

MIDDLEMOST POST

#041 - "Side Hustle"

Written by

John Reynolds

WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 03/22/21
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 04/02/21
FIRST DRAFT - 05/24/21
BOARD DRAFT - 05/28/21
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SHIPPING DRAFT - 09/28/21

ANGUS, PARKER, and RUSSELL busily stuff mail into a line of roadside mailboxes. As Angus moves on, Parker holds Russell back to talk to her secretly.

Russell nods, on board.

Parker stuffs mail in a roadside mailbox.

Russell pukes a ton of mail into the next mailbox - BLARF!

SWISH PAN to Angus readying himself to see a large multi-tool gadget (think Leather Man on steroids) on display in a nearby STORE WINDOW.

Angus gazes lovingly at it.

8 PARKER 8
Okay, we're on. Cue Lily!

10 PARKER 10
(badly acting)
Oh. Ok. I guess I should help you.
(to Angus)
Angus, go on, and I'll catch up.
(MORE)

PARKER (CONT'D)
Lily needs me, and it sounds
important.

11 LILY 11
It is.

For a second, it appears Angus is suspicious. But he's not.

12	ANGUS	12
	Okay.	

Angus strolls off. Russell follows.

13 PARKER 13
Phew-hoo-hoo-hoo! I thought the big
guy was gonna catch on!

INT. THE NICKEL STORE - MOMENTS LATER

The STORE OWNER (OR6) brings the multi-tool over to Parker and Lily.

14 PARKER 14
Wow. The Multi-Tool 3000. <GASPS!>
Angus would be so happy to have
one.

15	STORE OWNER	15
	Well who wouldn't? We're talking about the greatest multi-tool ever made. It's got everything...	

Parker watches in awe as the Store Owner flicks each item out of the ridiculous tool like a crazy Swiss Army knife.

16 STORE OWNER (CONT'D) 16
Screwdriver, hammer, glue gun,
beard trimmer, pickle fork, beef
jerky, knitting needles, uh-huh.

17 LILY 17
It's just like Angus. If Angus was
a tool.

18 PARKER 18
I know! That's why I've been
secretly saving up my money to buy
it for him.

Parker fishes around in his unitard then <SLAMS> down a single NICKEL.

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19                                STORE OWNER                                19
                                (re: nickel)
                                What's that there?

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20 PARKER 20
A nickel. For the multi-tool.

21 STORE OWNER 21
You can't buy anything for a nickel
unless you got a time machine.

22 PARKER 22
But, but... your store is called
"The Nickel Store."

23 STORE OWNER 23
Yeah. My last name's Nickel. I'm
Dick Nickel. The Nickels run The
Nickel Store, everybody knows that.

24 LILY 24
That adds up.

25 STORE OWNER 25
You're gonna need about a thousand
more nickels to walk out of here
with that MT 3K.

26 PARKER 26
A thousand times more! That's...
<MUTTERS INAUDIBLY>

Parker quickly does math, counts his fingers, which morph into dozens MORE FINGERS. Then, he morphs again into an ABACUS and quickly moves its pieces, then <POOFS> back to normal, shocked.

EXT. THE NICKEL STORE - CONT.

27 PARKER (O.S.) 27
... A THOUSAND TIMES MORE THAN A
NICKEL!

NICKEL WIPE:

EXT. SOMEWHERE STORE - ESTABLISHING

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - DAY

Parker lays on the counter, bummed.

28 PARKER 28
<SIGHS> This is horrible, Lily. All
I wanted to do was make Angus happy
by buying him something he really,
really wanted.

29 LILY 29
You can still buy it for him,
Parker. All you need is more money.

30 PARKER 30
Thanks, Lily! I'll pay you back,
promise.

Parker grabs the CASH REGISTER and starts to leave.

31 LILY 31
I meant, you can make more money.
All you have to do is pick up a few
side hustles.

Lily takes the cash register back from Parker.

32 PARKER 32
Tell me more about these "side
hustles."

33 LILY 33
They're basically small jobs you do
for extra money when you're not
doing your big job.

34 PARKER 34
I'm in! Where do I find one?

35 LILY 35
They're everywhere, Parker.
Everywhere. All you gotta do is
look.

Parker spots a "Help Wanted" ad on a corkboard in Lily's store.

CUT TO:

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - RANDOM LOCATIONS - MONTAGE

- ORANGEFIELD: Parker rains on a field of crops as DEWAYNE (OR4) watches. The crops grow super fast! A corn stalk lifts Dewayne into the sky. As he passes Parker by, he hands him some money.

- GREENWOOD: GR5 relaxes in a deck chair with cream on her face and cucumbers on her eyes. A set of eyes blink open ABOVE the cucumbers - turns out Parker's the "cream." GR5 happily holds up some money.

- BLUBERG: BL7, on the golf course, ready to putt. He brags to his FRIENDS.

36	BL7	36
	Watch and learn, boys.	

Reveal Parker is the golf ball. BL7 putts. The guy is WAY off... but Parker changes course and drops into the cup. BL7 drops money into the hole.

- YELLOW SPRINGS: A CAT scratches a sofa when suddenly, SQUIRT, SQUIRT! The cat gets sprayed with water and runs off as we reveal Parker in the shape of a spray bottle. YL3 kicks her feet up and pays Parker.

- RED RIDGE: ROB and ROD stand next to a giant, granite rock face. They pull out Parker (in the shape of DYNAMITE), light him, jam him in a crevice, then RUN for it! Parker explodes! When the dust settles, there's a large opening to a MINE. The Rock Bros make it rain cash money on an ashen Parker.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - NIGHT

Parker floats in wearing a miner's helmet with a headlamp. The kid looks exhausted from a long day of side hustling.

37 ANGUS (O.S.) 37
Parker, that you?

Parker realizes he's still wearing the helmet and panics. He hides it in his onesie just as Angus enters.

38 PARKER 38
<GASPS!> Angus! What's up?

39 ANGUS 39
You've been gone an awfully long
time. Heh. I was starting to worry
about you.

40 PARKER 40
Worry? About me? Nah. I'm great--

Right then the LIGHT on the helmet turns on, blasting a beam of light right through Parker! It blinds Angus and Russell!

[illegible]

Parker throws the helmet out a porthole window.

42 ANGUS (CONT'D) 42
What was that?!

43 PARKER 43
I'm just so happy to be home, I'm
beaming with joy!

Parker turns into a SUN, blinding Angus and Russell again.

44 ANGUS 44
Ahhhh!!

Parker <POOFS> back into his regular shape and hugs Angus.
The big guy loves it.

45 ANGUS (CONT'D) 45
Heh heh. I'm happy you're home too,
kiddo.

46 PARKER 46
Boy, am I tuckered out. There's a
cloud hammock with my name on it.

Parker starts to float off.

47 ANGUS 47
You're going to bed?

48 PARKER 48
Ehh, I wanna get a good night's
sleep. Lots of jobs to do tomorrow.
(catches self)
I mean job. Th-this job. My only
job. Goodnight!

Parker scurries off. Angus watches him go, concerned.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - ON MAIL ROUTE - DAY

The MMP crew on the mail route. Like clockwork, Angus stops
at "The Nickel Store" and admires the Multi-Tool 3000.

49 PARKER 49
You know everything costs more than
a nickel in there, right?

50 ANGUS 50
Of course. Everybody knows Dick
Nickel. The Nickels run The Nickel
Store.

Angus walks off. Parker steams.

EXT. ORANGEFIELD - ON MAIL ROUTE - DAY

The MMP crew delivers mail. Dewayne pops out of his super
tall crops and calls to Parker.

51 DEWAYNE 51
Hey, Parker. You got any time to
water more of my crops? Check out
the size of my corn!

A giant CORNSTALK flexes, popping out pieces of popcorn. One flies directly into Russell's waiting mouth.

52 PARKER 52
Uhhh, maybe another time.

Parker hurries Angus along.

53 ANGUS 53
What was that about?

54 PARKER 54
<HESITATION EFFORT> Probably has me
confused with some other cloud.
<NERVOUS CHUCKLING!>

EXT. GREENWOOD - ON MAIL ROUTE - DAY

Parker delivers mail from tree house to tree house.

55 PARKER 55
Special deliv--ahhhh!

GR5 opens her door, sees Parker. Her face looks over
botoxed... yet still youthful!

56 GR5 56
There you are, Parker. I was hoping
to pay you for another one of your
organic face peels.

She holds up money. Angus calls over from a few trees down.

57 ANGUS 57
What are you doing over there,
Parker?

Parker panics.

58 PARKER 58
Coming, Angus!

Parker tears a CHUNK of cloud out of his stomach and throws
it in the lady's face. <SMACK>!

59 PARKER (CONT'D) 59
<TEAR EFFORT!> Here ya go!

He grabs the money and zips off.

60 GR5 60
Ah, delightful.

Parker rejoins Angus, now missing a section of his abdomen.

61 PARKER 61
All set to go, Angus!

Parker zips off. Angus can't help but feel something is off.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - ON MAIL ROUTE - DAY

The MMP crew on the mail route. Parker stops when he spots a "MAKE EXTRA CASH" flyer taped to a cactus. Angus keeps walking. He looks back to see Parker <RIP> a tab from the flyer before rejoining him.

62 ANGUS 62
Parker, is everything okay?

63 PARKER 63
Sure it is. Why?

64 ANGUS 64
Well you don't seem very "focused"
on the job today.

65 PARKER 65
Which job?
(catches self)
I mean, of course. This job. I am
totally focused, Angus. Totally
focused. <GASPS!>

BEHIND ANGUS, Parker spots the CAT he was hired to spray earlier. The Cat claws the crap out of the porch furniture. Parker can't help but be distracted.

66 ANGUS 66
You sure? Ever since yesterday,
you've been acting a little--

67 PARKER 67
(to cat)
OFF!

68 ANGUS 68
Exactly. Off.

69 PARKER 69
(to cat)
NO!

70 ANGUS 70
Okay, okay, no need to yell. Geez.
I'll tell you what, why don't you
just take the rest of the day off?
You seem stressed. A little mental
break from work should help.

Parker watches as YL3 chases the cat around the porch, the cat stopping to claw everything it can.

71 PARKER 71
 Yep, yep. Uh, you're the boss,
 Angus.

72 ANGUS 72
You take it easy now.

73 PARKER 73
Okay. Will do. Bye.

Parker waves as Angus and Russell walk off. Once gone, he <POOFS> away...

...to reappear on the porch as a giant STORMCLOUD, raining on the cat! YL3, now soaked to the bone, grins and hands Parker a wad of cash.

EXT. PURPLETON - ON MAIL ROUTE - DAY

Angus and Russell deliver the mail. Angus, as usual, doesn't look comfortable being in Purpleton. He hands mail to REGGIE4.

74 ANGUS 74
Here's your mail.

75 REGGIE4 75
Thanks. Wanna see my new futon? I
built a cake on it.

[illegible]

Angus hurries Russell along. They stop at a Purpleton home.
REGGIE8 answers the door.

77 REGGIE8 77
Hi, I'm Reggie.

78 ANGUS 78
We know. We need you to sign for
your package.

Russell holds out a PACKAGE. Angus hands Reggie8 a form to sign. Reggie writes his name.

79 REGGIE8 79
(spells out loud)
R. E. G. G. I. Y.
(then)
Oh. I made an oopsie. Can I get
another form?

Growing impatient, Angus produces another slip.

80 ANGUS 80
<ANNOYED GRUNT>

81	REGGIE8	81
	Thanks.	
	(spells out loud)	
	R.E.G.G.G.G...	

As Reggie signs his name, something catches the eye of Angus.

82	ANGUS	82
	Parker?	

He sees Parker inside, installing a DEADBOLT LOCK on a door. Parker finishes. REGGIE2 hands Parker money before Parker <POOFS> away. Angus is left confused.

83 ANGUS (CONT'D) 83
(to Reggie)
Hey, uh, how come Parker was here?

84 REGGIE8 84

We hired Parker to install
deadbolts on our basement door.
(hands form back)
Can I get a new form? I made
another oopsie.

EXT. BLUBERG - ON MAIL ROUTE - DAY

Angus and Russell deliver mail through Bluberg. Angus is in his head about Parker moonlighting another job.

85 ANGUS 85
Why would Parker take on another
job, Russell? It doesn't make any
sense.

Russell shrugs.

86 ANGUS (CONT'D) 86
You don't suppose the kid's tired
of working at the Middlemost Post,
do ya?

Russell shakes her head. No way.

87 ANGUS (CONT'D) 87
Yeah, you're probably right.
Delivering mail is the greatest job
there is. Why would anyone wanna
leave it?

The Golfer from before, BL7, flags down Angus.

88 BL7 88
Well hello, hello there! Would you
mind passing along a message for
Parker? I'd like to hire the little
cloud for another round of golf.

89 ANGUS 89
Hire? The little nimbus works for
you too?

90 BL7 90
My short game took a sharp left at
Crudville again.

TODD and BL3 appear in the b.g.

91 TODD/BL3 91
Scoff scoff. / Scoff!

92 BL7 92
Tell the kid I'll pay double this
time. Okay, fine. Triple.

BL7 leaves. Angus is saddened.

93 ANGUS 93
(to Russell)
I guess we were wrong, girl.
Parker's done delivering the mail.
The little nimbus is... job
cheating on us.

EXT. THE NICKEL STORE - ESTABLISHING

94 PARKER (O.S.) 94
Nine hundred and ninety eight, nine
hundred and ninety nine...

INT. THE NICKEL STORE - DAY

There's stacks of nickels piled high as Parker places the
last one down.

95 PARKER 95
One thousand nickels. There.

The Store Owner pops his head out from behind the nickel
towers.

96 STORE OWNER 96
You know you didn't have to pay in
actual nickels, right?

97 PARKER 97
I'd like to buy one Multi-Tool 3000
please.

Parker puts out his hand.

98 STORE OWNER 98
Oh! Afraid I just sold my last one.

99 PARKER 99
What? NO!

100 STORE OWNER 100
Lucky for you though, Multi-Tool
4000 just came in.

The Store Owner holds up an even more insane multi-tool.

101 PARKER 101
<GASPS!> I'll take it!

Parker reaches for the item, but the Store Owner pulls it
back.

102 STORE OWNER 102
Whoa there. Not so fast. The Multi-
Tool 4000 costs a thousand times
more than the Multi-Tool 3000.
Hence the name.

103 PARKER 103
Nooooo!

The Store Owner holds up a basic TOOL (i.e. screwdriver).

104 STORE OWNER 104
May I interest you in Tool?
(re: nickels)
You have enough here for Tool.

105 PARKER 105
Noooooo!

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - ESTABLISHING

106 PARKER (O.S.) 106
(reading)
"Clown Whisperer?" Yes. "Shirt
Steamer?" Uh-huh. "Assistant
Director?"

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

Parker stuffs his face with toast as he maniacally circles
JOBS in a newspaper's classifieds.

107 PARKER 107
Yes. Yes. Yes. <GROANS!><FURIOUSLY
EATS!>

MS. PAM checks in.

108 MS. PAM 108
Everything okay, hon?

109 PARKER 109
No, Ms. Pam. It is not okay! All I
wanted to do was get Angus
something awesome he really wanted,
but my side hustles don't pay
enough, so now I have to get side
hustles for my side hustles!

110 MS. PAM 110
I meant the toast.

111 PARKER 111
Oh. The toast is great. Thanks!
<SLURPS DOWN TOAST>

Ms. Pam walks off. Parker returns to the newspaper and zeros
in on one particular HELP WANTED.

112 PARKER (CONT'D) 112
(re: ad)
Whoa whoa whoa. What is this?
(reads)
*"Wanted. Mail Delivery Cloud to
work for post office."*
(to self)
Delivering mail? Heh. That's my
jam!
(continues to read)
*"Must have an overwhelming desire
to brighten everyone's day."*
(to self)
<GASPS!> That's also my jam!
(reads)
"For more information, contact--"
(panicked to self)
The Middlemost Post!?

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAILROOM - DAY

Angus stacks packages, hard at work. Parker enters, trying to
be low key but poorly hiding his suspicions/resentment.

113 PARKER 113
What's up, boss?

114 ANGUS 114
Hey, Parker. Wanna give me a hand
with this?

115 PARKER 115
You sure you want me to help and
not somebody else?

116 ANGUS 116
Uhhh. Are you saying you don't
wanna help and would rather help
someone else somewhere else?

Russell is caught in between these two, getting confused by
the passive aggressive math equations.

117 PARKER 117
Well that depends, do you want me
to help someone else do this
something else somewhere else?

118 ANGUS 118
Parker, is there something you
wanna tell me?

119 PARKER 119
Is there something you want to tell
me, Angus?

120 ANGUS 120
How about on the count of three, we
both say the thing we're not saying
but should say. One.

121 PARKER 121
Two.

122 ANGUS 122
Three.

123 PARKER 123
I can't believe you're replacing
me!

124 ANGUS 124
I can't believe you wanna quit the
post!

They look at each other, stunned.

125 ANGUS (CONT'D) 125
Wait. What? I don't wanna replace
you.

Parker holds out the newspaper with the help ad.

126 PARKER 126
Oh, yeah? Then what do you call
this?

127 ANGUS 127
Parker, I know you've been secretly
taking other jobs. I know what that
means, I'm not a fool. Y-you just
don't like working here anymore, I
get it.

128 PARKER 128
But I love working here! And I only
took those jobs to make more money
so I could buy you the Multi-Tool
3000.

129 ANGUS 129
(touched)
You did that for me?

130 PARKER 130
Yeah. That was before I knew how
easy it was for you to replace me.

Parker looks all sorts of sad.

131 ANGUS 131
Kiddo, did you read the entire ad?
Go on, finish it.

Parker reads from the newspaper.

132 PARKER 132
(reads)
*"The ideal candidate must fill the
giant hole in employer's heart for
losing his best bud in the whole
world."*

133 ANGUS 133
See. No one can replace you. Not
ever.

Overjoyed, Parker RAINBLOWS, blasting Angus right into the
wall!

134 PARKER 134
<RAINBLOW EFFORT!>

135 ANGUS 135
<GURGLING EFFORTS!>

Parker hugs Angus hard.

136 PARKER 136
I'm sorry I couldn't buy you the
Multi-Tool 3000. I really wanted
to, but Dick Nickel sold the last
one.

137 ANGUS 137
I know. Heh heh. I was the one that
bought it! Ha, ha!

Angus pulls out his shiny new Multi-Tool 3000 and holds it up
proudly. It glimmers.

138 PARKER 138
Wow!
(beat)
You know there's a Multi-Tool 4000
now, right?

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - CONT.

139 ANGUS (O.S.) 139
Nooooooooo!

END OF EPISODE