

MIDDLEMOST POST

#025 - "Cloud of the Month"

Written by

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FIRST DRAFT - 11/20/20
BOARD DRAFT - 11/30/20
REC DRAFT - 1/26/21
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LILY (O.S.) 1
A little more to the left.

LILY studies something we don't see.

REVEAL PARKER and RUSSELL adjusting a large FRAMED PORTRAIT hanging on the wall. The painting is of Lily, Parker, Burt, and Russell in black shirts, gold chains, looking tough.
(**See: 1996 Death Row Vibe Cover**)

3 PARKER 3
Think we should have smiled?

Parker and Russell blink.

This is awkward.

Lily walks off.

Parker and Russell follow her off.

Lily picks up a BUCKET of bolts and random PARTS, dumps it on the ground.

8 LILY 8
Thanks for your help around the
store today, Parker. If you worked
for me, you'd be Employee of the
Month.

Suddenly, the RAT-VAC enters, eats up the bolts and parts on the ground, then zips off.

9 PARKER 9
What's Employee of the Month?

One of Lily's arms turns into a BUFFER which she uses to <CLEAN> her counter.

10 LILY 10
It's a reward that a boss gives an employee to recognize their hard work, positive attitude, and great ideas. Something I think you have in spades...

Lily turns around, but Parker is GONE. It's just Russell now.

11 LILY (CONT'D) 11
Parker?

Russell points to the front door that swings back and forth like someone just bolted out.

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

ANGUS stacks cardboard boxes as Parker hovers over him.

12 ANGUS 12
I don't know, Parker. I just never thought we needed an Employee of the Month. Why fix something that's not broken?

13 PARKER 13
(bummed)
So... you don't think I work hard, have a positive attitude, or have great ideas?

Parker morphs into a LIGHTBULB.

14 ANGUS 14
Aw, well of course I do.

Parker's inner light <BURNS> out. He poofs back to normal form.

15 PARKER 15
But, not enough to be Employee of the Month. I get it. I get it.

Parker sadly floats away. It pains Angus.

16 ANGUS 16
 <STAMMERS>, Hold on there. Uh, we
 don't have Employee of the Month...
 because, uh, we have something
better.

Parker and Russell suddenly shoot out of a box sitting behind Angus, packing peanuts flying everywhere.

17 PARKER 17
Really? What is it?

18 ANGUS 18
Uh... It's called... eh, uhm...

Angus desperately tries to think of something... then remembers that Parker is in fact a CLOUD.

19 ANGUS (CONT'D) 19
Aha! Cloud of the Month! Yup!
That's it! Guess what, kiddo? You
just got it!

20 PARKER 20
<GASPS!> I did!?

Fireworks light off behind Parker. He <EXPLODES> with happiness!

21 ANGUS **21**

Yup.

Angus presses a button on Russell's behind. A flap pops open, like the lid of a COPY MACHINE. Angus grabs Parker, puts him under the flap, then shuts it. Light glows from under the flap. Russell opens her mouth, and a FRAMED PHOTO of Parker slides across her tongue.

Angus picks it up, shows it to Parker. Parker's face is all squished in it, but that doesn't bother Parker. It still says Parker's name with the label "Cloud of the Month" underneath.

22 PARKER 22
 <GASP!> Wow.

Angus hangs the photo on the wall behind him.

23 PARKER (CONT'D) 23
Angus, I'll be the best Cloud of
the Month you ever had.

24 ANGUS **24**

Well, you're the only cloud--

Russell indicates to Angus that he should quit while he's ahead.

25 ANGUS (CONT'D) 25
 <CLEARS THROAT!> I'm sure you will
 be, buddy.

EXT. GREENWOOD - HOME - DAY

The MMP crew crosses a bridge to the DOOR of a home. Parker's got extra pep in his step.

Parker presses the <DOORBELL> to the home, and out comes GRINCIDENTAL5. Angus hands her a LETTER.

26 ANGUS 26
Here's your mail, miss.

She takes it.

[illegible]

It's clear Parker is eager to spread his good news.

28 ANGUS **28**

Huh? Oh, right. <LAUGHS!>

(to GR5)

My good pal Parker here just made
Cloud of the Month.

Parker proudly puffs out his chest.

29 PARKER 29
Mm-hm! Yep.

Parker smiles smugly at G5. She couldn't care less.

30 PARKER (CONT'D) 30
I'm pretty proud of myself too.

GR5 just slowly shuts the door on them in response. <CLICK!>

EXT. RED RIDGE - HOME - DAY

The MMP crew delivers mail in Red Ridge.

31 PARKER 31
Angus, mind if I deliver this one
solo? You know, because I'm Cloud
of the Month and all?

32 ANGUS 32
Deliver away.

Parker slips a letter he was holding into a slot, dusts his hands off. Then, he <KNOCKS> on the door. Angus looks confused.

33 ANGUS (CONT'D) 33
What's Parker doing...?

A LITTLE FLAME GUY (RD1) and his WIFE (RD9) answer the door.

34 PARKER 34
Hi! Uhm, I just delivered your
mail. I thought you'd like to know.
I'm actually Cloud of the Month so
this is kinda a big deal for me.
Oh! And for you.

Parker wraps his arms around the couple, but evaporates
almost immediately. The couple looks mortified, until he
<POOFS> back, totally fine.

35 PARKER (CONT'D) 35
<GIGGLES!>

Angus and Russell share a look.

EXT. ORANGEFIELD - DAY

At a large MAIL BOX with dozens of cubbies, Angus and Parker
slide in letters. (**Reuse: Ep 04**)

36 PARKER 36
Hm. Look at us. Just a couple of
hard-working postal workers at the
top of their game. Now that I'm
C.O.T.M--

37 ANGUS 37
C.O.T what now?

38 PARKER 38
C.O.T.M. Cloud of the Month.

39 ANGUS 39
Oh, right.

Parker poofs on READING GLASSES and holds a long LIST.

40 PARKER 40
As C.O.T.M., I'd love to run a few
ideas by you. Things that might,
you know, help MMP run more
efficiently.

Angus rolls up Parker's list, hands it back to the cloud.

41 ANGUS 41
I'm sure your ideas are great,
kiddo. I'd love to hear all about
'em. Uh, maybe some other time.

This is a clear brush-off from Angus as he walks away. Not clear to Parker, though, who grins proudly, his HEAD <SWELLING> ever so lightly.

42 PARKER 42
(to Angus)
You got it, boss!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

Night changes to day as we cut to...

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BEDROOM - CONT.

43 ANGUS 43
<SNORING!>

Angus is dead asleep. Then, his SMACK ALARM clock <RIIIIIINGS>.

44 SMACK ALARM 44
Wake up, fool!

As expected, Angus gets smacked in the face. Pretty hard.

45 ANGUS 45
<SHAKING IT OFF EFFORTS><SIGH>, I'm
up! Rise and shine, little nimbus.
<YAWN!> We got a lot of work to do.

Finally, Angus looks at the other side of the room. No Parker.

46 ANGUS (CONT'D) 46
Hmm? Parker?

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - KITCHEN - CONT.

Parker plates a very sugary looking breakfast as Angus walks in.

47 PARKER 47
Gooood morning, Angus!

48 ANGUS 48
Parker, what are you doing up so
early?

49 PARKER 49
Eh, you know what they say, the
early worm catches a bird. Because
birds are... the worst.

Parker dramatically looks out a porthole window, gives a BIRD outside the stink eye. It <CAWS>.

50 ANGUS 50
And you made breakfast?

51 PARKER 51
Sure did. AND packed Russell with
all of today's mail already so we
can get an early jump on delivery.

Russell smiles a mouthful of LETTERS.

52 ANGUS 52
Oh, I'm impressed.

53 PARKER 53

Well they don't just give Cloud of
the Month to just anyone, boss. I
even took the liberty to steam wash
your work shirt.

Parker pulls out a SHORT-SLEEVED collared SHIRT and TIE. He holds it out to Angus, who looks mortified.

54 ANGUS 54
(re: shirt)
What is that?

55 PARKER 55
Our new uniform!

Parker keeps trying to hand Angus the shirt, but he won't take it. Finally, Parker takes Angus's hand and hangs the shirt on his thumb.

56 PARKER (CONT'D) 56
Pretty stylish, right? Just one of
the many ideas I have to change
things up around here.

Parker <P00FS> into a matching uniform.

57 PARKER (CONT'D) 57
We'll be twinsies!

Parker goes to put another uniform on Russell.

58 ANGUS 58
Parker, it's great seeing you take
initiative and all, but I think you
misunderstood a few things.

59 PARKER 59
Well yesterday I told you I had a
lot of ideas and you said...
(mimics Angus)
(MORE)

PARKER (CONT'D)
"Parker, I'm sure your ideas are
great, kiddo."
(back to self)
Did you not m-mean it? Are my
ideas... not great?

Parker looks all kinds of sad, again paining Angus. Russell
makes a hasty exit.

60 ANGUS 60
Hmmm... Well, I-I guess it won't
hurt to give it a try.

61 PARKER 61
Woo-hoo!

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - TERRY'S HOUSE - DAY

Angus knocks on the door to Terry's.

62 ANGUS 62
Delivery, Middlemost Post.

TERRY answers.

63 TERRY 63
Huh?

He soaks in Angus and his silly new uniform.

64 TERRY (CONT'D) 64
<CHUCKLES!>

65 ANGUS 65
Don't even say it, Terry.

66 TERRY 66
<GIGGLES>, Say what?

Terry quickly takes the package and shuts the door. Then,
promptly, bursts into loud hysterics that all can hear.

67 TERRY (O.S.) (CONT'D) 67
<LOUD LAUGHTER!>

68 ANGUS 68
<SIGH>...

Embarrassed, Angus slogs back to Parker who JOTS something
down on a CLIPBOARD.

69 ANGUS (CONT'D) 69
(re: clipboard)
What's that?

70 PARKER 70
My performance reviews.

71 ANGUS 71
Ha, kiddo, don't worry about your
performance. You're doing great.

72 PARKER 72
Oh, it's not for me. It's for you.

73 ANGUS 73
You're reviewing my performance?

74 PARKER 74
Just because I'm Cloud of the Month
this month, doesn't mean you can't
be next month. Although, you do
have stiff competition.

Parker looks to Russell, currently <CHEWING> on her tail in
oblivion. Angus is beside himself.

75 ANGUS 75
You're kidding! <GRUMBLES>...

Angus angrily stalks off screen, then pokes his head back on
after a beat.

76 ANGUS (CONT'D) 76
(suddenly curious)
What did you write about me?

77 PARKER 77
That you did an awesome job.

78 ANGUS 78
Nice!

79 PARKER 79
Although, it wouldn't hurt to smile
more, big guy.

Parker's HEAD <EXPANDS> ever so slightly as he floats away.
Angus slowly burns.

80 ANGUS 80
<GROWLS>...

EXT. PURPLETON - ANOTHER HOME - DAY

81 ANGUS 81
(through his teeth)
Have a good day!

Angus hands a stack of MAIL to a PLREGGIE with a forced
smile.

He turns to leave and spots Parker shaking his head, then writing something down on the clipboard.

82 PARKER 82
<CLICKS TONGUE>...

83 ANGUS 83
What? I smiled!

84 PARKER 84
Your mouth smiled, but your heart frowned.

EXT. BLUBERG - HOME - DAY

Angus has half his body inside Russell, rummaging around. A BLUBERG MAN (BL6) grows impatient while waiting for his package.

85 BLINCIDENTAL6 85
What is taking so long?

86 ANGUS 86
Hold tight. <CHUCKLES>, Your mail's in here someplace.

87 BLINCIDENTAL6 87
I'm missing my tee time!

88 PARKER 88
Oooh, I love tea. What kind?
Passionfruit? Chamomile?
Ooooooooooong?

89 BLINCIDENTAL6 89
The golf kind.

90 PARKER 90
Delicious!

91 ANGUS 91
(still half in Russ)
Parker! What did you do in here?
All the packages are out of order!

92 PARKER 92
As Cloud of the Month, I took the initiative to reorganize Russell.

Angus pops out of Russell, his hair a mess.

93 ANGUS 93
You did what now?

94 PARKER 94
I thought our filing system was a bit out of date, so I updated it... And added new features to our girl here. I call it the Russell Unified Sorting System, also known as the "R.U.S.S.". One of my many ideas you said would be great.

Parker's head <INFLATES> some more.

95 BLINCIDENTAL6 95
(incredulous to Angus)
You said that?

96 ANGUS 96
Well, heh, not exactly.

97 PARKER 97
I even password protected Russell so no one can steal the mail.

Parker pushes the BLACK SPOTS on Russell as if she was a giant keypad. Then, a safe DOOR, a steel GUARD, and a PADLOCK all clamp into place inside Russell's mouth.

98 PARKER (CONT'D) 98
That's weird. Ah, maybe it's case sensitive...

Parker keeps pressing the buttons on Russell until--

99 SIRI VOICE 99
System armed.

Russell's eyes start to glow with YELLOW SPOTLIGHTS.

100 SIRI VOICE (CONT'D) 100
Countdown. 5... 4... 3... 2...

Parker, Angus, and BL6 nervously run off screen. Sounds like Russell's gonna blow!

101 PARKER/ANGUS/BL6 101
<SCREAM!>

Before we see what happens, we wipe to--

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - LATER

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - CONT.

The MMP crew at a booth. Angus wipes some EXPLOSION MARKS off of Russell's face.

102 PARKER 102
<EATING EFFORTS>

103 ANGUS 103
Parker, slow down. What's the big hurry?

Parker is stuffing his face.

104 PARKER 104
I just wanna get back to the office
A.S.A.P. Got a lot of brilliant
ideas brewing up here. You know,
mind never stops.

Parker furiously writes things down, types things on a calculator. He's moving too fast to pay attention, so he accidentally eats some of his paperwork.

105 PARKER (CONT'D) 105
<GULPS DOWN PAPERS!> You know the
old saying, "Time is mail!"
<LAUGHS!>

106 ANGUS 106
I don't think that's a saying at
all.

Parker finishes the rest of his coffee.

107 PARKER 107
<SIPS!> See you back at the ship!

Parker jets to the door. On his way out, his big head bumps into several patrons at the bar, all of whom look none too pleased.

MS. PAM stands at MMP's booth, staring after the cloud.

108 MS. PAM 108
What's gotten into PJC?

109 ANGUS 109
Ms. Pam, have you ever tried to do
something nice for someone, but
then that nice thing you did went
straight to their head?

110 MS. PAM 110
No.

Ms. Pam walks off.

111 ANGUS 111
<SIGHS>, Russell, I think it's time
we have a heart to heart with
Parker.

Russell agrees. Both are solemn.

112 ANGUS (CONT'D) 112
 Eugh, this won't be easy...

EXT./INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LATER

Angus and Russell enter the Steadfast.

113 ANGUS 113
 Hey, kiddo. We need to taaalk??--

Angus stops when sees that the interior of the ship looks totally different. It's less of a ship now, and more of a CORPORATE OFFICE. He looks around and sees TIMECARDS, a MOTIVATIONAL POSTER, and a WATER COOLER.

114 ANGUS (CONT'D) 114
 <CONFUSED STAMMERING!>

Annoyed, Angus stomps past some cardboard CUBICLES to go find Parker.

115 ANGUS (CONT'D) 115
 <GROANS!>

He notices a make-shift, CARDBOARD OFFICE DOOR with the nameplate, "Parker J. Cloud, C.O.T.M." on it. Angus knocks.

116 ANGUS (CONT'D) 116
 Parker! Are you in there?

Parker smugly squeezes his giant head out from the door.

117 PARKER 117
 Angus! My guy! Did you have an
 appointment?

118 ANGUS 118
 Appointment?

Parker points to BURT, who sits at a classic receptionist table.

119 PARKER 119
 Burt will be more than happy to add
 you to the books. <POMPOUS
 CHUCKLE!>

120 ANGUS 120
 How about NOW.

Angus pushes Parker into his office.

131 PARKER 131
Lemme stop you there, Angus. I'm
actually glad you stopped by,
because I've been meaning to shoot
you straight too.

Parker passive aggressively pushes Angus back into his chair,
then sits on top of his desk, legs crossed.

132 PARKER (CONT'D) 132
<EXHALE>... Ya know this sort of
thing is never easy...

133 ANGUS 133
What, what is happening right now?

134 PARKER 134
I'm afraid I'm gonna have to let
you go.

135 ANGUS 135
(boils)
You're firing me?!

Parker paces around Angus as the big guy turns firetruck red
with rage. It builds through Angus's body.

136 PARKER 136
Your performance reviews have been
less than stellar. I think your
skills would be best applied...
someplace else.

Parker opens his office door, makes way for Angus to leave.

137 PARKER (CONT'D) 137
You can take Burt on the way out
and fill him up with your personal
belongings.

As Parker floats away casually, Angus suddenly <BURSTS> his
arms through the walls of the cardboard office. Then, he
hoists the office over his head, his work shirt <RIPPING> off
in the process.

138 ANGUS 138
<HOISTING/LIFTING EFFORTS!>

Angus tosses the office into the nearby cubicles, sending
them toppling like dominoes.

Parker doesn't react... until the domino effect causes his
C.O.T.M. Award from Angus to fall off the wall.

139 PARKER 139
My reward!
(calling off screen)
Burt! Call security!

Angus pushes Parker out of the way.

140 ANGUS 140
Burt, put that phone down!

Burt <DROPS> a PHONE that for some reason he had at his ear.

141 ANGUS (CONT'D) 141
Parker, I am your boss. A boss is a
real thing. Not like Cloud of the
Month, which is NOT a real thing.

142 PARKER 142
Sure it is, says so on the door.

Parker points to the cardboard door to his office, in
shambles. It <FALLS> over.

143 ANGUS 143
I MADE IT UP! There's no such thing
as Cloud of the Month. Think about
it, you're the only cloud on the
entire mountain, Parker. Who else
would win it?

It slowly sinks in for Parker. His head deflates little by
little.

144 ANGUS (CONT'D) 144
<EXASPERATED GUILTY EFFORTS>
Parker, I'm sorry kiddo. I was only
trying to encourage you.

145 PARKER 145
Uh-huh. <SHARP INHALE!>

Parker's not buying it. Too hurt. He collapses to the ground.

146 ANGUS 146
Just because it was fake doesn't
mean I don't think you work hard.

147 PARKER 147
<SNIFFLES/SOBS>, Can I go now,
Angus? I'd like to be alone if
that's all right.

148 ANGUS 148
<SIGHS>, Sure, kiddo.

Parker mopes off, dumping his Cloud of the Month award in the trash. Angus feels like crap. He plops down in Parker's office chair, plays with the rack of METAL BEADS on the desk.

149 ANGUS (CONT'D) 149
Ohh Angus. You reeeally blew it
this time.

Then, something on Parker's desk catches Angus's attention.

150		ANGUS (CONT'D)	150
	Hum?		

It's a POST-IT note titled, "IDEA." Angus picks it up, reads.

151 ANGUS (CONT'D) 151
(re: post it)
Well I'll be.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BEDROOM - CONT.

Angus enters the bedroom to find Parker laying sadly on his bed.

152 ANGUS 152
Parker! Did you come up with this
idea?

153 PARKER 153
<SNIFFLES!>

Parker rolls over to face Angus, looks at the Post-it.

154 PARKER (CONT'D) 154
Yeah, that stinker's mine all
right. I'll throw it away with the
others.

Parker goes to take the note away, but Angus pulls it back.

155 ANGUS 155

No you won't. I may not agree with
all your ideas, but this one,
<CHUCKLES>, is a real winner,
kiddo.

Joy returns to Parker.

156 It is!?

PARKER

156

157 ANGUS 157

You betcha! See, you don't need
some stupid title like Cloud of the
Month. You're cloud of the month
every month in my eyes.

Parker hugs Angus.

158 PARKER 158
<HAPPY EFFORT!> Ohhh thanks Angus!

159 ANGUS 159
Now, let's go out and try your
awesome idea!

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - HOME - DAY

MMP walks through town, then stops and <KNOCKS> at a door.
MR. SHORT answers.

160 PARKER 160
Package for you, Mr. Short!

Mr. Short takes the package, then notices a piece of TOAST
stapled to the top.

161 PARKER (CONT'D) 161
Everyone gets a free piece of toast
with their mail!

162 ANGUS 162
It was Parker's great idea!

163 CITIZENS 163
<SCARED/DISTRESSED WALLA!>

Angus and Parker turn around to find CITIZENS holding
mail/boxes with toast on top, being chased down by HUNGRY
BIRDS! A couple of birds go after BRAD pretty viciously.

164 YLBRAD 164
Make it stop! Make it stop! Stop
it!

As they process their shock, a GIANT BIRD swoops in and
carries Mr. Short away! <CAW!>

165 PARKER 165
We should probably go.

166 ANGUS 166
Great idea, kiddo. Great idea.

MMP sneaks off.

THE END.