

MIDDLEMOST POST

#026 - "A. Plumber"

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SE DRAFT - 11/21/20
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EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING

PARKER (V.O.)
Welcome back to another installment
of "Sink or Swim," with Parker and
Russell...

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BATHROOM - DAY

PARKER and RUSSELL hover over a BATHTUB filled with water.
Parker looks like a gameshow host, holding a MICROPHONE.

PARKER
Will this hairbrush sink? Or will
it swim?

Parker whips out a COMB, then looks at Russell. A "waterline"
appears in Russell's eyes as her pupils SINK under the water.

PARKER (CONT'D)
<GASP!> Sink. Bold choice.

Parker drops the comb into the tub... and it floats! A wrong
answer <BUZZER> goes off.

PARKER (CONT'D)
It swims!

Russell looks the opposite of pleased, but Parker's elated.
Price is Right lights and bells go off, and Parker, as the
STUDIO AUDIENCE, celebrates.

PARKER (CONT'D)
(as the studio audience)
<CELEBRATION WALLA!>

Parker <POOFS> back next to Russell.

PARKER (CONT'D)
My turn! What about a watermelon?
Hmmm. This is a tough-y. I say
it... swims.

Parker drops the watermelon into the bathtub. <SPLASH!> It
sinks like a rock... until it floats back up! Russell's
peevish.

PARKER (CONT'D)
It swims! I win!

Studio audience Parker returns.

PARKER (CONT'D)
(as studio audience)
<CHEERS!>

PARKER (CONT'D)
(back to normal, to
Russell)
Ah, don't be too hard on yourself.
You know I have an eye for these
things.

Parker dances around the tub in victory, and in doing so,
accidentally OPENS the DRAIN. The watermelon gets suction
cupped to the drain hole.

PARKER (CONT'D)
Noooo! <PULLING EFFORTS!>

Parker pulls on the watermelon but can't free it. The
watermelon is vacuum sucked into the drain, the force of
which causes Parker to face plant into the tub.

We see the watermelon <RUMBLE> and <RATTLE> through the pipes
all the way to... the MAIN WATER SUPPLY! It causes everything
in the bathroom to <SPURT> water.

Parker races to jiggle the tub's water handles, trying to
stop the flood, but the handles come off and spray more water
at him.

PARKER (CONT'D)
<STRUGGLING EFFORTS><SCREAM!>

The main water supply <SHAKES> some more, and finally, all of
the water geysers in the bathroom come to a HALT. Parker and
Russell clutch each other.

PARKER (CONT'D)
Oh. My. Cloud. I broke the bathtub!

There's a <KNOCK> at the door.

ANGUS (O.S.)
Parker. You in there?

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - OUTSIDE BATHROOM - CONT.

Angus stands outside the bathroom, towel wrapped around his
waist. Parker and Russell <ZIP> out, slamming the door behind
them.

PARKER
Hey, Angus. What's up?

ANGUS
Oh I was gonna make myself a nice,
sudsy, bubble bath.

The big guy <SQUEEZES> a RUBBER DUCKY in his hand.

PARKER
You talking about the bathtub, in
here?

Parker nervously points behind him at the bathroom door.

ANGUS
Well last I checked, kiddo, it's
the only tub we got.

Angus pushes by Parker and Russell and enters the bathroom.
We hear the <SQUEAK> of a faucet.

ANGUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Huh. The water's not working.
Parker, you know anything about
this?

Parker nervously rains on top of Russell, biting his nails.
Suddenly, a little EVIL CLOUD appears on Parker's shoulder,
speaking directly to him.

EVIL CLOUD
Admit nothing, kid. This will all
blow over.

A GOOD CLOUD appears on Parker's other shoulder.

GOOD CLOUD
But Parker, you'd be lying to your
best friend. And lying is not cool.

Parker looks back to Evil Cloud...

PARKER
Good Cloud makes a good--

But Evil Cloud is no longer on that shoulder. When Parker
looks back to Good Cloud's shoulder, he only finds Evil
Cloud, dusting off his hands.

PARKER (CONT'D)
Where'd Good Cloud go?

EVIL CLOUD
Uh, dude had to leave.

We see Good Cloud emerge from Evil Cloud's swirling tornado
head.

GOOD CLOUD
AHHHHHHH!

Evil Cloud sucks Good Cloud back inside, then looks at
Parker.

EVIL CLOUD
You didn't see nothin'.

ANGUS (O.S.)
Parker?

Evil Cloud watches Parker's response, smiling devilishly.

PARKER
I don't know what happened in
there, Angus.

Angus comes out of the bathroom.

ANGUS
Looks like I have some work to do.

Angus suddenly pops into a taller, manlier version of himself
holding a GIANT WRENCH. Chest out.

ANGUS (CONT'D)
Let's get to plumbing!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LATER

A worried Parker floats back and forth in front of the
bathroom door with Russell. We can hear Angus in the
bathroom, <BANGING> and <CLANGING> away.

PARKER
This is bad, girl. Real bad. Angus
is gonna find that watermelon, then
he's gonna know it's me because my
cloud fingerprints will be all over
it!

Parker holds out his hand. CU of his finger that has an
adorable smiley face on it. Suddenly, the smile's eyes go
mischievous.

PARKER'S FINGER
I'm guilty!

BACK ON Parker. He freaks out.

PARKER
GAHHHH!

Then, Russell <BURPS> out "The Somewhere Pages" (our Yellow
Pages) on her tongue.

PARKER (CONT'D)
The "Somewhere Pages?" Great idea,
girl!

(MORE)

PARKER (CONT'D)
We'll hire an Angus look-a-like,
replace our Angus with fake Angus,
then real Angus will never find out
what we did!

Russell, not impressed by that idea, thumbs through the book,
stops at PLUMBERS. Points to the first listing: **A. PLUMBER.**

PARKER (CONT'D)
Hiring a plumber works too!

Parker dials at an old fashioned PHONE.

PARKER (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hi! Is this A. Plumber? Can you fix
my bathtub but not tell my boss
what broke the bathtub in the first
place?

A. PLUMBER speaks in a bad Italian accent.

A. PLUMBER (O.S.)
(through phone)
Sure.

INT. MAYOR'S MANSION - SAME TIME

We find RYAN, on the phone, faking an Italian accent.

RYAN
(on phone)
All I need is your address, and
I'll be there in a jiff.
(pretend writes)
Mhm. Top of mountain. Ciao!

Ryan hangs up, looks to MAYOR PEEVE, who's listening directly
next to him.

RYAN (CONT'D)
(regular voice)
We're in, sir. It worked!

MAYOR PEEVE
<CACKLES!> Fools.

RYAN
And, they have no idea we cut the
water supply to the ship.

MAYOR PEEVE
That's because my plan is genius,
Ryan! Now, to phase two of genius
plan. Sabotage the Steadfast!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DAY - PEEVE'S PLAN

Ryan, dressed as a plumber, makes his way up the mountain to the Steadfast.

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
Disguised as a plumber, you'll make
your way to the bowels of that
wooden eye sore they call a ship.

Ryan is greeted by the MMP Crew at the door. They smile at each other.

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
Once there, locate the panel to the
main water supply.

We pan down to--

IN THE HULL OF SHIP - CONT.

Ryan somersaults in, then goes to the MAIN WATER SUPPLY.

RYAN (V.O.)
Then what do I do, sir?

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
SABOTAGE! Rearrange the pipes, pull
all the levers! Really mess it all
up, Ryan. Mess it up good.

Ryan pulls a couple of the pipes in wonky directions. Finally, he flips a LEVER back and forth, rips it out of the ground and, in comic book fashion, <SMASHES> the pipes to bits. BLAMMO!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING

A giant version of the Mayor maniacally looms over the ship.

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
When the sabotage is complete, I'll
release the water back into the
ship, blowing it off the mountain
once and for all!

Peeve whips out a remote, presses a button, and the Steadfast gets blasted off the mountain by a geyser of water!

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
<CACKLES!>

INT. MAYOR'S MANSION - BACK TO PRESENT

The Mayor continues to laugh, his arms in a victory pose.

RYAN
You know, my father was quite the
handyman--

MAYOR PEEVE
Don't care, Ryan. Don't care.

Peeve walks away. Ryan looks bummed.

EXT./INT. S.S. STEADFAST - DAY

There's a <KNOCK> at the door. Parker answers it to find Ryan, in a plumber disguise. Fake mustache, wig, oversized overalls.

RYAN
Oh, hello, my name is Ry...
(catches himself)
Ryyy...occo. R-rocco. Hehe. Si.
Someone call a plumber?

ANGUS (O.S.)
A PLUMBER!?

Angus <SLAMS> in from the ceiling.

ANGUS (CONT'D)
(to Ryan)
I'm sorry. You have the wrong ship.

PARKER
I called him, Angus.

ANGUS
Well what'd you do that for? A
captain always fixes his own ship,
Parker. That's official sea law.

PARKER
(nervously)
I-I-I'm sorry Angus. I was uh... o-
only trying to help because...
Because you're my best bud in the
whooooole world!

ANGUS
Eh I appreciate that, kiddo. But I
got this whole plumbing problem
under control. You can trust me on
that.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The bathtub pipes are in pieces and all over the place. The walls are ripped open, exposed pipes everywhere. REVEAL Angus, Parker, and Ryan looking down at the disaster.

ANGUS

Okay, maybe I got a little in over my head.

RYAN

No problemo. I can fix it.

PARKER

<GASPS!> You can!?

RYAN

Looks like the problem is your main water line. I'll need to go below deck and take a look.

As Ryan goes to exit, Angus looks down at him threateningly.

PARKER

Angus! Maybe it's time to let this one go. For the good of the ship. What do you say, big guy?

Angus hesitates.

ANGUS

<UNSURE/HESITATED EFFORT>

Finally, Angus lets Rocco pass.

RYAN

You've made a wise decision, sir.

ANGUS

Sir? Call me Angus.

RYAN

(surprised)
Really?

ANGUS

It is my name.

RYAN

Oh, okay, sir, uhm-- I mean, Angus.

INT. S.S STEADFAST - HULL - MOMENTS LATER

Ryan climbs the ladder down into the hull in the near dark. He squints, looking around when suddenly--

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
(thru Walkie Talkie)
Ryan, where are you? Ryan!

Ryan pulls out a WALKIE-TALKIE and answers.

RYAN
Here, sir. And call me Rocco.

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
Absolutely not.

RYAN
I've successfully made it into the
belly of the beast.

MAYOR PEEVE (V.O.)
Excellent! Everything is working as
planned. Commence the sabotage!

Ryan is distracted by a shoddy light FIXTURE above him. Lots
of exposed wires, etc.

RYAN
Uh-huh. Yeah, sabota--

Ryan pulls the light fixture's ON STRING. Gets <ZAPPED!>

RYAN (CONT'D)
AHHH! Owwie...

Ryan passes out.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAIN ROOM - CONT.

Parker and Russell watch as Angus paces like a nervous dad in
a maternity ward.

ANGUS
It's awfully quiet down there.
Maybe I should offer my help.

Angus goes to follow Ryan into the hull, but Parker stops
him.

PARKER
No! I mean, Rocco looked like a
really good plumber, Angus. I'm
sure he can handle this on his own.

ANGUS
I don't know. His toolbox seemed
awfully small.

PARKER
Yes, but, his mustache was huge.

Parker poofs into a MUSTACHE with a MUSTACHE.

ANGUS
Ooh. That's a solid point.

Angus wanders off.

PARKER
<SIGH OF RELIEF!>
(to Russell)
It's working, girl. That plumber's
gonna fix everything, and Angus
will never know what we did.

Russell gives Parker a stern look. Meanwhile, Angus is behind them, sneaking down to the hull.

PARKER (CONT'D)
Okay, what I did.

Angus cannonballs into the hull. Hearing him, Parker and Russell look concerned.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - HULL - CONT.

Angus steps into the dark hull. He pulls the light STRING that Ryan pulled earlier. The light turns on and STAYS ON. No zaps.

Parker poofs in.

PARKER
Angus!

ANGUS
(re: light)
Hey! How come "blinky" isn't
blinking?

Angus spots Ryan in the middle of fixing a porthole window.

RYAN
I fixed it. Sorry if I over-stepped
my bounds. But, I noticed a few
repairs down here and there that
needed attending to, so--

ANGUS
You just plowed ahead and fixed
them on your own, without even
asking if it was okay?!

RYAN
(scared)
Um. Eh, kinda. Uh, sir.

Ryan braces himself for a beating. But Angus gets ahold of himself.

ANGUS
I told you. Call me Angus.

RYAN
<SIGH OF RELIEF!>

Parker zips in between them.

PARKER
What do you say we go back
upstairs. You know, upstairs is fun
fun fun fun it's like so much
fun.

But Angus is intrigued by what Ryan is doing to fix the porthole window.

ANGUS
(to Ryan)
So, uh, what do you got going on
here?

RYAN
I'd be happy to show you. If you
want, we can fix it together.

PARKER
(losing it)
TOGETHER?!

ANGUS
Together? I'll grab my tool belt!
Be right back! <GIGGLES!>

Giddy, Angus races off. Parker watches with panic.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - "RYAN AND ANGUS BRO-MANCE" MONTAGE

Together, like two buds in an 80's movie montage, Ryan and Angus fix stuff around the ship and bond:

- Angus and Ryan each do some sweeping. Ryan accidentally bumps into Angus's butt. They smile at each other.

- Covered in grease, Angus and Ryan spin a large wrench together, tightening a bolt on a leaky pipe. Then, they shake the grease off their brows in slo-mo.

ANGUS/RYAN
<MOTORBOAT NOISE>

- Ryan puts cement over a crack in the wall with a PUTTY KNIFE. Then, he cheekily notices Angus's butt crack next to him.

ANGUS

Ooh!

Ryan got cement on Angus's booty! They smile at each other.

RYAN

<GIGGLES!>

- Angus and Ryan wipe down the walls with RAGS.

INT. MAYOR'S MANSION - BREAK FROM MONTAGE

Mayor Peeve impatiently waits by the phone.

MAYOR PEEVE

What could he possibly be doing
that is taking so long??

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BACK TO MONTAGE

Ryan and Angus play-fight, slapping each other with the rags they were just using.

Suddenly, Ryan's walkie-talkie buzzes.

MAYOR PEEVE (O.S.)

(on walkie-talkie)

Ryan!!

Ryan discreetly pulls his walkie-talkie out of his pocket.

RYAN

(into walkie secretly)

I'm on it, sir--<SQUEAL!>

Angus got Ryan with his rag. Putting his walkie-talkie away, Ryan smiles mischievously, returning to their game.

- Ryan's on Angus's shoulders, painting the ceiling.

ANGUS

You see that right there? That
right there is some serious stucco
work right there.

Another <BUZZ> from the walkie-talkie, which startles Ryan.

MAYOR PEEVE (O.S.)

(on walkie-talkie)

Ryan! Can you hear--

Ryan does what he never thought he'd have the courage to do... turns off the walkie-talkie and ghosts the Mayor!

- Angus and Ryan slide out from underneath a SINK, sweaty from work. They go in for a very intense, muscly handshake-- not breaking eye-contact until--

PARKER

Okay!

END OF MONTAGE.

Parker has stepped in between Ryan and Angus.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Now that you fixed the garbage disposal, which I think was never broken, how about we let Rocco finish fixing the bathtub?

Parker tries to usher Ryan out of the room.

ANGUS

Absolutely, Parker. Right after we take a little break.

PARKER

A break!? Now?? No, I don't think a break is a good idea.

RYAN

(disbelief)

Wow. You get breaks around here?

ANGUS

Well there's nothing wrong with rewarding hard work. Your boss doesn't give you breaks?

RYAN

He says that's what sleeping is for. Which I'm also not allowed to do.

ANGUS

Ah no offense, but your boss sounds like a real jerkface.

Ryan is stunned--in a good way, enamored by Angus's words.

RYAN

<SWOON!>

ANGUS

I'll grab us some seltzers!

Angus walks off. Parker sweats, watching him leave.

PARKER
<NERVOUS EFFORT>...

Just then, there's a <KNOCK> on the door. Deflated and losing hope, Parker "mope floats" over to it.

PARKER (CONT'D)
I'll get it.

Parker opens the door and finds Mayor Peeve, IN DISGUISE. He wears overalls and a bushy mustache twice the size of Ryan's. He has an even worse accent.

MAYOR PEEVE
Hello. I am the boss of A. Plumber.
I need to talk to my employee--

Parker slams the door on Peeve. He turns to Russell, panicked.

PARKER
Oh, no! Rocco's boss is here,
Russell. This can't be good. It's
never good when a boss shows up!

Peeve <KICKS> the door open, spots Ryan from across the room.

MAYOR PEEVE
Oh, ah, there he is now.

Parker tensely watches Peeve storm over to Ryan.

PARKER
<GULPS!> Well girl, it's over! I'm
cooked! Angus is gonna find out
that I broke the bathtub and then
want me to move out immediately.
I'll save him the time. <SOBS!> I
LOVE YOU RUUUSSEELLLL!

Buzzing with emotional lightning, Parker zips off the ship, slamming the door behind him.

AT RYAN

Ryan is startled by the approach of Peeve.

MAYOR PEEVE
Hello... Rocco.

A joyful Angus shows up, two SELTZERS in hand.

ANGUS
Ice cold seltzer!
(sees Mayor)
Hey hey who's this guy?

MAYOR PEEVE
I'm Rocco's boss. Afraid he's
needed on another job. You can go
now, Rocco. I'll finish this.

Ryan knows he's in deep poop with Peeve.

RYAN
(to Angus)
It's been a real pleasure, Angus--

Peeve glares at Ryan.

MAYOR PEEVE
<GROWLS>...

RYAN
I-I mean, sir.

ANGUS
You take care of yourself now.

RYAN
I will. Oops, I almost forgot. Here
is your putty knife.

Ryan hands Angus his PUTTY KNIFE. Angus can barely hold back
his emotions. Same with Ryan.

ANGUS
Buddy, why don't you keep the putty
knife?

Angus hands the putty knife back.

RYAN
(touched)
Really?

Angus and Ryan share a touching look... that Peeve
shamelessly interrupts.

MAYOR PEEVE
Okay, Rocco!

Peeve <SNATCHES> the putty knife from Ryan.

MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)
It's time to go!
(in normal voice)
Beat it, Ryan!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - FRONT STEP - CONT.

Peeve shoves Ryan out the front door, throwing the putty knife at the back of Ryan's head. As Peeve shuts the door, Ryan turns to find Parker sitting nearby, wiping away tears.

PARKER
<CRYING QUIETLY>...

RYAN
Oh, what's wrong?

Ryan gently approaches the cloud.

PARKER
I've been keeping a secret from my
best bud in the whole world,
<SNIFFS>, and I feel horrible about
it.

Ryan sits down next to Parker.

RYAN
I know exactly how you feel.

PARKER
You played Sink or Swim with your
pet walrus? And got a watermelon
stuck in the drain and then your
boss couldn't take a bath and then
you got in big trouble? Big big big
trouble and you had to call a
plumber?

RYAN
No. Did you?

PARKER
I did! And I lied about it!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - HULL - SAME TIME

Mayor Peeve stands at the MAIN WATER SUPPLY panel in the ship. He starts pulling levers, twisting knobs, pushing buttons.

MAYOR PEEVE
Pull this, twist that, break that,
push here. Arrivederci, ship! It
was nice knowing you! <CACKLES!>

Suddenly, water <BURSTS> from various parts of the panel. Peeve looks like he's made a mistake.

MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)
Uh oh.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BATHROOM - CONT.

A dispirited Angus mopes around in the bathroom. Russell watches him.

ANGUS
Oh stupid bathtub.

He <KICKS> it. It <RATTLES>. Water floods up and <POURS> out of it at a concerning level.

ANGUS (CONT'D)
<SCREAMS!>

Angus and Russell are chased out of the room by a WAVE of water.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - FRONT STEP - SAME TIME.

Ryan consoles Parker.

PARKER
<WEEPING!>

RYAN
Hey Parker, I know you think your watermelon is what caused your plumbing problem, but I can tell you with certainty, it was not.

PARKER
How do you know?

RYAN
Because, I've been keeping a secret from some pretty good buds too. And uh... I think it's time I come clean like you did.

Ryan goes to peel off his fake mustache, but right before he reveals himself... <BOOM!> A GEYSER OF WATER <BLASTS> a hole in the side of the ship! With it... the WATERMELON!

PARKER
Look! It's my watermelon!

The fruit is followed by Mayor Peeve being blasted out like a rocket.

MAYOR PEEVE
ROOOCCCCOOOOOOOOO!

PARKER
And your boss!

RYAN
Oh, oops, gotta run!

Ryan races down the hill, chasing after Peeve.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Uh, coming, sir!

MAYOR PEEVE
<SCREAMING!>

Peeve gets launched all the way back to his mansion,
<CRASHING> through the roof.

BACK AT SHIP

Parker spins around to find Angus, standing proud.

ANGUS
Look who just fixed the bathtub.

Angus <SPITS> out water, flips back his wet hair, and points
to himself.

ANGUS (CONT'D)
This guy.

PARKER
Nice job, Angus! Guess we didn't
need that plumber after all.

ANGUS
Ah, plumber schlumer, am I right?

Suddenly, Angus notices his putty knife lying on the ground.
He picks it up, <SMUSHES> it to his face lovingly.

PARKER (O.S.)
Angus! There's still a hole in the
bathroom!

ANGUS
Uh, I-I can fix that!

Angus tucks the putty knife away and heads back into the
ship.

END OF EPISODE.