

MIDDLEMOST POST

#045 - "Ranch on the Side"

Written by

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EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - ESTABLISHING

1 MS. PAM (O.S.) 1
Hot toast coming up!

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

PARKER, ANGUS, and RUSSELL sit at a booth, excitedly waiting for their meal. MS. PAM drops off their toast.

2 MS. PAM 2
For the hardest working post office
on Mt. Middlemost.

3 ANGUS 3
Ah, technically, we're the only
post office--

4 PARKER 4
Eh, don't overthink it, big guy.

5 ANGUS 5
Right.

6 MS. PAM 6
Enjoy!

Angus and Russell dig in.

7 PARKER 7
Russell, ketchup please.

Russell slides over the bottle of ketchup to Parker.

8 PARKER (CONT'D) 8
Mmm! Ketchup, oh, how I love you so
much.

Parker goes to squirt ketchup on his toast but it's EMPTY. He squeezes it, then squeezes it some more.

9 PARKER (CONT'D) 9
<SQUEEZE EFFORTS!>

His body shakes with the exertion, but nothing comes out.

10 PARKER (CONT'D) 10
(calmly)
I don't wanna alarm anyone but...
(alarmed)
WE ARE OUT OF KETCHUP!

11 ANGUS 11
Calm down, kiddo. Ketchup is not
the only condiment, you know.

Parker is clearly offended by this.

12 PARKER 12
Oh, really?? So there's "other"
magical sauces that make everything
taste even more awesome than they
already are?

13 ANGUS 13
Well there's always ranch.

14 PARKER 14
(curious)
Ranch... Ranch, what is this *ranch*
you speak of?

Russell's tongue unfurls, revealing a bottle of ranch. Parker
eyes it suspiciously. Cracks it open. <SNIFFS> it. Pours a
small amount into a tiny glass. Swirls like a fine wine.

15 PARKER (CONT'D) 15
<SNIFFS!> Tangy, sweet, and creamy.
Now am I detecting notes of dill?

Angus and Russell have not stopped eating during all of this
and really don't care.

16 ANGUS 16
(mouth full)
<CHEWING EFFORTS> Probably.

Parker dips his toast into the ranch. Takes a bite.

17 PARKER 17
<CURIOUS BITE>

His eyes reflect the cosmos, where he envisions riding a
bottle of ranch like a rocket.

18 PARKER (CONT'D) 18
Woo-hoo! <LAUGHING!> Yeeehooo!

Parker undergoes a spiritual awakening, his third eye opening
to reveal a bottle of ranch.

19 PARKER (CONT'D) 19
Ranch! I am off to the moon! Hee
hoo!

Back in the Middlemost Toast, Angus waves a hand in front of Parker.

20 ANGUS 20
Uh, Parker? Parker!

21 PARKER 21
Oh. My. Ranch.
(hugs ranch bottle)
Where have you been all my life!? I
have to try you on everything!

INT./EXT. ALL AROUND SOMEWHERE - MONTAGE

Parker zips all over Mt. Middlemost putting ranch on things and eating them.

- He dips a snow cone in it and loves it.

22 PARKER 22
<SATISFIED LICKING!>

- He tops off a mug of hot cocoa with it and <GUZZLES> it down. He then fills up the empty mug with ranch and <GUZZLES> that down.

23 PARKER (CONT'D) 23
 <SATISFIED SIPPING!>

- He drizzles it over crystals in Purpleton and chomps away.

[illegible]

- Back at the ship, Parker dips STAMPS in ranch, <LICKS> them, then sticks the stamp on envelopes. Repeat.

25 PARKER (CONT'D) 25
<LICKS EACH STAMP>

- Parker pours ranch on what looks like a vegetable and <BITES> down.

26	PARKER (CONT'D)	26
	<CHOMP EFFORT!>	

27 GORDY (O.S.) **27**

Ow.

We pull out to reveal Parker has just taken a bite of GORDY.

28 PARKER 28
Sorry, Gordy. But you taste
delicious with ranch! Everything
tastes delicious with ranch!

Parker zips off. Gordy licks the left over ranch from his
arm. His face brightens.

29 GORDY 29
<LICKS> I do taste delicious.

Gordy takes a <MASSIVE BITE> and starts to eat himself!

30 GORDY (CONT'D) 30
<EATING EFFORTS>

Poof! Gordy vanishes. A nearby COW watches in horror.
Suddenly, Gordy's voice echoes from the void.

31 GORDY (O.S.) (CONT'D) 31
Hello? A little help, please!

EXT. MIDDLEMOST MEAT CART - LATER

Stalling the line at the meat cart, Parker holds up four
various meats on a stick, running ranch over all of them. He
takes a bite of each one after another.

32 PARKER 32
Yup. Great on that. <SLURPING
EFFORT!> Great on that. Oooh!
<ANOTHER SLURPING EFFORT!> Really
great on that.

With his last meat stick, Parker rapid-fire squirts ranch and
chews.

33 PARKER (CONT'D) 33
D'oh, I just wanna guzzle it! <BIG
BITE!><RAPID EATING NOISES!>

A piece of ranch-covered meat flies directly into MEAT
VENDOR's eye. He wipes it away, annoyed.

34 MEAT VENDOR 34
Okay we get it. You like ranch.

35 PARKER 35
Like ranch? <CHUCKLES> Oh, no, no,
no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no,
no! I LOVE ranch. You know what
tastes best with ranch?
(MORE)

PARKER (CONT'D)

(beat)

Ranch!

Parker squirts out a stream of ranch that floats in the air, then pours ranch on ranch. Then sucks it all in.

36

PARKER (CONT'D)

36

<SATISFIED SIGH> I don't know how I lived this long without you, Ranch.

Parker hugs the ranch bottle.

37

MEAT VENDOR

37

If you love ranch so much, why don't you marry it? He-heh.

Parker freezes. A moment of clarity washes over him.

CUT TO:

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - PYRAMID CASINO - ESTABLISHING

Hey, we're going inside this pyramid for the first time everyone! There's a wedding about to take place!

38

STEWART (O.S.)

38

And do you, Parker J. Cloud...

INT. YELLOW SPRINGS - WEDDING CHAPEL - DAY

A tacky, Vegas-style wedding chapel. STEWART addresses Parker and Ranch, who look lovingly at each other.

39

STEWART

39

Take Ranch to be your lawfully wedded sauce? To drench and to slather, for as long as you both shall live?

40

PARKER

40

I do.

41

STEWART

41

Ok, man. Nice! I now pronounce you cloud and ranch, man. Yeah! N-now go ahead and kiss, man.

42

PARKER

42

If it's okay, I'd rather dip.

Parker holds up the CELERY wedding BOUQUET and dips it into Ranch before popping it into his mouth. <CRUNCH>.

43 PARKER (CONT'D) 43
Haaarumph! <SATISFIED SIGH>

44 STEWART 44
I almost forgot. A-as a part of the
newlywed package, you get a free,
private tour of Old Stinkhole.
That's pretty nice, man.

Stewart hands Parker TWO TICKETS.

45 PARKER 45
<GASPS!> Ohh, marriage is the best!

EXT. PYRAMID CASINO - POOL - DAY

Parker struts along the pool cradling the ranch bottle. He's all smiles, acknowledging other GUESTS as he passes.

46 PARKER 46
Look out everyone. Honeymooners
coming through!

Parker lays down a towel for Ranch. He squirts sunscreen in his hand and rubs it on the ranch bottle. Then squirts ranch in his hand and rubs it on himself.

47 PARKER (CONT'D) 47
(to bottle)
Lovey dovey, want something to
drink? Don't worry babe, I gotchu.
Brb.

Parker heads off but stops after a few steps.

48 PARKER (CONT'D) 48
(to bottle)
Huh, what was that?

The bottle's completely silent.

49 PARKER (CONT'D) 49
(to bottle)
You're gonna miss me? Well I'm
gonna miss you more!

Parker walks away, still flirting with Ranch.

50 PARKER (CONT'D) 50
(to bottle)
No, I'll miss you more! Nuh uh,
nope, I'll miss YOU more! Yes I
will! <KISSY SOUNDS>

51 TERRY (O.S.) 51
 <SIPS>

It's TERRY, sunning himself poolside with a pineapple drink.

52 TERRY (CONT'D) 52
Ahhh, yeah. Yup yup.

53 PARKER 53
Oh, hey, Terry. Guess what!? I got
married.

54 TERRY 54
I see that.

55 PARKER 55
Yeah, it's pretty exciting.

56 TERRY 56
Sure, at first.

57 PARKER 57
What do you mean?

58 TERRY 58

I've seen couples like you before,
kid. When it starts out, it's all
sunshine and rainbows. Everything
is new and fun.

59 PARKER 59
(nodding)
Yeah, yeah, it is.

TERRY

60 But that rainbow fades away.

60

61 PARKER 61
 <GASPS!> No.

62 TERRY 62

Conversations become one sided.
Your new love will get jealous when
you try and connect with old
friends. Before you know it, the
relationship will sour and love
will stink.

Concerned, Parker looks to Ranch lying on that towel baking in the sun. He doesn't want to believe this.

63 PARKER 63
No offense, Terry. But how would
you know?

Terry gets up, leans in close to Parker. Too close. We see his story unfold before our very eyes.

64 TERRY **64**

I know, because it happened to me.

FLASHBACK

Terry sits at a picnic table, hearts in his eyes, gazing longingly at a bottle of HOT SAUCE.

65 TERRY (V.O.) 65
 (wistful)
Once upon a time I fell madly in
love with hot sauce. Ooh-eh, it was
a spicy good time. Until it wasn't.

Terry blasts out a <FIERY FART!>, roasting a little ACORN DUDE (GR4).

BACK TO PRESENT

Parker puts a comforting hand on Terry's shoulder.

66 PARKER 66

That's you and hot sauce, Ter. That won't be me and Ranch. Our love is forever.

(beat)

Thanks for the chat!

Parker zips off, happy as can be again.

67 PARKER (CONT'D) 67
<HAPPY SINGING!> La la la la!

Terry wipes a tear.

68 TERRY 68
 (tearfully)
 Don't say I didn't warn you, kid.

INT./EXT. PYRAMID CASINO - MONTAGE

Parker and Ranch enjoy their honeymoon at the Games Pyramid doing things like:

- At Skee Ball, Parker cheers on Ranch as she "bowls."

69 PARKER 69
YAY!!! Yeah, woo-hoo!

Parker tips Ranch forward, knocking her into the ball and starting it rolling. He zips forward and <BLOWS> on the ball for Ranch.

70 PARKER (CONT'D) 70
<BLOWING EFFORTS!>

Parker zips back and keeps cheering.

71 PARKER (CONT'D) 71
YEEEAHHHH!

DEWAYNE covers his hears with skee balls.

72 PARKER (O.S.) (CONT'D) 72
<KISSY NOISES>

- In a PHOTO BOOTH, Parker and Ranch take silly pictures.

73 PARKER (O.S.) (CONT'D) 73
(sing songy)
I love you, Ranch!

- Inside a THEATER, Parker watches a MAGIC SHOW with an audience. On stage is REGGIE performing a card trick for Ranch.

74 REGGIE 74
Is this your card?

75 PARKER 75
How did you know?

- Parker and Ranch gleefully splash in the pool.

76 PARKER (CONT'D) 76
<LOVESTRUCK LAUGHTER>

Parker accidentally splashes Ranch so hard, the bottle opens, polluting the pool. The POOL GOERS panic!

77 BRAD 77
<HIGH PITCHED SCREAM!>

78 POOL GOERS 78
<SCREAMING WALLA!>

- Back at Skee Ball, Parker cheers then runs to blow on the ball more.

79 PARKER 79
Woo-hoo! <BLOWING EFFORTS!> Yay!

- Parker and Ranch get their portrait done in front of the scenic sunset. REVEAL it's a goofy caricature of Parker rollerskating with Ranch.

- Parker and Ranch bounce in and out of frame. Pulling back, we see they're bouncing on a hotel bed completely covered in ranch!

80 PARKER (CONT'D) 80
Woo-hoo-hoo-hooo! Wahoooo!

- The two lovebirds watch a Bellagio-esque water show play out in a fountain. Suddenly, Parker waits at the edge of the fountain and squirts a ranch stream perfectly into his mouth.

- Parker and Ranch are in the buffet, filling up a plate with food.

81 PARKER (CONT'D) 81
I'll have some steak, some fries,
some chicken wings, a little
ketchup...

As Parker reaches for the ketchup, Ranch doesn't say anything, but Parker reacts like it did.

82 PARKER (CONT'D) 82
(defensive)
Oh hey, hey. No, no. Just an old
friend. I'll put it back. <NERVOUS
LAUGH> I don't need it.

Parker puts it back, moves on. But can't help but look back at ketchup one more time.

83 PARKER (CONT'D) 83
<LONGING GROAN>

- The skee ball still rolls slowly towards its final destination.

84 PARKER (CONT'D) 84
<BLOWING EFFORTS!><BIG
INHALE!><FINAL BLOW!>

Parker cheers, but the excitement is gone.

85 PARKER (CONT'D) 85
(weakly)
Yay.

- DANCE CLUB! Parker drips in sweat as he dances to a dope DJ GERNERAL BEATS set.

86 PARKER (CONT'D) 86
WOO-HOO! Put your clouds in the
air! Oooh oooh!

Ranch sits off to the side. Parker tries everything to get
Ranch to dance.

87 PARKER (CONT'D) 87
Come on, honey! Dance with me! DJ
General Beats is absolutely killing
it!
(Ranch doesn't budge)
No? You're just gonna sit there?
Fine. No, no, no, no, I'll sit with
you.

Parker sits down next to Ranch super resentful. The two watch
as other CLUB-GOERS dance their butts off. Hey, there's
POSTBOT!

88 DANCER (O.S.) 88
Woo!

89 DANCE CROWD WALLA 89
Go PostBot! Go PostBot! Go PostBot!

90 DANCER 90
Boy! Do I feel bad for anyone who's
not dancing right now!

91 PARKER 91
<GROANS>

- Finally, the skee ball creeps to the end.

92 PARKER (CONT'D) 92
<QUICK BLOWS!>

It plops into the gutter. An annoying buzzer sounds. **O
points.** A downtrodden Parker looks to Ranch. There's **FLIES**
buzzing around the lid.

END MONTAGE

INT. PYRAMID CASINO - LATER

Parker walks through the casino holding Ranch.

93 PARKER 93
So. What do you wanna do now? I'm
good with whatever. Kinda feel like
I've been doing all the talking
lately.

Parker looks to the ranch bottle. Gets nothing.

94	PARKER (CONT'D)	94
	Is this about ketchup? I told you, ketchup means nothing to me. (more silence) Ugggh. I need to get some air. No! That wasn't a dig at you. You smell fine.	

It's clear this bottle of ranch is getting funky. Parker sets the bottle down.

95	PARKER (CONT'D)	95
	I just need a moment to clear my head, that's all. I'll be back. I promise.	

Parker blows Ranch a kiss before walking away. REVEAL he set the bottle on the head of RDINCIDENTAL7 who plays a Slot Machine next to her husband, RDINCIDENTAL8.

EXT. PYRAMID CASINO - NIGHT

A sad Parker looks out over the night sky of Yellow Springs.

96	PARKER	96
	<SIGHS>...	

97	TERRY	97
	Hey, man. How's the honeymoon?	

Terry joins Parker, drinking from a watermelon.

98	TERRY (CONT'D)	98
	<SIPS>	

He has a horrible sun burn and tan lines.

99	PARKER	99
	You were right, Terry. About everything. My relationship with Ranch has started to... stink.	

100	TERRY	100
	I love to say I told you so. (sips from straw) I told you so.	

101	PARKER	101
	How do I get out of this, Terry!?	

102 TERRY 102

Relationships are hard. The good news is, getting out of them is easy.

103	PARKER	103
	Really?	

104 TERRY 104
Sure. All you have to do is ghost
them.

105 PARKER 105

Ghost them?! Like turn them into a ghost? Wouldn't they come back and haunt you?

106 TERRY 106

Naw, man. Ghosting means you never
talk to or see them ever again.
Poof. You just disappear.

107 PARKER 107
But wouldn't that make them feel
really, really bad?

108 TERRY 108
I don't know, that's the beauty of
ghosting.

109 PARKER 109
I couldn't do that to Ranch. We've
shared too many memories together.

Something catches Terry's eye behind Parker. He's suddenly distracted.

110 TERRY 110
Your call, kid. Oh, if you'll
excuse me, I got myself a little
sweet Chipotle sauce to chat up.

EXT. OLD STINKHOLE - DAY

Parker and Ranch overlook Old Stinkhole as the sun beats down on them. There's even more flies hovering around the bottle now. Ranch is looking pretty funky.

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111                                PARKER                                111
    Phew, heh, it's a real scorcher
    out, huh?

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Parker waits for an answer but gets nothing. He wipes sweat from his brow. It's gotten awkward between these two.

112 PARKER (CONT'D) 112
<WORRIED GROANS>

YLINCIDENTAL6, wearing a suit, steps in.

113 YLINCIDENTAL6 113
You two lovebirds enjoying your
private tour of Old Stinkhole?

114 PARKER 114
It's okay.

115 YLINCIDENTAL6 115
I know, once you take a real close
look, you realize there's not much
to it. <GOOFY EFFORT>

Parker looks to Ranch.

116 PARKER 116
So true, so true.

117 YLINCIDENTAL6 117
Okay, well, I'll leave you to be!
Ooooooh! <GOOFY EFFORTS CONTINUE>

YLINCIDENTAL6 leaves as Parker focuses on Ranch.

118 PARKER 118
Ranch, there's something I need to
tell you.

As the sun beats down on Ranch, condensation starts to bead
and drip from the bottle.

119 PARKER (CONT'D) 119
(re: the condensation)
Don't you dare start crying. 'Cause
if you cry, then I'll cry.

The bottle slowly expands from the heat of the sun.

120 PARKER (CONT'D) 120
Boy, this is really hard to do.
Terry said that I should ghost you,
but that felt wrong. And I'm still
not totally positive I even know
what ghosting is.

A bubble pops out from the bottle. Grows in size...

121 PARKER (CONT'D) 121
Come on, Parker! Just say it. Rip
the band-aid off. Speak your truth.

The bottle pulsates with built up pressure.

122 PARKER (CONT'D) 122
Ranch, I think you're great. I
really do. But I'm not sure I'm
ready for marriage.
(stomach grumbles)
It makes my stomach hurt, like I
ate something bad. <INHALE!> And I
don't wanna do it anymore. It's too
much pressure!

<POW!> The ranch bottle <EXPLODES!> Rancid ranch splatters
everywhere, including YLIncidental6 and the Meat Vendor.

123 YLINCIDENTAL6 123
<GOOFY IMPACT EFFORT!>

124 MEAT VENDOR 124
<ANGRY GROWL!>

It splatters all over Parker. At first Parker looks
traumatized. Then <LAUGHS>, relieved.

125 PARKER 125
Phew. You feel the same way. See,
that's why I love you, Ranch. You
get me.
(licks ranch off face)
And you taste great on everything.

INT. MIDDLEMOST POST - NIGHT

Parker enters as Angus and Russell are putting dinner on the
table. Parker plops down.

126 ANGUS 126
Hey, Parker. You're just in time
for dinner. Cheeseburgers and
fries, a la Angus.

Angus puts down a plate of burgers and fries.

127 PARKER 127
Thanks, Angus.

128 ANGUS 128
Ooh, almost forgot.

Angus produces a bottle of ranch and sets it on the table in front of Parker.

129 ANGUS (CONT'D) 129
I know how much you love ranch,
kiddo.

Parker sighs heavily and pushes the ranch away.

130 PARKER 130
Not anymore, Angus. Not anymore.

Parker eats a fry sans condiment.

131 PARKER (CONT'D) 131
<CHEWS><SWALLOWS>

Angus looks to Russell. Both shrug.

132 ANGUS 132
Oh okay then, more for me. How about some ketchup instead?

Parker looks up, a twinkle in his eye.

133	PARKER	133
	<GASPS!> I love ketchup!	

Parker hugs the ketchup bottle.

134 PARKER (CONT'D) 134
How I've missed you. Come on!
There's sooo many things I can't
wait to squirt you on!

A cloud cowboy hat <POOFS> next to Parker as he hops on the ketchup bottle, riding it out of the kitchen.

135	Woo-hoo!	PARKER (CONT'D)	135
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The bottle squirts ketchup all over Angus and Russell. Suddenly, Gordy appears out of nowhere. Sees the fries.

136	GORDY	136
	Oh! You got any ranch?	

THE END.