

MIDDLEMOST POST

#047 - "Anchor Shackleton"

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WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 05/06/21
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ANGUS walks through the City of Somewhere when--

PARKER, in swim attire, runs right into a gated entrance.

An overly extravagant SIGN reads: "THE MAYOR PEEVE AQUATIC CENTER. YOU'RE WELCOME, PEOPLE."

Parker poofs into a POOL FLOATIE and scoops up Angus and RUSSELL.

Parker whisks his buds inside.

EXT. SOMEWHERE SWIMMING POOL - CONT.

Parker sees all the TOWNSFOLK happily swimming.

Parker <POOF> back into form. Angus lands on the cement with a <THUD>.

10 PARKER (CONT'D) 10
Look how many people are here! Hey,
friends!

11 POOL GOERS (O.S.) 11
<GREETING WALLA!> / "What's up,
Parker?" / "Hi, Parker!"

Angus looks around at everyone in the water. It sure is a lot
of people. Angus looks less than comfortable with it.

12 POOL GOERS (CONT'D) 12
<MORE POOL PLAYING WALLA!>

13 MAYOR PEEVE (O.S.) 13
Hello, Angus.

MAYOR PEEVE and RYAN show up.

14 ANGUS 14
Mayor.

15 MAYOR PEEVE 15
Not sure if you heard, but I single-
handedly made all this happen.

16 ANGUS 16
Yeah. Saw the sign.

17 MAYOR PEEVE 17
Well, what can I say? I'm just a
humble servant of the people.

Two KIDS run by.

18 KIDS 18
<PLAYING WALLA!>

19 MAYOR PEEVE 19
(to kids)
NO RUNNING!
(beat)
Ryan, handle that.

20 RYAN 20
You got it, Mayor.

Ryan RUNS off.

21 MAYOR PEEVE 21
(to Ryan)
I said NO RUNNING!

Peeve walks off. Parker spots LILY in the pool wearing a mini
SUBMARINE MECH SUIT.

22 LILY 22
Hi, Parker.

23 Lily! PARKER 23

24 LILY 24
We're about to start a game of
"Sharks and Minnows."

Two RED RIDGE ROCK KIDS with Boston accents splash fight.

25 ROCK KID 1 **25**

I'M THE SHAWK!

[illegible]

27 LILY 27
 (to MMP crew)
Want to play?

28 PARKER 28
You know it! Come on, Angus!

29 ANGUS 29
You know what, I just realized I forgot my swimsuit. Angus, you big doof. Guess I won't be swimmin' today. Sorry, buddy.

Parker looks all sorts of sad until... MS. PAM wanders by, selling TOAST.

30 MS. PAM 30
Ice toast for sale, come and get
it! And don't forget to check out
our new Middlemost Toast Swim
Trunks!

Ms. Pam holds up a pair of toast patterned SWIM TRUNKS.

31 MS. PAM (CONT'D) 31
Now in double XL!

Parker's face lights up.

32 PARKER 32
(re: Ms. Pam)
Look, Angus! Now you can swim with
us!

Crap. Angus tries to save this, feels around in his pockets.

33 ANGUS 33
Ah, crumbs. I forgot my wallet.
Guess I won't be able to buy--

The swim trucks <SMACK> Angus in the face.

34 MS. PAM 34
I know you're good for it, Angus.

35 PARKER 35
Woo-hoo! Come on pool bud, let's
get wet!

Parker goes to jump into the water when...

36 ANGUS 36
Wait... Uh, I-I ate a pretty beefy
hot dog right before we left. You
know what they say about swimming
on a full hot dog. Don't. You two
start without me.

37 PARKER 37
Okay, but I can't promise you won't
be a minnow. <BIG INHALE!>

Parker dives in the pool with Russell.

38 POOL GOERS 38
<POOL PLAYING WALLA!>

Angus looks around and notices EVERYONE seems to be in the pool. Everyone except GORDY, posted up away from the water's edge.

AT GORDY - CONT.

Angus saddles up next to Gordy.

39 ANGUS 39
Ehh. Phew! I guess it's just you
and me sitting this one out, eh?

LIL GORDY waddles up and leads Gordy away by the hand.

40 LIL GORDY 40
Uncle Gordy, come swim with me.

41 GORDY 41
Okay.

Angus slumps.

42 ANGUS 42
<SIGHS>

He's relieved again when he sees...

43 ANGUS (CONT'D) 43
Oh, hey Terry--

44 TERRY 44
Big Terry coming through!

Terry stomps by wearing water wings and belly flops in the pool. <SPLASH!>

IN THE POOL - CONT.

Everyone's playing and splashing around in the pool.

45 POOL GOERS 45
<POOL PLAYING WALLA!>

Right then, the two running Kids from earlier RUN right past Angus, almost knocking him into the pool. Ryan chases them.

46 KIDS 46
<GIGGLING!>

47 ANGUS 47
<TRYING NOT TO FALL EFFORTS!> Phew.

48 RYAN 48
Uh, no running, please!

Ryan BUMPS into Angus, knocking the big guy into the pool!

49 ANGUS 49
WOOO-AHHHH!

Dude SINKS like a rock. No flailing or splashing. He just sits on the bottom of the pool like Hoffman in the GRADUATE.

EXT. SOMEWHERE SWIMMING POOL - LATER

Angus slowly opens his eyes and sees Russell and Parker hovering over him.

50 PARKER 50
Quick, girl! Blow your air into his mouth!

Russell puckers up with slobbery lips when--

51 ANGUS 51
<DISGUSTED GRUNT!> I'M OKAY! I'm okay!

Angus sits up, then realizes everyone has crowded around.

52 PARKER 52
Angus, do you know how to swim?

53 ANGUS 53
Heh, me? Swim? Pfft, totally. Like a fish.

54 MAYOR PEEVE 54
HA! A dead fish.

Peeve pushes his way through the crowd to get to Angus.

55 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 55
This is a swimming pool,
Shackleton. Not a *sinking* pool. HA!
I'm afraid I'm gonna have to ask
you to leave.

56 ANGUS 56
I was about to leave anyway. This
pool has too much water in it. Come
on, Parker.

Embarrassed, Angus snatches his soggy beanie and passes
through the crowd.

SWIM TRUNK WIPE:

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LIVING ROOM - CONT.

Angus sits in front of the fire, bummed.

57 ANGUS 57
<EXASPERATED SIGH>

58 PARKER 58
Anything you wanna tell me, Angus?
Something you haven't told anyone,
but probably should due to recent
embarrassing events?

59 ANGUS 59
Parker, you might not believe this,
but your buddy is... is... an
ANCHOR! A big fat anchor.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - OCEAN - (FLASHBACK)

We flashback to PAPA SHACKLETON with YOUNG ANGUS.

60 ANGUS (V.O.) 60
When I was a boy, my father, the
great Angus Shackleton Jr., pulled
me aside and said...
(as dad)
"Son, when it comes to swimming,
you're either a swimmer or a
sinker."

Papa Shackleton tosses a buoy into the ocean.

61 ANGUS (V.O.) 61
Or as us Shackletons call it,
you're either a buoy...

Papa Shackleton tosses an anchor into the ocean, sinking the buoy.

62	ANGUS (V.O.)	62
	...or an anchor.	

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - (FLASHBACK)

Young Angus stands on the plank. Gives a thumbs up to Papa.

63 ANGUS (V.O.) 63
Every part of my being told me I
was gonna be a buoy.

Young Angus jumps into the ocean. Sinks like a bag of bricks.

64 ANGUS (V.O.) 64
Sadly, I was not.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - PRESENT DAY

Angus stares longingly into the fire.

65 ANGUS 65
Eh, the kid's called me Anchor
Shackleton from that day on. And
for good reason.

66 PARKER 66

You don't have to be an anchor.
Look at me, I was born a raincloud,
but I changed! I can teach you how
to swim.

Angus gets up.

67 ANGUS 67
Kiddo, some things you just can't
change.

Angus lifts up his shirt, displaying a TATTOO on his belly that reads "Sinker 4 Life."

68 ANGUS (CONT'D) 68
I'm a sinker fo' life. All day. And
day. Peace.

Angus throws up the deuces and sadly walks off.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

People are going about their business as usual.

69 PARKER 69
I'm glad you're feeling better
today, Angus.

70 ANGUS 70
Oh, there's no reason not to be.
It's a beautiful day!

The MMP crew deliver mail, sticking envelopes directly onto cacti.

71 PARKER 71
Haha. Ow. Hahahaha. Ow. Haha. Ow.

They pass BRAD talking with RONDA.

72 BRAD 72
They say you're supposed to drink
eight glasses of water a day. I
wanna drink water, I don't wanna
drown in it.

Angus overhears and gets annoyed.

73 ANGUS 73
Huh? You hear that, Parker? Those
two were poking fun at me for not
being able to swim.

74 PARKER 74
I don't think so, Angus. I think
Brad was talking about proper
hydration, that's all.

75 ANGUS 75
(skeptical)
Hmmm.

EXT. BLUBERG - DAY

The MMP crew deliver mail. They pass TODD and TINA commenting on a giant FOUNTAIN outside their home.

76 TINA 76
There's too much water in this
fountain, Todd. What if a helpless
little baby fell in?

Angus overhears.

77 ANGUS 77
They were talking about me, Parker.
I know they were.

78 PARKER 78
Nooo, they were talking about their
ugly fountain that Russell has
never peed in, not once.

Parker looks to Russell and winks.

EXT. GREENWOOD - DAY

The MMP crew deliver mail. They pass STEWART talking to GARY.

79 STEWART 79
I used to play baseball. I was the
pitcher, man. My best pitch? The
sinker.

Angus overhears. Shoots a look to Parker who just shakes his head to let it go.

80 ANGUS 80
(skeptical)
Hmmm.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - DAY

The MMP crew deliver the mail. Mayor Peeve passes by.

81 MAYOR PEEVE 81
Well, well. If it isn't the
Middlemost Post out delivering the
post.

82	ANGUS	82
	Mayor.	

83 MAYOR PEEVE 83
Look out, Angus! There's a puddle
dead ahead. I wouldn't want you to
sink in it. <STIFLED LAUGHTER!>

The Mayor points to a puddle on the street.

84 RYAN 84
Classic, sir!

Angus looks to Parker.

85 PARKER 85
Okay, that one was probably about
you.

Angus steams. Fed up.

86 ANGUS 86
 <GROWLS!> That's it! I'm tired of
 being made fun of. Parker, I want
 you to teach me how to swim.

87 PARKER 87
<GASPS!> Really!??

88 ANGUS 88
You betcha. You can't change if you
don't try.

Angus carefully steps over the puddle, almost falling into it.

89 ANGUS (CONT'D) 89
 <NERVOUS EFFORTS!><CLEARS THROAT!>

Parker and Russell watch the sad display.

90 PARKER 90
 <SIGHS> Russell, we've got a lot of
 work to do.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LIVING ROOM - LATER

A nervous Angus looks down into a giant GLASS BOWL.

91 PARKER 91
 First thing's first. To be a
 swimmer, you have to be comfortable
 putting your face in the water.

Parker <POOFS> into WATER and fills the bowl.

92 PARKER (CONT'D) 92
 Go on. Stick your face in me.

Angus looks around. Is this really happening? Russell gestures for Angus to go for it. Angus does, placing his face into the bowl of water.

93 ANGUS 93
 <BIG INHALE!>

All goes to BLACK...

MOMENTS LATER

Angus wakes up!

94 ANGUS (CONT'D) 94
 <SPITTING UP WATER!> Wait, what
 happened!? Oh, man. Did I sink in a
 bowl of water??

95 PARKER 95
 Uhhh... kinda.

Determined, Angus grabs the bowl.

96 ANGUS 96
 Let's do it again!

Parker turns into water, fills the bowl. Angus goes back in.

97 ANGUS (CONT'D) 97
 <BIG INHALE!>

All goes to BLACK...

MOMENTS LATER

98 ANGUS (CONT'D) 98
 <SPITTING UP WATER!><PANTING!>
 Okay, this time for su--

All goes to BLACK...

MOMENTS LATER

99 ANGUS (CONT'D) 99
 <SPITTING UP
 WATER!><COUGHING/PANTING!>

Russell holds out a flipper to stop him.

100 ANGUS (CONT'D) 100
No, I have to do this, girl.

Russell <WHIMPERS>.

101 PARKER 101
You got this, big guy!

Angus slowly lowers his face into the bowl.

102	ANGUS <ANTICIPATION GRUNTS!>	102
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103	PARKER	103
	Come on... Almooossst...	

Angus' face barely touches the water. He quickly pulls his head out.

104 ANGUS **104**

I DID IT. <PANTS!> How was tha--

All goes to BLACK...

MOMENTS LATER

105 ANGUS (CONT'D) 105
 <SPITTING UP
 WATER!><COUGHING/PANTING!>

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BATHROOM - DAY

Angus stands in his bathing suit in the bathtub while Parker stands on one of Angus' water wings.

106 PARKER 106
Swimming is really all about using
your legs. The faster you kick, the
faster you go!

107 ANGUS 107
Parker, I may be an anchor, but I'm
pretty confident I can kick water.

INT. S.S STEADFAST - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Angus, in the bath, holds onto one side with his arms. He
kicks furiously. But looks like a toddler doing it.

108 ANGUS 108
<KICK EFFORTS!> How am I doing,
Parker? <MORE KICK EFFORTS!>

Parker looks at Angus' legs. They're skinny, wet noodles and
completely useless.

109 PARKER 109
Mmmmm...

Parker reaches down into the water and TWISTS the legs like
rubber bands.

110 PARKER (CONT'D) 110
There!

When let go, the legs rapidly unwind like a propeller!

111 PARKER (CONT'D) 111
<WATERLOGGED EFFORTS!>

112 ANGUS 112
I'm doing it!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

113 ANGUS (O.S.) 113
I'm really doing it!

The force <BLASTS> Angus right out of the ship.

114 ANGUS (CONT'D) 114
Ahhhhhhhhh!!!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - DAY

Angus does a solid breast stroke looking like Michael Phelps.
Parker yells into a megaphone.

115 PARKER 115
Looking great, big guy!

13.

116 ANGUS 116
 <SWIMMING STROKES!> Feeling great,
 kiddo! <MORE SWIMMING STROKES!>

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Angus swims in a plastic KIDDIE POOL. He's strapped in a HARNESS connected to the SHIP'S CRANE.

117 PARKER 117
You ready to be the buoy you were
born to be?

Parker zips up to the cockpit of the crane.

118 PARKER (CONT'D) 118
Then a buoy you shall be!

119	Okay!	ANGUS	119
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Parker releases the hook on the harness. Angus immediately sinks.

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120                                ANGUS (CONT'D)                                120
                                <DROWNING GLUGS!>

```

121	PARKER	121
	Angus!?! ANGUS!!!!	

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LIVING QUARTERS - NIGHT

A distraught Angus in front of the fire. Parker wrapped around his shoulders like a trauma blanket.

122 PARKER 122

Aww, don't get down, Angus. You
can't expect to learn how to swim
overnight.

123 ANGUS 123
We've been at this for three
months, Parker!

Parker looks to a CALENDAR on the wall with lots of "X" marks.

124 PARKER (O.S.) 124

Wow.

Angus looks exhausted.

125 PARKER (CONT'D) 125
<SIGHS> Still, can't quit now.

126 ANGUS **126**

Sure I can. I quit. <GRUNTS>

(then)

(MORE)

ANGUS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I let you down, little nimbus.

127

PARKER

127

You didn't let me down.

128

ANGUS

128

I did too. You're gonna be that kid at the pool whose best bud is a total sinker.

129

PARKER

129

Who cares? We're all something, Angus. I'm a floater, you're a sinker, and Russell pees in fountains and pools.

Parker hugs Angus' face.

130

PARKER (CONT'D)

130

I love you all the same.

Angus musters a smile, feeling a little better. There's a KNOCK at the door. Parker races to the door and opens it. It's Lily holding a bunch of fun POOL TOYS in each of her hands.

131

LILY

131

Hey, Parker. I'm going to the "Mayor Peeve Aquatics Center You're Welcome People." Wanna come along?

132

PARKER

132

<EXCITED INHALE!>

Boy does he. But thinks twice. Turns to Angus.

133

ANGUS

133

Eh, go ahead. You two have fun. I have, uh, things to do around the ship.

134

PARKER

134

Really?

135

ANGUS

135

Yeah, I'll be fine. I can take care of myself.

136

PARKER

136

Okay, Lily. Let's go.

Parker and Russell race off with Lily. Angus watches them from the doorway with a heavy heart.

137

ANGUS

137

<SAD SIGH> I'm a sinker fo' life.

147 MAYOR PEEVE 147
Oh, forget it. Go ahead, jump in
the pool. Do your thing. Because I
know one MAILMAN who won't be
jumping in any pool anytime soon.
He-heh.

148 GORDY 148
Hey, it's Angus!

149 MAYOR PEEVE 149
What?!

All eyes turn to the entrance. Sure enough, there's Angus.
Swim trunks and swim cap on. Nose plugs. Towel over shoulder.

150 POOL GOERS 150
<SHOCKED WALLA!> / "I was worried
about that man!" / "I can't believe
he's come back!" / "No way!" / "Do
what?" / "I don't know. He looks
like he has an intention." / "Uh
oh."

Angus walks confidently to the pools edge as the crowd parts.
Peeve steps in front of him.

151 PARKER 151
Angus!

152 MAYOR PEEVE 152
I told you, Shackleton, the pool is
for swimmers, not sink--

Angus SHOVES his towel right in Peeve's mouth and keeps
walking, reaching the pool. You can hear a pin drop as the
big guy walks onto the diving board.

It looks as if Angus is about to dive in until--

153 ANGUS 153
Nope. Not gonna do it this way.
Nope. Not gonna take a dive. Nope.
Gonna take it to the ladder.

He chickens out and heads toward the ladder instead.

154 ANGUS (CONT'D) 154
I'm just gonna... <NERVOUS
MUTTERING!>

Just as he's about to step in, he trips into the pool!

155 ANGUS (CONT'D) 155
<TRIPPING YELP!>

156 PARKER 156
Nooo!!!!

157 ANGUS (O.S.) 157
Parker!

Angus flails, kicks, slaps, and spins around in the water like a frantic dog. He couldn't be happier.

158 ANGUS (CONT'D) 158
<LAUGHS!> Look! Heh, I'm not
sinking. <SMALL PANTS!> I'm not
sinking! <MORE SMALL PANTS!>

Parker zips over to Angus, proud of his buddy.

159 PARKER 159
Angus!!! You're doing it!

160 MAYOR PEEVE 160
Ha!! Look, everyone. He looks like
a fool! Hahaha!!

The crowd turns on Peeve.

161 POOL GOERS 161
<DISAPPOINTED WALLA!> / "Hey,
that's not cool, man." / "Pretty
mean, man." / "Lay off, jerk." /
"Yeah, man. I don't like that." /
"He's not being a jerk."

162 ANGUS 162
<GASPS!> I'm a buoy, Parker! <SMALL
PANTS!> I'm a buoy.

Ryan, standing next to Peeve, wipes a tear from his eye.

163 RYAN 163
Oh! What an inspiration.

164 MAYOR PEEVE 164
Ugh. Give me a break--

Peeve is pushed into the pool by the two running Kids!

165 KIDS 165
<GIGGLING!>

166 MAYOR PEEVE 166
Whoa-whoa-whooooaaAHHH!

167 RYAN 167
Sir!

Peeve flails about in the pool.

168

MAYOR PEEVE

168

Whoa whoa whoa! Quick, Ryan! I-I
can't swim! Give me your hand!

169

RYAN

169

Uhhh... uhhhh... I'll get help!

Ryan runs off to get help.

170

MAYOR PEEVE

170

NO RUNNING!!!
(beat)
Ugh, idiot.

Peeve's expression sours. He lets himself sink.

THE END.