

MIDDLEMOST POST

#048 - "Hawk Man"

Written By

Kelsy Abbott and Dave H. Johnson

WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 04/16/21
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 04/26/21
STORY EDITOR DRAFT - 05/28/21
FIRST DRAFT - 07/13/21
BOARD DRAFT - 07/16/21
REC DRAFT - 09/09/21
REC DRAFT UPDATED - 10/13/21
SHIPPING DRAFT - 12/07/21

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

MS. PAM unveils a new sign on the restaurant: "SUMMER TOAST! ONE DAY ONLY!" PATRONS excitedly gather outside.

1 PATRON WALLA 1
<EXCITED MURMURING>

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DAY

PARKER and RUSSELL look down the mountain towards town.

2 PARKER 2
Today's the day, Russell. The day
Ms. Pam puts her Seasonal Summer
Toast on the menu.
(Russell nods/slobbers)
We both know it'll be delicious.
And we both know it'll sell out
super fast.
(calmly)
<INHALES> So here's what I'm
thinkin'--

CUT TO:

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - DAY

Parker rides Russell down the mountain like a SLED. They're jamming!

3 PARKER 3
WEEEEEEEE! Summer Toast, here we
come!
(beat)
Think we should have waited for
Angus?

Parker suddenly sees something O.S. and panics!

4 PARKER (CONT'D) 4
Look out, Russell!

A strange HOODED FIGURE (HAWK MAN) kneels directly in their path.

5 PARKER (CONT'D) 5
Ahhhhhh! <NERVOUS SLEDDING EFFORTS>

Russell veers, narrowly missing the Figure.

6 PARKER (CONT'D) 6
Phew! We almost cra--oof!

<CRASH>! Russell and Parker smash into a tree. Parker pops up and looks back to the Figure, who disappears into a CAVE.

7 PARKER (CONT'D) 7
Have you ever seen that person before?

Russell shakes her head no.

8 PARKER (CONT'D) 8
Me either. Hmm, what to do.

Parker <POOFS> into TWO HANDS that literally weigh cloud representations of his options.

9 PARKER (CONT'D) 9
On one hand, we have scrumptious Summer Toast that will be gone if we don't hurry. On the other hand, a new friend yet to be welcomed to Mt. Middlemost.

Russell lunges for the cloudy toast option and tries to eat it, but it's only cloud.

10 PARKER (CONT'D) 10
I know, girl. But as employees of the Middlemost Post, we have an obligation to welcome one and all.

Parker strikes a heroic pose.

INT/EXT. CAVE - DAY

Parker and Russell enter the cave.

11 PARKER 11
Hello, Mr. Person-I-Haven't-Met-Yet. It's the Middlemost Post!

Hawk Man can barely be seen in the darkness.

12 HAWK MAN 12
What do you want?

13 PARKER 13
Uh, to introduce ourselves. I don't believe we've met. I'm Parker J. Cloud, and this is Russell. And you are...?

Hawk Man emerges into the light and flips back his hood slowly, like he's "unboxing" himself.

14 HAWK MAN 14
I think you know who I am.

It's clear Parker does not recognize this dude at all.

15 PARKER 15
Uh. No?

16 HAWK MAN 16
Really?? Hold on, this cave has
horrible lighting.
(epically backflips into
spotlight)
Okay, what about now?

Parker just looks confused.

17 PARKER 17
Hmmm.

18 HAWK MAN 18
I'm Hawk Man!
(nothing from Parker)
The gnarliest daredevil Mt.
Middlemost has ever seen!?

19 PARKER 19
Huh. Not ringing a bell. Russell?

Russell shakes her head. Hawk Man pulls out a box of CEREAL called "Hawk-O's" with him on the cover.

20 HAWK MAN 20
(re: cereal)
Look, that's me! Right there.

21 PARKER 21
You make cereal? Cool! <TAKES A
BITE/CHEWS> Hmm... kinda stale.

22 HAWK MAN 22
No! They put me on the box because
of what I did.

23 PARKER 23
Annnnd you did... ?

24 HAWK MAN 24
Daredevil stuff! <SIGHS> Check it,
that's me, doing awesome, death
defying stunts.

Hawk Man points to crude CAVE PAINTINGS on the wall that depict the "Story of Hawk Man." They come to life as he narrates his tale.

25 HAWK MAN (V.O.) 25
I once jumped over Old Stinkhole on
a skateboard. Blindfolded. Facing
backwards!

The cave painting shows just that.

26 HAWK MAN 26
<OLLIE EFFORT>

27 HAWK MAN (V.O.) 27
I tightroped across the Forbidden
Forest of Doom and Imminent Death.
On a full stomach! In high heels!

The cave painting shows just that.

28 HAWK MAN 28
<TREMBLING TIGHTROPE EFFORTS>

29 HAWK MAN (V.O.) 29
I surfed down Nedsuvious on a wave
of lava! Which no one should ever
do, because it's stupid dangerous,
but I DID!

The cave painting shows just that.

30 HAWK MAN 30
<LAVA SURFING EFFORTS>

31 PARKER 31
That IS awesome!

32 HAWK MAN 32
Now you're getting it!

33 PARKER 33

Wooooow.

(beat)

Wait. Why are you living in a cave
all by yourself? I mean, I'm
assuming you're alone because I
just got a whiff of butt. <GAGS!>

Hawk Man turns solemn. The mood shifts dark again.

34 PARKER (CONT'D) 34
(whispers to Russell)
What I say, Russell?

35 HAWK MAN 35
That funk you smell... That funk...
is failure.

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - FLASHBACK

Way up on the mountain, we find Hawk Man strapped into SKIS.
He looks down at the City Of Somewhere far below.

36 HAWK MAN (V.O.) 36
It was just another day and another
dangerous stunt by yours truly. The
plan was to ski down Mt. Middlemost
and jump over the entire City of
Somewhere.

37 PARKER (V.O.) 37
Get out!

38 HAWK MAN (V.O.) 38
It was going to be epic.

Hawk Man skis down the mountain... upside down with one ski
strapped to his helmet. His face stretches from the G-force.

39 HAWK MAN (V.O.) 39
The Hawk Man was ready to soar that
day.

40 HAWK MAN 40
<GRITS TEETH!>

Hawk Man hits a sloped rock and launches into the air. It's
majestic! Look at him soar!

41 HAWK MAN (V.O.) 41
It was glorious!

INT. CAVE - PRESENT

Parker is enthralled by the tale, hugging Russell tight.

42 PARKER 42
A-and did you make it? Wh-what
happened!?

Hawk Man dramatically turns to Parker.

43 HAWK MAN 43
I biffed it. Hard.

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - FLASHBACK

44 HAWK MAN 44
Ahhhhhh!!!

Hawk Man crashes face first into the giant TOAST sign on the Middlemost Toast. <SMACK>! RONDA and GARY look up.

45 RONDA 45
Looks like Ms. Pam got a new sign.

46 GARY 46
(throws imaginary
basketball)
Gary!

INT. CAVE - PRESENT

Hawk Man does his best to hold back tears.

47 HAWK MAN 47
It was a total dome slammer. I
limped to the darkest cave I could
find and dropped out of society,
never to be seen again.

48 PARKER 48
Wait. You stopped doing your
awesome stunts just because you
failed?

49 HAWK MAN 49
Of course! I never failed in my
entire life. It's the worst!

50 PARKER 50
Angus always says...
(changes to Angus head)
*"You can't succeed until you learn
how to accept failure, kiddo."*

51 HAWK MAN 51
Who's Angus?

52 PARKER 52
Only the smartest man I know. He's
also failed a lot. Like so many
times. I have too!

53 HAWK MAN 53
(incredulous)
More than once?

54 PARKER 54
Totally! Everybody does. I know it
looks like I have everything
together...
(falls to pieces)
But I don't. I make goofs all the
time. I don't let it stop me
though. Heh.

Parker puts himself back together.

55 PARKER (CONT'D) 55
Sounds to me like you need to fail
a lot more so you can accept it.
Then you can try your big jump
again. You know, the one you biffed
it super hard on.

56 HAWK MAN 56
You really think failing more will
help me succeed?

57 PARKER 57
Ah, you know what they say, "If at
first you don't succeed, fail and
fail again."

58 HAWK MAN 58
I don't think that's how it goes.
But I'm in! Goodbye, funky stank!

59 PARKER 59
Woo-hoo!
(then)
Seriously though, it smells kinda
bad in here, bro.

Hawk Man <SNIFFS> his pit as Parker and Russell make for the
exit.

60 HAWK MAN 60
<SNIFFS><WRETCHES!>

61 PARKER (O.S.) 61
Ah, I'm gonna getcha a candle.
I'mma getcha a nice, nice candle.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Parker, Russell, and Hawk Man sit just outside the cave.

62 PARKER 62
Okay, Hawk Man. You ready for your
first epic fail?

63 HAWK MAN 63
Bring it on, Parker J.

Parker points to a natural ice spring on the mountain.

64 PARKER (O.S.) 64
Jump into that freezing cold water
and hold your breath.

65 HAWK MAN 65
For how long?

66 PARKER 66
FOR-EVER.

67 HAWK MAN 67
That's impossible.

68 PARKER 68
Exactly. Your failing starts now!
Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!

69 HAWK MAN 69
<FRANTIC RUNNING EFFORTS!>

Panicked, Hawk Man jumps in the water and disappears.

70 PARKER 70
(to Russell)
How long you think he can hold his--

Hawk Man bursts out of the water, <SCREAMING>.

71 HAWK MAN 71
AHHHHH! Cold! Cold! Cold! Cold!
Can't feel my legs, can't feel my
legs!

Hawk Man turns into a giant ICE CUBE.

72 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 72
<FROZEN SCREAM!>

73 PARKER 73
You did it! You failed!

Russell effortlessly holds her breath under the ice spring.

74 PARKER (CONT'D) 74
Russell, quit showing off.

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - ROCK WALL - DAY

Parker, Russell, and a wet and shivering Hawk Man gaze up at something.

75 HAWK MAN 75
I'm supposed to climb that?

76		PARKER	76
	Yup.		

REVEAL a terrifyingly tall ROCK WALL. Parker smacks Hawk Man on the rump and backs away.

77 PARKER (CONT'D) 77
Good luck! Hope you fail.

Hawk Man starts to scale the rock wall.

78 HAWK MAN 78
<ROCK CLIMBING EFFORTS>

After a beat...

79 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 79
<FALLING YELL!>

<THUD>! Hawk Man falls from the sky, slamming to the ground.

80	Ow.	HAWK MAN (CONT'D)	80
----	-----	-------------------	----

81 PARKER 81

Wow! That was a total fail. You're crushing this!

A loose BOULDER <CRASHES> on top of Hawk Man.

82 PARKER (CONT'D) 82
Ooh, so did that rock!

EXT. CLIFFSIDE - DAY

Parker, Russell, and a bruised and battered Hawk Man stand on a perilous LEDGE.

83 PARKER 83

Quick question. You call yourself
"Hawk Man." You're not part bird,
are you? Because birds are the
worst.

84 HAWK MAN 84
Of course not.

85 PARKER 85
Okay, great.

Parker suddenly punts Hawk Man off the cliff!

86 PARKER (CONT'D) 86
(yelling down to Hawk Man)
TRY TO FLY!

87 HAWK MAN 87
<LONG CONTINUOUS FALLING SCREAM!>

88 PARKER 88
(to Russell)
Look, girl. He's waving his arms
pretty fast. Maybe he can fly?
Wait, did he lie to me? Is he part
bird?
(looks down again)
Oh. Nope. That's not flying. That's
falling. Okay, well, he didn't lie
to me. That's good. Would hate to
think Hawk Man is a liar.
(looks down)
Wow, we are super high up. He's
been falling for like, a really
long time.
(long pause)
Shoulda brought snacks.
(Russell nods, long pause)
Read any good books lately?
(Russell shakes head)
Me either.
(long pause)
Not gonna lie, this is kinda
boring.

We hear a loud <THUD> below.

89 HAWK MAN (O.S.) 89
<INJURED GROAN>

Parker reacts as if it's the worst thing he's ever seen. Like
super gross/graphic.

90 PARKER 90
Ooooooooooh!
(can't look/yells down)
EPIC FAIL, DUDE! WAY TO GO!

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - FAILING MONTAGE!

- Hawk Man tries to pick up a GIANT BOULDER. It won't budge.

91 HAWK MAN 91
<AGGRESSIVE STRAINING EFFORTS>

- Hawk Man tries to eat JELLO PARKER with CHOPSTICKS. He lifts him up...

92 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 92
<EXCITED CHUCKLE!>

Only to immediately drop him back onto the plate.

93 PARKER (V.O.) 93
FAIL!

- Hawk Man tries to swing across a dangerous RAVINE, but he gets stuck mid-swing.

94 PARKER (V.O.) 94
FAIL!

Hawk Man loses his grip, sliding off the rope and into the treacherous ravine.

95 HAWK MAN 95
<FALLING SCREAM!>

96 PARKER (V.O.) 96
FAIL!

- Parker is a CARNIVAL TENT with GOLD FISH BOWLS/A PING PONG BALL game. Hawk Man tries to toss balls into the bowl but misses completely.

97 HAWK MAN 97
<GROANS>

98 PARKER (V.O.) 98
FAIL!

- Hawk Man is still trying to lift that extremely heavy boulder. Parker and Russell wait...

99 HAWK MAN 99
<AGGRESSIVE STRAINING EFFORTS>

- Hawk Man and Russell play ROCK PAPER SCISSORS. Russell beats Hawk Man with rock.

100 PARKER (V.O.) 100
FAIL!

- Hawk Man shoots a BASKETBALL. Misses the hoop.

101 PARKER (V.O.) 101
FAIL!

- Hawk Man <CHOMPS> down on a HOT DOG. The wiener shoots out of the bun like a rocket.

102 PARKER (V.O.) 102
FAIL!

- Hawk Man still hasn't been able to lift that boulder.

103 HAWK MAN 103
<AGGRESSIVE STRAINING EFFORTS>

- Hawk Man PUTTS mere inches from the hole. He *cannot* miss. Yet the golf ball somehow jumps over the hole.

104 PARKER (V.O.) 104
FAIL!

- Hawk Man plays a CRANE GAME. The claw grabs hold of a plushie but immediately drops it.

105 PARKER (V.O.) 105
FAIL!

- Hawk Man pulls a TABLECLOTH off of a table Parker and Russell are sitting at. Their COFFEE CUPS remain intact.

106 HAWK MAN 106
<HOPEFUL SOUND>

Until they suddenly <SHATTER> for no clear reason.

107 PARKER (V.O.) 107
FAIL!

- Hawk Man, it seems, will never lift this boulder. Russell looks at her watch.

108 HAWK MAN 108
<AGGRESSIVE STRAINING EFFORTS>

- Hawk Man goes to kick a BOWLING BALL at SOCCER NET Parker. He nearly breaks his foot.

109 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 109
<PAINED SCREAM!>

110 PARKER (V.O.) 110
FAIL!

- Hawk Man <TEARS> off the corner of a paper towel by accident.

111 PARKER (V.O.) 111
FAIL!

- Hawk Man rolls a SKEE-BALL into a losing hole.

112 PARKER (V.O.) 112
FAIL!

- Hawk Man tries to wrestle a BEAR but is quickly taken out.

113 PARKER (V.O.) 113
FAIL!

- Hawk Man and Parker THUMB WRESTLE. Parker wins!

114 PARKER (V.O.) 114
FAIL!

- Hawk Man goes to drink from a STRAW and misses his mouth completely.

115 PARKER (V.O.) 115
FAIL!

- Hawk Man flees from a GIGANTIC BIRD as he rushes off with her EGGS.

116 HAWK MAN 116
<TERRIFIED SCREAM!>

117 PARKER (V.O.) 117
FAIL!

- Hawk Man <SPEWS> literal fire after downing a bottle of HOT SAUCE.

118 PARKER (V.O.) 118
FAIL!

- Hawk Man's head <FREEZES> once he takes off his helmet in OUTER SPACE.

119 PARKER (V.O.) 119
FAIL!

- Hawk Man tries to correctly tap a Kapow Tree, but it <BLOWS> up!

120 PARKER (V.O.) 120
FAIL!

- Hawk Man drops an ICE CREAM CONE on the floor.

121 PARKER (V.O.) 121
FAIL!

- Hawk Man plays TIC-TAC-TOE on a rock wall with Russell.
Russell has him dead to rights.

122 PARKER (V.O.) 122
FAIL!

- Hawk Man holds a SOUFFLE that collapses in on itself.

123 PARKER (V.O.) 123
FAIL!

- Hawk Man hasn't been able to move that boulder this entire
time. Parker and Russell look bored out of their minds.

124 HAWK MAN 124
<AGGRESSIVE STRAINING EFFORTS>

Suddenly, Hawk Man gets a HERNIA!

125 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 125
<PAINED GRUNT!>

126 PARKER (V.O.) 126
HERNIA!

INT. CAVE - DAY

Parker and Russell stand at the cave wall where they've drawn
NEW DRAWINGS depicting Hawk Man failing.

127 PARKER 127
Check it out, Hawk Man. Russell and
I added your total and complete
failures to your wall.
(admires wall)
Boy, a picture really tells a
story, doesn't it?

We zero in on one drawing of Hawk Man being mauled by a LION.
REVEAL Hawk Man in the corner of the cave looking like
absolute shit.

128 HAWK MAN 128
<SCARED WHIMPERING>

129 PARKER 129
That was some terrible work out
there today, buddy.
(MORE)

PARKER (CONT'D)

You couldn't do anything right. I
am so proud of you!

Parker reaches out a hand to help Hawk Man to his feet.

130 PARKER (CONT'D) 130
<DEEP INHALE> I think you're ready.

131 HAWK MAN 131
(touched)
Really?

132 PARKER 132
I've never seen someone fail so
epically bad and so epically hard
as you failed today.

Hawk Man wipes a tear.

133 HAWK MAN 133
You don't know how much that means
to me.

The two hug. Parker feels like a proud parent.

134 HAWK MAN/PARKER 134
<SWEET HUG>

135 PARKER 135
So proud of you.

Russell opens her mouth. On her tongue: Hawk Man's DAREDEVIL
COSTUME.

136 HAWK MAN 136
<GASPS!> Parker, go and tell the
people... The gnarliest daredevil
Mt. Middlemost has ever seen is
back!

137 PARKER 137
<SNIFFLES> You got it, Hawk Man!
We'll go tell everyone!

138 HAWK MAN 138
You only fail, if you don't try.

Parker and Russell race out of the cave as Hawk Man
accidentally runs into a STALACTITE.

139 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 139
Ow.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - DAY

Parker and Russell walk through town.

140 PARKER 140
Wow, Russell. This is gonna be so
awesome. We gotta tell everybody
about Hawk Man and his death
defying jump! You won't want to
miss this, no way.

Russell NODS, excited herself. A thought hits Parker.

141 PARKER (CONT'D) 141
Hmm. Wasn't there something like
totally different we were supposed
to do today?

Russell shrugs.

142 ANGUS (O.S.) 142
Parker!

ANGUS jogs up.

143 ANGUS (CONT'D) 143
<EXHAUSTED PANTING>

144 PARKER 144
Hey, Angus! What's up?

145 ANGUS 145
(super gassed)
One sec. Hold on. I ran. All the
way. Cramp. No, no. I'm good.
(stands up straight)
Nope. Ooh, stood up too quick. Oh,
dizzy spell. Hold on. <DEEP INHALE>
Okay.
(beat)
What's up? The three of us were
supposed to go to the Middlemost
Toast, remember? Ms. Pam's putting
out her Seasonal Summer Toast!

146 PARKER 146
Ohhhhhh, right! That's the
something else we were supposed to
do today, Russell.

147 ANGUS 147
Well you two took off down the
mountain without me.

148 PARKER 148
Sorry, big guy. Our stomachs got
ahead of us. We will never...

We hear Hawk Man's <CRIES> in the background as Parker
valiantly delivers his speech.

149 HAWK MAN (O.S.) 149
CAW CAW!

150 PARKER 150
... forget something that important
ever again.

151 HAWK MAN (O.S.) 151
CAW CAW!

Parker sweetly hugs Angus.

152 PARKER 152
Promise.
(then)
Now let's go get that toast!

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - SAME TIME

Hawk Man straps on his helmet with the one ski on it. Intense
ROCK MUSIC plays as he slides on his goggles and looks down
the very steep mountain.

153 HAWK MAN 153
The Hawk Man soars once again. CAW
CAW!

He plants his head on the snow and pushes off!

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - ESTABLISHING

The MMP giddily scamper into the Middlemost Toast.

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - CONT.

As mellow MMT music plays, the MMP burst through the doors
and excitedly plop down into a nearby booth.

154 ANGUS/PARKER 154
<GIDDY GIGGLING!>

Ms. Pam comes by and plates them. The Seasonal Summer Toast
looks even better than they expected!

155

ANGUS/PARKER (CONT'D)
<GASPS!>

155

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - SAME TIME

Hawk Man <ZOOMS> down the mountain with lightning speed.

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - SAME TIME

Parker slowly slathers syrup on his Seasonal Summer Toast.

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - SAME TIME

Hawk Man's face is blown back by the wind!

156

HAWK MAN
<GRITS TEETH>

156

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - SAME TIME

Angus sprinkles powdered sugar on his Seasonal Summer Toast.

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - SAME TIME

Hawk Man's nearing the bottom, the "rock ramp" dead ahead.

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - SAME TIME

Angus <INHALES> the delectable scent of his Seasonal Summer Toast.

157

ANGUS
<BIG SNIFF><HAPPY SIGH>

157

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - SAME TIME

Hawk Man is blazing down the side of the mountain!

158

HAWK MAN
<SILLY ADRENALINE EFFORT>

158

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - SAME TIME

Parker and Russell take big <WHIFFS> of their Seasonal Summer Toast.

159 PARKER 159
<BIG SNIFF><DROOLS>

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - SAME TIME

Hawk Man braces himself.

160 HAWK MAN 160
<GRITS TEETH HARD!>

He hits the ramp at full speed... and SOARS!

161 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 161
CAAAAAAAAAAAAAW!

He spreads his arms like wings. It's a majestic sight.

162 HAWK MAN (CONT'D) 162
It's happening! I'm doing it!

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - CONT.

The MMP crew finally take their first bites.

163 ANGUS/PARKER 163
<BIG BITE> Mmmmm. Mmmmm. Mmmmm.
Mmmmm.

<CRASH>! A loud <BOOM> shakes the entire restaurant.

164 PARKER (V.O.) 164
FAIL!

165 ANGUS 165
(mouth full)
What in the world was that?

166 PARKER 166
(mouth full, shrugs)
No idea.

The three keep <EATING>.

167 ANGUS/PARKER 167
Mmmmm. Mmmmm.

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - ROOF - CONT.

We find Hawk Man, plastered face first into the giant TOAST SIGN. A moment later, the sign <CRASHES> into the ground.

168

HAWK MAN
<PAINED GROAN> I failed...

168

His dazed and disappointed face slowly turns into a smile of victory.

169

HAWK MAN (CONT'D)
Success.

169

One of his teeth falls out.

THE END.