

MIDDLEMOST POST

#036 - "Inside Russell"

Written by

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WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 01/15/2021
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 01/29/2021
FIRST DRAFT - 02/08/21
BOARD DRAFT - 02/12/21
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ANGUS (O.S.) 1
Who wants fish nuggets?

ANGUS walks in with two plates piled high with FISH NUGGETS (Nuggets shaped like fish).

RUSSELL <SCREECHES> in. Angus sets a plate in front of her.

Too late. Russell <INHALES> all the nuggets. Gone.

Angus <SHRUGS>, then plops down in his cushiest chair. He goes to take a bite of a nugget.

Russell sneaks over to him, starts to shamelessly beg for more nugs. Her eyes are huge.

Suddenly, Russell opens her mouth and Parker's voice comes out.

10 ANGUS 10
I'm sure it is. Can it wait?
<CHEWING EFFORTS>

11 PARKER (O.S.) 11
No! Hurry up!

12 ANGUS 12
Can you come here and show me?

13 PARKER (O.S.) 13
It won't take long, I promise!

14 ANGUS 14
I just sat down.

15 PARKER (O.S.) 15
Okay, but you're gonna hate
yourself if you don't see this!

16 ANGUS 16
You know I don't like to go inside
Russell. It's one of the reasons I
hired you, so you can do it.

17 PARKER (O.S.) 17
All I'm saying is, it might be the
single, biggest regret of your
entire life.

18 ANGUS 18
<SIGHS> Fine.

19 PARKER (O.S.) 19
Woo-hoo! Don't forget to sign
Russell's Terms & Conditions before
you come down, big guy.

Russell sticks out her tongue with a lengthy TERMS contract.
There's a PEN with a CHAIN attached at the bottom.

Angus picks up the pen and analyzes the words on Russell's
tongue.

20 ANGUS 20
(reads)
"Russell takes no responsibility,
yeah, yeah... shirt stains... hmm,
lost wallets... legal action, blah,
blah."

Angus just signs it. He gets walrus saliva all over his
hands.

21 ANGUS (CONT'D) 21
Ugh... Okay. Here I come.

Russell opens her mouth super wide. A mouth that just ate fish nuggets, and it shows. It's clear Angus hates this. He deliberates whether to go FEET first or BUTT first.

22 ANGUS (CONT'D) 22
 Ah, gosh, how did I do this, again?

23 PARKER (O.S.) 23
 Hurry, Angus!

24 ANGUS 24
 <GROSSED OUT STRUGGLING EFFORTS>

Finally, Angus decides to enter Russell face first. He army crawls through her insides. Russell <GULPS> Angus down.

25 ANGUS (CONT'D) 25
 AHHHHHH! Gross! Gross! Groooooossss!

INT. RUSSELL ENTRANCE - CONT.

A pair of SLIDING DOORS open as Angus comes tumbling in, like he was just spit from a slide.

26 ANGUS 26
 Oof!

He comes to a stop right on his butt.

27 ANGUS (CONT'D) 27
 <PANTING> Ah, that was horrible.
 Now what's all the fuss about?

Parker floats up to him.

28 PARKER 28
 Oh hey. 'Sup, dude. Check this out.

Parker holds up his FIST. He's drawn a FACE of a KNIGHT on his hand (**Possible photo real**). He makes the mouth move and does a voice.

29 PARKER (CONT'D) 29
 (as mouth hand)
 Greetings and salutations, Angus.

Angus is none too pleased.

30 ANGUS 30
 This is what you wanted to show
 me!?

31 PARKER 31
No. It's what Sir Hands-a-lot
wanted to show you.
(as mouth hand)
I am the right hand of the King.

Parker holds up his left hand where he's drawn a KING'S face.

32 PARKER (CONT'D) 32
(as King hand)
Helllloooo. I'm King Fingers.

33 ANGUS 33
Parker! You know I get anxious
inside Russell. I'm claustrophobic,
which means tight spaces give me
the willy-nillies.

We PULL BACK to reveal that the inside of Russell is HUGE!
It's like that last part of Ikea with all the shelves times
100. Parker gives Angus a look.

34 ANGUS (CONT'D) 34
(re: huge space)
Still. My brain knows we're inside
a walrus, and my brain doesn't like
it. Goodbye.

Angus runs right into the sliding doors. They didn't budge.

35 ANGUS (CONT'D) 35
Agh! What's the deal?

While Angus attempts to pry the doors open, a STEEL GATE
<SLAMS> in front of the door.

36 ANGUS (CONT'D) 36
Hey! Let me out of here! Russell!
What's going on?

37 PARKER 37
It's okay, Angus. Russell's taking
a nap, that's all. She likes to
shut it down when she snoozes.

The ground <RUMBLES> as we hear Russell loudly <SNORING>.

38 PARKER (CONT'D) 38
Ahhhh, she's snoring. How cute.

39 ANGUS 39
Cute left long ago, Parker. I want
out of here please.

40 PARKER 40
No problem, big guy. I know just
how to wake Russell up.
(beat)
RUSSELLLLL! WAKE UPPP! WAKE UPPPP!

Nothing. Angus starts to fret.

41 ANGUS 41
<NERVOUS EFFORTS>...

42 PARKER 42
Don't worry. I have other ways.

A SERIES OF WAYS PARKER TRIES TO WAKE UP RUSSELL

- Parker sets off hundreds of SMACK ALARMS.

43 SMACK ALARMS 43
Wake up, fool!

They all smack Angus.

44 ANGUS 44
<GETTING SMACKED EFFORTS>

- Parker turns into a large CLOUD, starts <STORMING> up. But Russell keeps on snoozing.

- Parker stands on a STAGE, holding an ELECTRIC GUITAR. Angus nervously watches him from the audience. Parker blasts one note on the guitar, the sound blowing Angus's face back.

45 ANGUS (CONT'D) 45
Eeeeeeee!

- Parker tickles the walls of Russell's tummy with FEATHERS.

46 PARKER 46
Tickle tickle tickle tickle!
<TICKLING EFFORTS>

47 ANGUS 47
The walls are closing in, Parker!
They're closing in!

- Parker and Angus, wearing HARD HATS, look out into a desert at a giant bottle of HOT SAUCE. Parker presses a demolition BUTTON, and the bottle <EXPLODES!> Russell, still asleep, simply <FARTS>.

INT. RUSSELL - CONT.

A distraught Angus climbs and <BANGS> at the Russell gate that locks him in.

48	ANGUS	48
	Ahhhhh! Get me out of here! I can't breathe! Somebody help!	
49	PARKER	49
	It's okay, Angus. Russell never sleeps too long. She'll be up before you know it and everything will be right back to normal.	
50	ANGUS	50
	(hopeful)	
	Really?	
51	PARKER	51
	Like a wise man once said...	
	(imitates Angus)	
	You betcha, kiddo!	
	Angus relaxes for a moment.	
52	ANGUS	52
	<TAKES A BREATH> Okay. You're right, kiddo. No need to panic.	
53	PARKER	53
	Unless...	
54	ANGUS	54
	Unless what!?	
55	PARKER	55
	Russell does go into a pretty beefy food coma after eating her favorite snack...	
56	ANGUS / PARKER	56
	<GASPS!> Fish nuggets. / Fish nuggets!	
57	PARKER	57
	She can sleep for hours and hours and hours after eating delicious fish nugs.	
58	ANGUS	58
	Parker! I just fed Russell a whole plate of fish nuggets!	

59 PARKER 59
Ew, that's not good.
(off Angus)
I mean, it's fine. You're fine.
We're fine. Everything's fine.
<NERVOUS CHUCKLING>

Parker throws an arm around Angus, comforts him the best he can.

60 PARKER (CONT'D) 60
Lucky for you, this is not the only
way out of Russell, if you know
what I mean.

Angus gives Parker a knowing glare.

61 ANGUS 61
Blech.

62 PARKER 62
Not that way, Angus. Wow. Really?
Come on! Russell has a secret side
door, that's what I meant. Follow
me!

Parker heads deeper into Russell. Angus doesn't budge, clearly afraid.

63 ANGUS 63
Follow you... in there?

Parker has already disappeared into the infinite abyss that is Russell's guts.

64 PARKER 64
Only if you wanna get out of
Russell!

INT. RUSSELL WAREHOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

A nervous Angus follows Parker through various sections of Russell's tummy. Everything has a "Parker" touch to it. It's like one big clubhouse for the kid.

65 PARKER 65
(reminiscing)
Lots of good times down here in
Russell. Burt and I formed our
first Tum-Tum Club right over
there.

Parker points over to Burt, who stands ominously under an overhanging light.

66 PARKER (CONT'D) 66
You know the first rule of Tum-Tum Club?

67 ANGUS 67
Hopefully it's "not talk about Tum-Tum Club."

68 PARKER 68
Nope. It's bring candy! Woo-hoo!

Parker turns the lights on around Burt to reveal the cardboard dude is standing around mountains and cases of CANDY.

69 PARKER (CONT'D) 69
<CANDY MUNCHING EFFORTS>

70 ANGUS 70
Parker, you sure there's a secret exit inside Russell?

71 PARKER 71
Absolutely. It's right before the pool of pudding and right after Bean Bag Alley. If you've reached the Trampoline Farm, you've gone too far.

Parker suddenly stops. Second guesses himself.

72 PARKER (CONT'D) 72
Wait. No. The pool of pudding was red tagged and shut down. Too much pudding they said. Not enough pool. As if that was a thing.

73 ANGUS 73
Parker! This is serious!

Angus rips off his BEANIE in frustration. A chunk of his HAIR comes off too.

74 ANGUS (CONT'D) 74
(re: hair)
What in the world?

Angus runs over to a nearby MIRROR, catching a glimpse of his reflection. Homie looks old.

75 ANGUS (CONT'D) 75
 <CONFUSED STAMMERING> How come I
 look so, so...

Parker zips over and notices how old Angus looks.

76 PARKER 76
Whoaaaa, you look old!

77 ANGUS 77
I know! But, but why?

78 PARKER 78
It's probably because of WST.

79	ANGUS	79
	What's WST?	

80 PARKER 80
Walrus Stomach Time. Humans age
super fast the longer they're
inside a walrus.

Parker holds up Angus's WATCH. Sure enough, the hands on the watch move SUPER FAST!

81 PARKER (CONT'D) 81
(re: watch)
Yup. Look at that time fly.

82 ANGUS 82
You knew about this!?

83 PARKER 83

Of course, it's all explained in
Russell's Terms & Conditions. You
read that right?

84 ANGUS 84
Yeah... kinda... sorta. No! 'Cause
nobody reads those!

85 PARKER 85
(disappointed)
Angus.

Fully panicked, Angus grabs Parker, holding the little nimbus close to his face.

86 ANGUS 86
Parker. I need you to focus, and I
need you to get me out of Russell.
BEFORE I GET ANY OLDER!

87 PARKER 87
Boy... your breath smells really
bad.

SERIES OF CUTS: AGING ANGUS FOLLOWS PARKER THROUGH RUSSELL

- Angus, with greying beard, limps like an old man as he follows Parker through a BOUNCE HOUSE, then through a dinosaur MUSEUM.

88 PARKER 88
We're getting close, Angus!

- Angus follows Parker across a BASKETBALL COURT. Parker waits outside of a RESTROOM. <FLUSH!> Angus steps out. They walk through a FOREST, followed by a MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY.

- Angus, now with WRINKLY ARMS and a CANE, gets free samples in a GROCERY STORE AISLE of Russell.

89 ANGUS 89
Oooh, free samples.

- Angus, looking even more old and wobbly, follows Parker through the streets of CUBA and a DESERT of nothin' but sand.

90 PARKER 90
Just a little further, big guy.

- Parker waits outside of the same BATHROOM. After a beat, Angus emerges using a ROLLING WALKER! Parker guides Angus down a brick wall-lined SIDEWALK.

91 PARKER (CONT'D) 91
Almost there!

INT. RUSSELL - LATER

Angus rides RASCAL SCOOTER PARKER. They pass an alley of towering bean bags.

92 ANGUS 92
Parker, I think we've been here
before.

93 PARKER 93
I don't think so, Angus.

They pass the same exact alley.

94 ANGUS 94
We just saw all of this didn't we?

95 PARKER 95
No, no. Memory is one of the first
things to go when you get older.

They pass the same exact alley.

96 ANGUS 96
Now we've definitely been here
before.

97 PARKER 97
No, no. Memory is one of the first
things to go when you get older.

They pass the same exact alley.

98 ANGUS 98
Parker! We're going in circles!

Parker stops and <POOFS> back to form, which means Angus
falls on his butt. Parker looks around.

99 PARKER 99
Oh, yeah. We are.

Parker goes to help Angus up, but he refuses.

100 PARKER (CONT'D) 100
Come on, Angus! No time to rest.

101 ANGUS 101
No. I'm done. I got nothing left,
kiddo. Just let old Angus be.

Angus finds a SKATEBOARD and a CRAYON. He writes on the
skateboard, creating his own headstone.

102 PARKER 102
What do you mean?

103 ANGUS 103
Parker, you know what happens when
someone keeps getting older, right?

104 PARKER 104
Uh-huh. They start calling you
"sport" and eat dinner when it's
really time for lunch.

Angus begins to bury himself using random nearby JUNK.

105 ANGUS 105
And after they're all done getting
older, they... you know...

Angus CLOSES his eyes.

106 PARKER 106
Take a nap?

107 ANGUS 107
Take a long nap, buddy. A real,
long nap.

108 PARKER 108
Longer than Russell's?

Angus nods.

109 ANGUS 109
Uh-huh. It's the kind of nap where
before I fall asleep, I hand you
the keys to the Steadfast and tell
you to take good care of her,
because she's yours now.

Parker starts to get sad.

110 PARKER 110
That nap sounds like it'll last
forever.

111 ANGUS 111
Now you're getting it, sport.

It sinks in with Parker, who starts to cry.

112 PARKER 112
<GASPS!> No, don't take a nap,
Angus! <SOBBING!> Oh, this is all
my fault!

113 ANGUS 113
No. Don't blame yourself, Parker.
If there's anyone to blame... it's
Sir Hands-a-lot and King Fingers.

Parker looks at both his FACE DRAWN HANDS with disdain.

114 PARKER 114
(re: hands)
They'll pay for this.

Parker goes to snuggle Angus one last time. Right then, WHITE
LIGHT floods the room.

115 ANGUS 115
It's happening, Parker. I see the
light.

116 PARKER 116
So do I. So do I.
(beat)
Wait! Why do I see it? Am I taking
a long nap too?? Oh, no! I have too
many places to see, too many lives
to brighten! I can't nap now! It's
not fair!

From out of the light appears... LILY!

117 LILY 117
Hey, Angus. Hey, Parker.

118 ANGUS 118
Lily?

119 PARKER 119
Hi, Lily.

120 ANGUS 120
Are you an... an angel, Lily?

121 LILY 121
I don't think so. I came by the
ship to see if Parker wanted to
hang out. But no one was around.
Then I heard what sounded like
someone complaining inside Russell,
and I figured it was Angus.

122 ANGUS 122
What?

123 PARKER 123
How'd you get inside Russell? Did
you find the secret side door?

124 LILY 124
Uhhh, Russell doesn't have a secret
side door, Parker. You're thinking
of my shop. My shop has a secret
side door. You helped me install
it.

125 PARKER 125
Ohhhh. Right!

Angus glares at Parker, then suddenly realizes...

126 ANGUS 126
Hold on a minute. If you're inside
Russell, that means Russell is
awake!

127 LILY 127
She was when I got there.

128 PARKER 128
<HAPPY GASP!>

129 ANGUS 129
Woo-hoo--
<COUGHS!>
I can finally get out of here, and
not a moment too soon.

Parker and Lily help Angus to his feet.

130 LILY 130
Hope you don't mind, but Russell
looked hungry. So I gave her the
rest of your fish nuggets.

Parker and Angus share a look.

131 PARKER / ANGUS 131
Fish nuggets!

132 PARKER 132
Uh oh. We gotta get out of here
before she falls asleep again!

Russell's stomach <RUMBLES>. We see in the distance her open
mouth slowly closing...

133 ANGUS 133
It's too late!

134 PARKER 134
It's never too late!

Parker <POOFS> into the RASCAL SCOOTER and scoops up Angus.

135 PARKER (CONT'D) 135
Hold on, buddy! I'm getting you out
of here!

Parker punches it, but a Rascal Scooter can only go so fast.
And it's not fast. They've only made it a few inches away
from Lily.

136 LILY 136
Can I help?

137 PARKER 137
(calmly)
That'd be great, Lily. Thanks.

Lily gets behind the scooter and kicks on her THRUSTERS.
<ZOOM!> They're off, blasting towards Russell's slowly
closing pie hole.

138 PARKER / ANGUS 138
AHHHHHHH!

They just make it under the closing gate and through the
shutting sliding doors.

As they approach Russell's mouth, FISH NUGGETS hurl at them
like asteroids.

139 PARKER / ANGUS (CONT'D) 139
Fish nuggets!

Lily maneuvers them around the breaded asteroid belt. Angus
falls asleep.

140 PARKER / LILY 140
<SCREAMING!>

141 ANGUS 141
<SNORING!>

The gang's really cutting it close. Russell's mouth is an
inch from shutting!

142 PARKER 142
(in slo-mo)
Huuuurrriiiiii...

143 LILY 143
(slo-mo)
Alll-moooostttt thereeee...

Lily kicks it up a notch!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - DAY

Just as Russell's mouth closes and she's about to slip into a
second nap, Angus, Parker, and Lily <BURST> out!

144 PARKER / ANGUS / LILY 144
AHHHHHHH!

145 PARKER 145
We made it!

146 LILY 146
Hooray.

Angus, looking like his old self again, sits up, touches his face, his hair.

147 ANGUS 147
Am I... am I... still old?

Parker poofs into a HAND MIRROR for Angus to look at.

148	PARKER	148
	Nope! I mean you're old, but just your normal old.	

149 ANGUS 149
Woo-hoo-hoo!

Parker poofs back to normal. Angus looks at Russell, who peacefully sleeps.

150	ANGUS (CONT'D)	150
	That's the last time I'm ever going inside Russell, that's for sure. No more Walrus Stomach Time for me, I'll stick to regular, good old fashioned, normal time. Heh heh.	

Angus looks to his WATCH. But the watch is GONE.

151 ANGUS (CONT'D) 151
Oh, no. Parker, I lost my watch
inside Russell. Could you be a pal
and go--

Angus turns around, but there's no Parker or Lily. Through the front door, he catches a glimpse of the two racing down the hill.

152	ANGUS (CONT'D)	152
	Parker!	

He looks back to Russell, who's already <SNORING>.

153 ANGUS (CONT'D) 153
 <SIGH> Shipwreck.

END OF EPISODE.