

MIDDLEMOST POST

#044 - "Parker Gets Rich"

Written By

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WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 03/17/21
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 03/26/21
SE DRAFT - 04/16/21
FIRST DRAFT - 05/05/21
BOARD DRAFT - 05/14/21
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PARKER (O.S.) 1
Look out below!

RUSSELL comes sliding down the staircase on a sled... and that sled is PARKER.

They immediately <CRASH> into a wall.

4 ANGUS 4
PARKER J. CLOUD!!!

6 Me too! PARKER 6

9 PARKER 9
I thought it was pretty easy.

Parker scribbles his name on a RAFFLE TICKET, then sticks it in a box. Does it again. And again. And again. And again.

10 PARKER 10
"Parker J. Cloud!"
"Parker J. Cloud!"
"Parker J. Cloud!"
"Parker J. Cloud!"
"Parker J. Cloud!"

BACK TO:

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAILROOM - PRESENT DAY

11 PARKER 11
"Parker J. Cloud!"
"Parker J. Cloud!"
"Parker J. Cloud!"
"Parker J.--"

12 ANGUS 12
Don't leave me in suspense, what'd
you win?

Parker reads the rest of the letter.

13 PARKER 13
(reading)
Says... *"see outside for prize."*

They open the front door to a wall of GOLD COINS that spill
into the ship, burying them. The three pop up for air.

14 ANGUS 14
Well I'll be. Look at all this
money!

Parker's pretty ambivalent about it all.

15 PARKER 15
I guess it's a lot.

16 ANGUS 16
You guess? It's a literal boat load
of money! You're bonafide rich,
Parker! What are you gonna do with
all this moolah?

17 PARKER 17
Hmmm.

Parker <POPS> a puff of cloud off his head which transforms
into a THOUGHT BUBBLE...

INT. THOUGHT BUBBLE - CONT.

- Parker delivers mail with Angus, happy as can be.

18 PARKER 18
I'll probably wake up early and
deliver mail with you because
that's a lot fun.

- Parker sleeps in a hammock with LILY.

19 PARKER (CONT'D) 19
Then hang out with Lily.

20 LILY 20
Snore. Snore.

21 PARKER 21
Because she's my best friend and I
love her a lot.

- Parker, Lily, Angus, and Russell shove toast in their mouth
at the Middlemost Toast.

22 PARKER (CONT'D) 22
 <GASPS!> And then knowing us, we'll
 probably grab a light snack at the
 Middlemost Toast. I love the
 Middlemost Toast!

- Russell sleds down the stairs on Parker.

23 PARKER (CONT'D) 23
 <GASPS!> And if time permits, I'll
 sled down the stairs with Russell,
 because you know, it's awesome.

The thought bubble <POPS> and we're back to...

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAILROOM - CONT.

Angus doesn't quite know what to say.

24 ANGUS 24

Parker, buddy. That's what you do every day. You don't need mounds and mounds of money to do any of that.

25 PARKER 25
(discouraged)
Ugh. Boy, having a boat load of
money is sure a hassle.

Parker kicks a mound of coins.

26 ANGUS 26

I don't know, I think a lot of
people would be pretty happy with
this much money.

Parker lights up, suddenly energized.

27 PARKER 27
<CHOKED GASP!> People would be
happy?

Parker zips over to Angus.

28 PARKER (CONT'D) 28
Angus, I just thought of the
perfect thing to do with my money!

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - DAY

The MMP crew deliver mail. Parker hands a package to SHELLY.

29 PARKER 29

Here's your package, ma'am.

(beat)

And a little something extra to
make you happy.

Parker reaches inside himself and pulls out a BAG OF MONEY, slamming it down on the package.

30 PARKER (CONT'D) 30
Boo-ya! Have a happy day!

Shelly races inside her home.

31 SHELLY 31
 <GASPS!> Kids, we're rich!
 <LAUGHS!>

Parker is all smiles. Angus is clearly concerned.

32 ANGUS 32
Uh, Parker, are, are you gonna give
money to everyone on our route?

33	No.	PARKER	33
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34 ANGUS 34
Phew. Okay, good.

35 PARKER 35
I'm gonna give money to everyone I
see!

Parker hands out MONEY BAGS to every person he passes.
[REGGIE, DOUG/NANCY/BABY DOUGIE, MEAT VENDOR]

36 PARKER (CONT'D) 36
Here you go, Reggie!

37 REGGIE 37
Hi, I'm Reggie.

38 PARKER 38
Look alive, Baby Dougie!
(beat)
Cash money coming your way!

39 MEAT VENDOR 39
(re: money bag)
Hey, all right. I can take a day
off.

40 CROWD 40
Awww...

Parker passes MR. and MRS. SHORT.

41 PARKER 41
Hope you brought your umbrella
because I'm 'bout to MAKE IT RAIN!

Parker rains gold coins over them instead of water. The
Shorts couldn't be happier, dancing around.

42 MRS. SHORT 42
This is the happiest day of my
life!

43 PARKER 43
Happy to make you happy!

Parker literally makes it rain money on gleeful CITIZENS
before zipping over to Angus, who looks even more concerned.

44 ANGUS 44
Parker. I think it's time we talk
about your money.

45 PARKER 45
Don't worry, big guy. Haven't
forgotten about you.

Parker drops a tiny COIN PURSE into Angus' hand before zipping off towards the Middlemost Toast.

46 ANGUS 46
Uhh... I--

47 PARKER 47
Free lunch for everyone!

NEARBY CITIZENS <CHEER>. Russell lights up and races after Parker.

48	ANGUS	48
	<WORRIED GROAN>...	

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - MOMENTS LATER

Angus enters the Middlemost Toast and sees that every patron already has a bag of money from Parker. He joins Parker and Russell in their booth. Both chow down on toast.

49 ANGUS 49
Parker, we need to talk.

50 PARKER 50
(while chewing)
<SMACKS LIPS> Is it about how
<SMACKS LIPS> happy I'm making
everyone by giving them <SMACKS
LIPS><SWALLOWS> free money?

51 ANGUS 51
It is. Granted, it's making people
happy--

52 PARKER 52
(to offscreen)
Terry! Heads up, my man!

Parker <FLINGS> a bag of coins off screen. We hear a <SMACK>.

53 TERRY (O.S.) 53
OWW! Oh, wait, is this money? Right
on, Parker J!

54 PARKER 54
You were saying, Angus?

55 ANGUS 55
Parker, I'm worried someone's gonna
take advantage of your generosity.

56 PARKER 56
Like how?

57 ANGUS 57
For starters, a person might
pretend to be your pal just to get
your money, when they're really not
your pal at all.

Parker finds this amusing and impossible.

58 PARKER 58
Hehe, good one, Angus. I don't
think anyone would do that.

A STRANGER that we've never seen before, drawn like he's from
an entirely different show, approaches.

59 STRANGER 59
(to Parker)
Hey, it's you! Your name is, uh...

60 PARKER 60
Parker!

61 STRANGER 61
Oh yeah, right. Parker! Yep, nailed
it. Gonna say that. But i-it's me,
Mikey. Remember me? Your old pal
from way back.

62 PARKER 62
Hey, Mikey!

63 STRANGER 63
Yeah! Hey, whatchu you been up to?

64 PARKER 64
Ah, nothing much. Just handing out
piles of money to make people
happy. What about you?

65 STRANGER 65
Oh, I've been sad. Like super,
super sad and not happy at all.

66 PARKER 66
Well, this should help!

Parker tosses the guy a bag of money.

67 STRANGER 67
Thanks, Phil! I mean Pete! I, I
mean Peter. Heh heh heh!

The guy walks off with his score.

68 ANGUS 68
Parker! That's exactly what I'm
talking about. You didn't even know
who that fella was.

69 PARKER 69
Sure I do. That was Mikey.

70 ANGUS 70
He only pretended to be your bud to
get your money!

The Stranger returns, this time with a FAKE MUSTACHE.

71 STRANGER 71
Parker, is that you? It's me,
Dicky! Mikey's little cousin.

Angus watches in dismay.

72	PARKER	72
	Hey, Dicky!	

73 STRANGER 73
Uh, did Mikey tell you how sad I
was?

Parker hands the Stranger a bag of cash.

74 PARKER 74
Not anymore, buddy.

75 STRANGER 75
Heh heh heh heh!

The Stranger dashes off with his loot.

76 ANGUS 76
<GRUMBLES!>

SEVERAL QUICK CUTS of various other Stranger disguises as he successfully gets paid by Parker each and every time.

77 PARKER 77
Nicky! Vicky! Mickey! Baby Ricky!
Princess Ricky! Beauregard!

Parker returns to his toast like nothing happened.

78 PARKER (CONT'D) 78
You were saying, Angus?

79

ANGUS
<SIGHS> Come on.

79

Angus grabs Parker and exits the booth. Russell thinks about following, but stays. More toast for her.

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

Across the street from Angus and Parker is the Stranger, gleefully loading up a truck full of money.

80

STRANGER
Ha, ha! Can't believe the cloud
fell for it. What a noob.

80

81

ANGUS
Now do you see what I'm talking
about?

81

82

PARKER
Not Dicky!

82

The Stranger takes off the fake mustache. Parker is shocked.

83

PARKER (CONT'D)
<GASPS!> And Mikey!?

83

84

ANGUS
He's not your friend, Parker. He
never was. He only wanted your
money.

84

Parker turns glum.

85

PARKER
That's not very nice.

85

86

ANGUS
No it's not.

86

87

PARKER
How am I supposed to know who's a
real friend and who just wants my
dolla dolla bills, yo?

87

88

ANGUS
A true friend will never trick you
out of, or take your money.

88

Right then, MS. PAM pops her head out of the door.

89 MS. PAM 89
Nothing's for free you two, now pay
up.

She rubs her fingers together in the universal money sign.

90 PARKER 90
<GASPS!> Not you too, Ms. Pam!

91 MS. PAM 91
What? It's your bill. You haven't
paid.

She hands Angus the BILL. Parker plays it off.

92 PARKER 92
Oh, right. Sorry.
(to Angus)
You got it, big guy? Cool. See ya!

Parker zips off, leaving Angus with the bill. He looks at it.

93 ANGUS 93
(re: bill)
Russell! How much did you eat!?

EXT. SOMEWHERE STORE - ESTABLISHING

94 PARKER (O.S.) 94
Lily, you ever get the feeling...

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - DAY

Parker lies on a giant PILLOW. Lily stands proudly behind the counter.

95 PARKER (O.S.) 95
... people only like you because
you have money?

96 LILY 96
No.
(beat)
What do you think of my new
invention?

97 PARKER 97
(re: pillow)
Lily, this could be the greatest
thing you ever made.

98 LILY 98

I know.

He takes a bite out of it.

99 PARKER 99

The first ever edible pillow!
<CHEWS!>

100 LILY 100

For when you get the late night
munchies but are too lazy to get
out of bed.

Parker takes more bites.

101 PARKER 101

(mouth full)
It's both comfy AND delicious! <BIG
BITE!>

102 LILY 102

That's because it's made entirely
out of cheese.

103 PARKER 103

(mouth full)
You're gonna sell a million of
these!

104 LILY 104

I only have one though. Well, I
used to have one.

Parker has completely eaten the entire pillow.

105 PARKER 105

Oops, sorry. <TAKES ONE LAST BITE>
You should make more! Like, lots
more!

106 LILY 106

I would if I could. Turns out,
making pillows out of cheese cost a
lot of cheese. Cheese I don't have.

Parker becomes suspicious real quick.

107 PARKER 107

Oh. I see. If only you knew someone
with a lot of money you could take
advantage of.

108 LILY 108
Parker, did you eat too much cheese
pillow?

109	PARKER	109
	I ate just enough cheese pillow to see the truth. Good day... "friend."	

Parker leaves dramatically.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - STREETS - DAY

A salty Parker floats through town, passing RANDOM TOWNSFOLK.

110	PARKER	110
	<SCOFFS!>	

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111                                ORINCIDENTAL2                                111
    Hey, Parker! I heard you won a
    raffle!

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112 PARKER 112
I bet you did.

113 GORDY 113
That's a nice day, isn't it?

114 PARKER 114

You mean a nice day for me to give
you free money? Fat chance, Gordy!

Parker zooms off in a huff.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING

115 PARKER (O.S.) 115
You're the only one I can trust...

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Parker, shaped like a COIN COUNTING MACHINE, dumps bags of money into his head. As his body <CHURNS> with coins, he talks to someone O.S.

116 PARKER 116
... in the whole world.

Parker's eyes dart left and right, suspicious.

117 PARKER (CONT'D) 117
My one true friend that would
never, ever, take advantage of me.

We PAN OVER and see Parker's been talking to BURT.

118 PARKER (CONT'D) 118
Who can I trust, Burt? Who? Who?
Tell me who?

Burt doesn't answer.

119 PARKER (CONT'D) 119
NO ONE?! Ahhh! That's what I
thought! Stupid, stupid money!

120 ANGUS (O.S.) 120
Parker! Dinner's ready!

121 PARKER 121
What about Angus and Russell? Are
they only pretending to be my
friend too?

Burt doesn't answer. Parker steels himself.

122 PARKER (CONT'D) 122
You're right. I should put their
friendship to the test.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Angus and Russell eat at the table as Parker enters.

123 ANGUS 123
Get it while it's hot, kiddo.
<HAPPILY CHEWS!>

124 PARKER 124
(poorly acting)
Sure thing, friend. Oh, no. I
forgot to wash my hands. While I'm
gone, I'm going to put this big bag
of money on the table.

Parker sets down the bag of money, then slowly drifts off.

125 PARKER (CONT'D) 125
It'll be there the entire time I'm
gone, with noooooobody watching.
Nobody.

Parker dips out.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - CONT.

Parker, with Burt, peers through a porthole window into the kitchen. Watching.

126 PARKER 126

Okay, Burt, the trap is set. If Angus and Russell take the money, I'll know they're NOT my friends. But I know they won't, so I'm not worried.

Parker's clearly sweating.

127	PARKER (CONT'D)	127
	I'll just take a little sneak	
	peek...	

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

Angus notices the bag of money for the first time.

128 ANGUS 128
 (re: money)
Russell, help me move this
someplace safe where Parker won't
lose it.

Angus and Russell pick up the giant sack. Through the porthole window--

129 PARKER 129
<GASPS!><PASSING OUT EFFORT!>

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - CONT.

130 PARKER 130
They took the bait, Burt! They took
the bait!

Burt's head falls off from the shaking. Parker's eyes grow wide in shock. There's money inside Burt's box head!!

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131                PARKER (CONT'D)                                131
                <GASPS!> Not you too, Burt!

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Upset, Parker CRACKLES and SWELLS into a tornado!

132 PARKER (CONT'D) 132
I can't trust anyone anymore!

Angus and Russell burst onto the deck to find Tornado Parker sucking in all the coins from the ship.

133 PARKER (CONT'D) 133
 <SOBBING YELLS!> Everybody just
 wants my money!

134 ANGUS **134**
Parker! What are you doing!?

135 PARKER 135

I'm taking MY money, and I'm
LEAVING before any of you can lie
to me anymore about being my
friend!

Parker roars off the boat and disappears into the night.

136 PARKER (CONT'D) 136
<CRIES!>

Confused, Angus looks to Burt on the ground in pieces.

137 ANGUS 137
What in the world did you say,
Burt?

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - CAVE - NIGHT

Like a bloodhound, Russell follows Parker's money trail and leads Angus to the mouth of an ominous cave.

138 ANGUS **138**

This way, Russell!

Angus hesitantly peeks into the cave.

139 ANGUS (CONT'D) 139
Parker?! You in there?

There's a loud <MONSTER GROWL> from inside the cave.

140 ANGUS (CONT'D) 140
 <HESITATES> We're coming in, buddy!
 Eh, just be cool now. It's just us.
 It's, it's me and Russell.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Angus and Russell tread carefully through the dark cave, hearing more <MONSTER GROWLS> until they come upon...

141	ANGUS	141
	<SCREAMS!>	

Parker perched atop a mound of gold in the form of an ENORMOUS DRAGON like SMAUG from LOTR. Angus and Russell can't help but be scared.

142 PARKER 142
<GROWLS!> You've come to take my
money!

143 ANGUS **143**

Money? No. We came to take you
home. What are you doing here?

144 PARKER 144
 <BOOMING SCARY LAUGH!> Home? This
 is my home now. It's the only place
 my money is safe, and where no one
 can take advantage of me ever
 again!

Dragon Parker <BREATHES LIGHTNING> into the ceiling.
STALACTITES fall and crash to the floor.

145		ANGUS	145
	AHHH!		

Angus and Russell dodge them.

146 ANGUS (CONT'D) 146
Russell and I would *never* take
advantage of you, kiddo.

Parker's huge dragon face and teeth get up close to them.

147 PARKER 147
I saw you. You took my money. You
failed the friendship test!

148	What?	ANGUS	148
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149 PARKER 149
That was MY MONEY!

Dragon Parker <ROARS> and <BLASTS LIGHTNING> at them. Angus and Russell duck behind some rocks.

150 PARKER (CONT'D) 150
You said a true friend would never
trick you out of, or take your
money.

151 ANGUS 151
I-I know I said that, but that's
not what Russell and I did.

Angus and Russell run for it. Dragon Parker <BLASTS> another
stream of LIGHTNING at them.

152 PARKER 152
Leave me and my money alone!

Angus and Russell make it safely to the entrance and duck for
cover.

153 ANGUS 153
Okay! We'll leave you alone, if
that's what you want.

Dragon Parker stares them down from the mouth of the cave.

154 ANGUS (CONT'D) 154
But if you change your mind, you'll
always have a place with Russell
and I on the old Steadfast. Friends
or not.

Angus pulls out the small COIN PURSE Parker gave him earlier
and slides it out from behind his rock cover. The coin purse
catches Dragon Parker's eye.

155 PARKER 155
(re: coin purse)
What is that?

156 ANGUS 156
That's the money you gave me when
we were on the mail route.

157 PARKER 157
I gave you that to make you happy.

Angus gets emotional knowing he might not see his pal again.

158 ANGUS 158
Money doesn't make me happy,
Parker. It never has. But you do.
Every morning I wake up and see
your smile, huh, I know it's gonna
be a good day.

159 PARKER 159
Really?

Parker (back to normal) stands right next to Angus and
Russell, which scares the poop out of them.

160 ANGUS 160
AHHHH!

Parker wipes a tear, looking spent. Angus calms down.

161 ANGUS (CONT'D) 161
Of course. You're my best bud, my
little nimbus.

162 PARKER 162
<GIGGLES!>

163 ANGUS 163
I wouldn't trade you for all the
money in the world.

Parker hugs Angus. Russell joins in.

164 PARKER 164
Angus?

165 ANGUS 165
Yeah, buddy.

166 PARKER 166
I think I know what I wanna do with
my money.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

Close on Angus, Parker, and Russell.

167 ANGUS 167
Are you sure?

168 PARKER 168
Yup.

Reveal Parker's money piled up at the edge of OLD STINKHOLE.
Parker <POOFS> into a bulldozer and pushes all the coins into
the hole.

169 PARKER (CONT'D) 169
All gone.

170 ANGUS 170
I'm proud of you, buddy. Now is it
my turn to sled down the stairs?

171 PARKER 171
You got it, Angus.

172

ANGUS

172

<CHUCKLES!>

As Angus, Parker, and Russell walk off, a CROWD OF RESIDENTS suddenly appear, <DIVING> into Old Stinkhole after the money.

173

ROD/ROB

173

<FIGHTING WALLA!>

THE END.