
"owned?"

Angus confidently smiles.

9 PARKER 9
Wow. He's good.

Parker <ERASES> the dash under Brutus and puts it in the
Angus column.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Parker and Russell, wearing SUNGLASSES, fall into step behind
Angus as he parades down the street (*à la 500 Days of
Summer*), and every DOG in town runs up adoringly to greet
him.

10 PARKER 10
Nothin' to see here, folks! Just
dog's best friend and cloud's best
friend coming through!

As Angus continues his stroll, he doles out treats and gives
head pats to dogs snuggling his legs. A mutt named BUBBLES
leans up against a FIRE HYDRANT, <BLOWING> some bubblegum.
Angus approaches him.

11 ANGUS 11
Bubbles! What's happening, man?

He and the dog go in for a LIVE ACTION paw-shake.

12 ANGUS (CONT'D) 12
Nice, firm shake there, Bubbles!

Three-legged DAISY brings Angus a ball. He throws it.

13 ANGUS (CONT'D) 13
Go deep, Daisy!

An excited Daisy hobbles off after it the best she can. Then,
Angus stops to talk to a MAMA DOG holding her BABY in her
teeth, looking expectantly at Angus.

14 ANGUS (CONT'D) 14
Autograph? Sure.

Angus, holding a PEN, signs the puppy's rump.

15 ANGUS (CONT'D) 15
How 'bout a picture?

The Dog and pup pose with Angus. Russell <SNAPS> a photo of them with CAMERA PARKER. Parker prints the pic out of his mouth, <SHAKES> it, then admires it.

16 PARKER 16
Awww. That's a keeper.

Russell nods. MMP watches the mama and her baby trot off down the road.

17 ANGUS 17
I gotta be honest, Parker. Being the only mailman that dogs don't absolutely hate feels pretty darn good.

18 PARKER 18
And you wear it well, big guy.

19 ANGUS 19
There's not a pooch on this entire mountain who doesn't love old Angus.

20 PARKER 20
Well, there might be one.

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - MOMENTS LATER

CU on JELLY, Pam's roly-poly pug, <GROWLING!> PULL OUT to reveal she stares daggers at Angus, who stands at a safe distance in the doorway. Parker floats behind the dog.

21 ANGUS 21
<NERVOUS LAUGHTER!>

22 PARKER 22
I wonder why Jelly hates you so much?

23 ANGUS 23
Eh, she doesn't hate me. She just doesn't know me. I'm sure if I spent a little "quality time" with her, she'd warm right up.

24 PARKER 24
And you'd be best of friends!?

25 ANGUS 25
Sure! Isn't that right, Jelly-welly-
-

Angus cautiously comes over to pet Jelly, but gets nothing but <SNARLED> death teeth from her. Unsettled, he runs off and, from outside of the restaurant, calls out:

26 ANGUS (CONT'D) 26
(thru a window)
Uh, Ms. Pam, could we get that
toast to go?

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - LATER

The trio treks up the mountain.

27 ANGUS 27
... I'm just saying, it takes a lot
of focus and patience to win over a
dog. Well, that, and cheese.

Angus opens the door to reveal... JELLY! She <GROWLS>, staring up at him.

28

AHHH!

ANGUS (CONT'D)

28

Angus <SLAMS> the door.

29 ANGUS (CONT'D) 29
What is Jelly doing here??

30 PARKER 30
Surprise! <LAUGHS>, So, you
remember how you said you and Jelly
would be best of friends if you
only spent quality time together?
(beat)
Weeeell you're welcome!

Angus is totally discombobulated.

31 ANGUS 31
Parker! How... what?

32 PARKER 32
It's okay, Angus! I asked Ms. Pam
if we could watch Jelly for the
day, and she was totally cool with
it. Let the friendship making
begin!

Parker and Russell enter the ship.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Parker and Russell play with Jelly. Angus comes in cautiously, keeps his distance.

33 PARKER 33
<GIGGLING/PLAYING WALLA> Jelly!

34 ANGUS 34
Parker, how you did this, I have no
idea. What I do know is, you
shouldn't have.

Parker stops playing, <POOFS> back into form.

35 PARKER 35
But you said--

36 ANGUS 36
I know what I said.

37 PARKER 37
Did I do something wrong?

Parker gets down on himself.

38 ANGUS 38
No, kiddo. You were only trying to
help.

39 PARKER 39
I just thought, since every dog on
Mt. Middlemost loves you so much,
you'd want Jelly to love you too. I
guess I was wrong.

Parker sadly <MELTS> and <POOFS> into a LEASH and COLLAR to
walk Jelly to the door.

40 PARKER (CONT'D) 40
C'mon Jelly. I'll take you home.

This pains Angus to watch.

41 ANGUS 41
Wait. You know what? Parker, you're
right. I've worked hard to win over
the dogs on this mountain. There's
no reason why I should quit with
Jelly.

Parker brightens up.

42 PARKER 42
You mean it!?

43 ANGUS 43
You betcha! What do you say--

Angus leans down to Jelly's level. Jelly <SNAPS>, taking a
big CHUNK of Angus beard with her.

44 PARKER 44
YAY!

Parker group hugs them.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAIL ROOM - LATER

Angus paces back and forth in front of Parker and Russell, who sit at old-fashioned school desks.

45 ANGUS 45

What I'm about to tell you two is
top secret, and should never be
spoken to any dog, especially the
one we call Jelly.

46 PARKER 46
I took care of it, just like you
asked.

Cut to Jelly who wears HEADPHONES and listens to a BOOMBOX, looking all sorts of derpy.

47 PARKER (CONT'D) 47
I made her a mixtape.

48 ANGUS 48

Good work, kiddo. Now, here's the
skinny. There's a foolproof way to
win over ANY and EVERY dog. The
steps are simple.

Angus pulls up his sleeve to reveal a TATTOO with 3 STEPS:

49 ANGUS (CONT'D) 49

Step one. Find where they like to be scratched.

A TATTOO of a DOG gets scratched by a floating GLOVE until the glove finds the pup's sweet spot...

50 ANGUS (CONT'D) 50
Step two. Scratch that spot.

The glove continues to scratch the tattoo dog. The dog
<FLOPS> over onto its back, livin' it up.

51	ANGUS (CONT'D)	51
	Step three. Repeat until dog kicks leg.	

The tattoo dog's tongue <FLOPS> out, and it <KICKS> its leg.
CUT BACK TO Angus, watching and scratching his dog tattoo.

52 ANGUS (CONT'D) 52
Coochie coochie coo! Coochie
woochie booby doo!

53 PARKER 53
Hey, it works on Russell too!

Parker pets Russell as her flippers flutter.

54 ANGUS 54
Oho, that's a stellar belly rub
right there, Parker. You're a
natural! Let's get to scratchin'.

Angus does a lil warm up as Russell and Parker prep Jelly for
him on a cushioned STOOL.

55 PARKER 55
You got this, Angus!

56 ANGUS 56
<WARM-UP EFFORTS!>

Angus <CRACKS> his head, then his knuckles. He <SPITS> into
his hands, rubs them together.

57 ANGUS (CONT'D) 57
<SPITTING EFFORT!>

Game time!

58 ANGUS (CONT'D) 58
<GRUNT!>

He offers one of his hands to Jelly, who suspiciously
<SNIFFS> it.

59 PARKER 59
(whispers to Russell)
<GASP!> It's happening...

Angus moves his hand closer to Jelly's head. He's dripping
with sweat.

60 ANGUS 60
Easy does it.

61 PARKER 61
(hugging Russell)
I can feel the friendship
blossoming!

62 ANGUS 62
I'm in range... closing in.

Angus touches Jelly's head like his hand is a spaceship
making contact on the moon.

63 ANGUS (CONT'D) 63
Contact has been made. I repeat,
contact has been made.

Parker <HUGS> Russell tighter.

64 PARKER 64
<HUGGING EFFORT!>

65 ANGUS 65
Just gotta find that spot... watch
the leg... watch the leg...

Angus scratches Jelly's head while eyeing her leg. The leg
<TWITCHES> and <VIBRATES> like a phone.

Angus leans in closer. So do his eyeballs. More leg
<TWITCHING>.

66 ANGUS (CONT'D) 66
Wait for it!

He leans in TOO close when <WHAP!> Jelly karate <KICKS> Angus
in the face, sending the big guy flying off screen. <CRASH!>

67 ANGUS (CONT'D) 67
D'owwww! <INJURED EFFORTS!>

Parker <ZIPS> over to Angus.

68 PARKER 68
<GASPS!> Are you okay, Angus!? Aw
I'm sorry Jelly is being so mean. I
don't know what her deal is.

69 ANGUS 69
<SIGH>, I do, Parker. I didn't
wanna say anything, but me and
Jelly, our beef goes way back.

EXT./INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - FLASHBACK

Outside of the Middlemost Toast, it <POURS> rain. We see
Angus in a heated conversation with TERRY.

70 ANGUS (V.O) 70
It all started with a heated
discussion about preservatives.

71 ANGUS (CONT'D) 71
Oh you're out of your tree, Terry.
Everyone knows that JAM is the
single greatest preservative to put
on toast.

72 TERRY 72
No man. You're wrong. Jam is just a
poor man's jelly.

73 ANGUS 73
Are you kidding? Jelly is the
worst!!

We hear a dog <WHIMPER>. Angus looks over and spots Jelly.
Slighted, she trots away.

74 ANGUS (CONT'D) 74
 (re: Jelly)
 <GASP!> Wait!!

Angus runs to the door where Jelly exited, but there's no
turning back for her.

75 ANGUS (CONT'D) 75
Jelly! Noooooo!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAIL ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT.

Angus wipes away a tear.

76 ANGUS 76
 <SNIFFS>. You see, Parker, I owe
 this to Jelly. And I need to make
 this right. And I know just the way
 to do it.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAIN QUARTERS - LATER

Angus knits an adorable "Post Pup" UNIFORM with a sparkly hat
to match. Parker watches. Russell holds the ball of YARN.

77 ANGUS 77
I see now that Jelly is no ordinary
canine. She's the type of dog that
needs to be "wooded" in order to be
your friend.

78 PARKER 78
And you think making her this cute
little pup uniform will win her
over?

79 ANGUS 79
 (confident)
 You tell me.

Angus holds up the pup uniform. It's the cutest damn thing.
Parker and Russell both melt over the sight.

80 PARKER 80
Wooooo.

CUT TO:

Jelly <RIPS> apart the outfit in front of Angus, Parker, and Russell. Shreds of cotton drift down on a frustrated Angus. It's a mass murder of cloth, and it's super excessive.

81 PARKER (CONT'D) 81
Maybe she has one already?

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - LATER

Angus gently cracks open a plaster mold and extracts a hand-made SQUEAKY TOY with tongs. Angus gives it a <SQUEEZE>.

82 ANGUS 82
The Shackleton Squeak Ball. No dog
has ever destroyed it, NOR resisted
it.

Parker and Russell again are enamored by the "gift."

83 PARKER 83
Woooo.

Angus tentatively rolls the ball in front of Jelly... then quickly backs away to a safe distance. The MMP crew watches in anticipation as Jelly <SNIFFS> the ball and picks it up in her mouth.

84 PARKER (CONT'D) 84
It's working!

ANGUS

85 By gosh, it is! The woo works! 85

86 PARKER 86
What is she doing?

Jelly trots to the bow of the ship. Concern falls over Angus as he watches Jelly DROP the ball out of the ship. Then, she trots back like it was nothing as it <FALLS>. Angus deflates.

Seeing Angus's reaction, Parker <ZOOMS> over and looks down where Jelly dropped the ball. <EXPLOSION SOUND!>

87 PARKER (CONT'D) 87
Oho man. That thing is toast.
Totally imploded.

Frustrated, Angus grips one of the ship walls to the point where it <CRACKS>.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - KITCHEN - LATER

Angus <GRILLS> a savory steak wrapped in bacon. Parker and Russell drool at the sight of it.

88 ANGUS 88

The coup de grâce. Premium, grass-fed beef, applewood smoked bacon, seared to perfection. When my grandpop trained wolves, he'd say the way to a wolf's heart is through the stomach.

Jelly derpily waits at a table. Angus presents her the meal like she's at a 5-star restaurant.

89 ANGUS (CONT'D) 89
Eat well, little wolf.

Jelly takes a <SNIFF>, picks up the steak, and carries it off.

90 ANGUS (CONT'D) 90
Where's she going?

91 PARKER 91
Looks like to the bathroom. Maybe
she needs to freshen up before
chow?

Jelly enters the bathroom with the steak. Parker poofs over and narrates what we don't see Jelly doing in the bathroom.

92 PARKER (CONT'D) 92
She's lifting the toilet seat,
Angus. That's a neat trick. Oh, she
dropped the steak in the toilet
water. I bet it wasn't on purpose
though.

We hear a <FLUSH>.

93 PARKER (CONT'D) 93
Okay now that looked on purpose.

Jelly trots out of the bathroom smugly, <KICKS> her back legs like she's dusting them off.

94 PARKER (CONT'D) 94
Maybe she's not part wolf?

Dejected, Angus's CHEF'S HAT falls off his head, followed by his APRON falling off his body.

95 ANGUS 95
That's it! I give up! I guess I'll
just be "dog's best friend" minus
Jelly for the rest of my life.

96 PARKER 96
You can't give up now, Angus!

ANGUS

I'm plum out of ideas, kiddo.

Angus looks totally defeated. Parker puts a comforting hand on the big guy's shoulder.

98 PARKER 98
I think I have something that just
might work.

Angus looks up at Parker, hope in his eyes again.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAIN QUARTERS - LATER

Angus is on all fours, dressed like a dog. His costume is made of mail supplies (rubber bands, cardboard, packing tape, etc.) with Parker disguised as floppy dog ears on his head.

99 ANGUS 99
 <SIGHS SHAKILY>, I don't know about
 this, Parker.

100	PARKER	100
	Dogs do this all the time. It's how they make friends. Go on, this is a safe place.	

Angus crawls towards Jelly, pausing directly behind her.

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101                PARKER (CONT'D)                                101
<CLEARS THROAT!>
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Parker looks at Angus expectantly.

102	ANGUS	102
	Oh, right... Woof woof. Uh, bow	
	wow.	

The pug glances at Angus and turns, ever so slightly, exposing her butt to Angus.

103 PARKER 103
You're doing great, buddy. Just a
little closer.

Angus reluctantly edges closer. Jelly backs up a step toward Angus - *as if daring him*. Angus shakes his head.

104	ANGUS	104
	<'NO' EFFORTS!>	

Parker nods towards Jelly's butt.

105 PARKER 105
(encouraging him)
Mm-hm! Mm-hm!

Angus is nearly nose to butt with Jelly when suddenly--.

106	ANGUS	106
	Nope! Uh-uh! I can't do it!	

Angus stands up, rips off the dog costume. Parker <POOFS> back to his cloud form.

107 PARKER 107
But you were so close!

108 ANGUS 108
I was too close, Parker. Too close!
I-I just don't get it with this
dog. If she only knew how much the
other dogs loved me--

An idea strikes Angus!

109 ANGUS (CONT'D) 109
Wait a minute. That's it! Parker,
grab Jelly. I got something she
needs to see!

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - LATER

Angus strolls down the street (same as open) with a pep in his step. He's followed by Russell and Parker-- who carries Jelly, cross-eyed and tongue-lolling, in a baby bjorn.

110	ANGUS	110
	Dogs are pack animals, Parker. No one wants to be the one not following the pack. Once Jelly sees how much the dogs of Mt. Middlemost love me, she'll fall right in line.	

Super confident, Angus stops, hops up onto a BENCH, and--

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111                ANGUS (CONT'D)                                111
                <WHISTLES!> Doggies of Mt.
                Middlemost! Your friendly
                neighborhood mailman is open for
                scratches and belly rubs!

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Brutus and all dogs from before appear out of nowhere, tails wagging, wide smiles! Two DOGS hold a "We <3 U Angus" sign. Another DOG <LEAPS> into Angus's arms for a belly rub.

112 ANGUS (CONT'D) 112
Is Jelly watching, Parker? Make
sure she's watching.

113 PARKER 113
She's watching!

Angus looks to Jelly. Jelly's LAZY EYE suddenly straightens.
It throws Angus off. Wtf?

On cue, all the dogs HALT, like they've been given a silent command. Angus finds himself surrounded by the dogs, who don't look so happy anymore.

114	ANGUS	114
	Poochies?	

In unison, the dogs bare their teeth and <GROWL>.

The dogs have charged Angus. Parker, Russell, and Jelly watch the action that's happening off screen.

115 ANGUS (O.S.) (CONT'D) 115
OW! Why Daisy!? Bubbles!

116 PARKER 116
Looking good, Angus!
(to Jelly)
I think they're playing tag judging
by how many times Angus is being
tagged.

Angus, trapped in a chaotic ball of attacking dogs, travels down the street.

117	ANGUS	117
	Brutus! It's me! <GETTING BEAT UP EFFORTS!>	

The flurry of action fades.

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - LATER

Parker, Jelly, and Russell race up to find the pack of dogs surrounding the DUMPSTER behind the Middlemost Toast. They clamor to get inside.

118 PARKER 118
Angus? You in there?

Jelly's eye returns back to default mode-- cross-eyed. The dogs STOP in unison *as if nothing happened*, and calmly walk away.

[illegible]

120 PARKER 120
Yup, all gone.

The dumpster lid lifts up and Angus takes a peek. He hops out, disheveled from the dog attack. He confronts Jelly.

121 ANGUS 121

YOU did this! You turned all those
dogs against me! That's a bad
Jelly! Bad!

Jelly <PANTS>, looking innocent and silly as ever. Angus softens, feeling like a total heel for yelling at the dog.

122	ANGUS (CONT'D)	122
	Ah, shipwreck. I'm sorry, Jelly. You don't deserve that. You have every right to hold a grudge against me for what I said, even if I didn't mean it. So go on, don't like me, I'll just deal with it.	

Angus goes to sit on the sidewalk. Parker and Russell go to him.

123 PARKER 123
I like you, Angus.

124 ANGUS 124
Thanks, kiddo. <LAUGHS>, I needed
that.

Parker and Russell hug Angus. Parker notices Jelly at Angus's feet. She's snuggling against his pant leg.

125 PARKER 125
Look, Angus! I think Jelly's
finally forgiving you!

126 ANGUS 126

Well I'll be. She's being nice! I
think I won her over, Parker!

127 PARKER 127
You sure did! Angus and Jelly,
future... Best. Friends.

We hear the sound of <WATER> being released. The gang looks down to Jelly to see her PEEING on Angus's legs. She tops off, then trots inside the Middlemost Toast, <KICKING> the door shut.

128 PARKER (CONT'D) 128
Uh, Angus. I think Jelly just
"wooded" on your shoe.

129 ANGUS **129**

Woo.

THE END.