

MIDDLEMOST POST

#052 - "Mayor Ariel" - Part 1

Written by

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EXT. MAYOR'S MANSION - DAY

MAYOR PEEVE stands at his podium, addressing an UNSEEN CROWD.

1	MAYOR PEEVE	1
	Citizens of Mt. Middlemost, I'd like to officially announce my re- election campaign as your beloved mayor!	

We hear the crowd go BONKERS. Peeve smugly waves his hands around, trying to get folks to quiet down (but not really).

2	MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)	2
	Oh, stop. Please. <CHUCKLES> You're too kind.	

Suddenly, the crowd noise comes to a jarring halt, and we hear the sound of a cassette tape going haywire.

3	MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)	3
	Ryan!	

REVEAL that there is actually NO CROWD. Just RYAN, holding a TAPE DECK that spits out loose tape.

4	RYAN	4
	Uh, sorry, sir! I'll fix it!	

5	MAYOR PEEVE	5
	No bother. This election is in the bag. I've been mayor for this mountain for <MUTTERS> years.	

Just then, Ryan's eyes widen. He sees a FLYING ZEPPELIN behind Peeve headed straight for them.

6	RYAN	6
	Uhm... sir?	

7	MAYOR PEEVE	7
	Not <u>one</u> person has ever challenged me, Ryan.	

8	RYAN	8
	(re: zeppelin) Mayor!	

9	MAYOR PEEVE	9
	They don't have the guts!	

<CRASH>! The zeppelin crash lands right into the mansion.

10	RYAN	10
	<GASPS!>	

11 MAYOR PEEVE 11
AHHH!

After the dust settles, the aircraft's door cracks open. Out comes... ARIEL!

12 ARIEL 12
<KICK EFFORT>

Unfazed and effortlessly cool as ever. She takes in her surroundings before <BLOWING> out the flame on her arm.

13 ARIEL (CONT'D) 13
Mt. Middlemost. Alright. Cool.
<BLOWS FLAME OUT>

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - ESTABLISHING

14 PARKER (O.S.) 14
Rrrrrr!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - DAY

PARKER and RUSSELL play sword-fighting PIRATES.

15 PARKER 15
You swindled me out of me
doubloons! That's the last time
you'll pull the blubber over me
eyes! En garde, you foul beast!

16 ARIEL (O.S.) 16
Not so fast, Pirate J. Cloudbeard!

Ariel backflips onto the deck from the crow's nest.

17 ARIEL (CONT'D) 17
'Twas I who stole your doubloons!

18 PARKER 18
<GASPS!> Ariel! You're back!!

Parker and Russell drop everything and hug their friend.

19 ARIEL 19
Told ya the wind would someday
bring me back here, heh. Well, that
and a category five hurricane.
(nudges Parker)
Clouds, am I right?

20 PARKER 20
We be like that sometimes.

The two fist bump, then Parker opens the door, yells inside.

21 PARKER (CONT'D) 21
Angus, Angus! Ariel's here!

22 ANGUS (O.S.) 22
WHAT!?

ANGUS throws open the door, <SMACKING> Parker in the face.

23 ANGUS (CONT'D) 23
Where'd she crash!?

The door closes, revealing Parker's face filled with WOODEN
SPLINTERS.

24 PARKER 24
<GIGGLES!>

Angus storms onto the deck, brushing right past Ariel. His
eyes dart around, searching for her zeppelin.

25 ANGUS 25
Oh, what's the damage!? Is my girl
okay? <KISSES DECK>

26 ARIEL (O.S.) 26
I'm fine, sailor.

Angus snaps out of it, seeing Ariel for the first time and
realizing the ship is fine. He feels a little stupid.

27 ANGUS 27
Yeah, I-I-I meant the ship. Heh heh
heh. But, uh, nice to see you too,
Ariel. Uh, where's your giant
flying whoopie cushion?

28 ARIEL 28
I "landed it" on that ugly mansion
down there.

The three look over the side of the ship. They see the
zeppelin smoldering on Peeve's mansion.

29 ANGUS 29
(dismissive)
Oh, okay.

30 PARKER 30
<CHUCKLES> I bet Mayor Peeve was
pretty mad.

31 ARIEL 31
He was a bit salty, Parker J. Even
saltier when I told him I was
running for mayor.

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

Ariel stands on a tabletop, telling a small CROWD a story.
They listen with bated breath, awestruck.

42 ARIEL 42
The mutant capybara has me pinned
to the floor, and <GASPS!> ooooh,
it's dinner time.

43 CROWD WALLA 43
<GASPS!>

44 ARIEL 44
<HAND PUPPET CAPYBARA CHOMPS>

GORDY bites his nails.

45 ARIEL (CONT'D) 45
My whole life flashed in front of
me. I mean, it was pretty dope mind
you, but still, heh. I had to
escape or else...

46 PARKER 46
What did you do??

47 ARIEL 47
The only thing I could do, Parker
J. I kicked that ugly, mutant
capybara right in his equally ugly
capyberries.

48 CROWD WALLA 48
<CHEERING/APPLAUSE!>

49 MAYOR PEEVE (O.S.) 49
Cool story, bro.

All eyes turn to Mayor Peeve and Ryan standing at the door.

50 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 50
I have stories too, you know. It's
no big whoop.

51 ARIEL 51
The table's all yours.

Ariel does a sweet flip off the table and offers it to Peeve.

52 MAYOR PEEVE 52
Oh, right now? Okay, fine. Sure. I
can spin a yarn of danger and
intrigue.

Ryan races to the table and KNEELS down on all fours.

53 RYAN 53
Here, sir. Allow me.

54 MAYOR PEEVE 54
I can do it myself, Ryan! Move.

Peeve tries to climb up on the table. He looks like a toddler trying to escape a crib. It's painfully awkward and seemingly takes forever.

55 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 55
<GRUNTS/GROANS/WHEEZES!>

He finally makes it onto the table and lies flat on his back. Gassed, he tries to catch his breath...

56 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 56
Okay, alright, here it goes. So there I was... all alone, with only one sheet of toilet paper left--

Peeve sits up and realizes the place has been emptied except for Ryan.

57 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 57
Where did everyone go, Ryan?

58 RYAN 58
Uh, they left, sir. You, uh, took a long time to get on the table.

59 MAYOR PEEVE 59
Well maybe if you would've helped me! Forget it. Grab your shovel, Ryan 'cause we need to dig up some dirt on this beatnik balloonist.

60 RYAN 60
You got it, Mayor!

Excited, Ryan runs off. Peeve finds himself having to climb down from the table. It's just as bad as when he climbed up.

61 MAYOR PEEVE 61
<CLIMBING DOWN EFFORTS> Stupid.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - LATER

Parker and Ariel stroll through town.

62 ARIEL 62
I was thinking, Parker J.

63 PARKER 63
Mmhmm.

64 ARIEL 64

If I expect people to vote for me
as mayor, they should probably know
I'm running for mayor.

65 Uh-huh. PARKER 65

66 ARIEL 66

What do you say we shake some hands
and make some introductions?

67 PARKER 67
Sounds awesome.
(sticks out hand)
I'm Parker J. Cloud!

Ariel shakes Parker's hand.

68 ARIEL 68
I kinda meant people I don't know
yet, Parker. But, uh, love the
energy!

[illegible]

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - TERRY'S HOME - DAY

Parker watches as Ariel shakes TERRY'S hand. Terry's suspicious of this stranger in front of him.

70 PARKER 70
Terry, this is Ariel! She's running
for mayor.

71 TERRY 71
Oh, is that so? Good luck with
that.

72 ARIEL 72
Nice mustache, boss.

Terry blushes, instantly won over.

73 TERRY 73
Gee, I-I don't know what to say.
Hear that, Hammy? She likes our
mustache.

HAMMY pops out of Terry's mustache.

74 TERRY (CONT'D) 74
You can count on our vote. Ain't
that right, Hammy?

Hammy holds up a tiny "Vote Mayor Ariel" sign.

EXT. GREENWOOD - DAY

A CROWD of GREENWOODIANS gather around Ariel and Parker.

75	STEWART	75
	(to Ariel)	
	Where do you stand on trail mix,	
	man? <CHOMPS>	

76 ARIEL 76
I'm pro trail mix.

The people like this.

77 CROWD WALLA 77
<AGREEING WALLA>

78 STEWART 78
Alright, man. Finally, a candidate
I can trust.

Stewart and Ariel shake hands.

INT. ORANGEFIELD - BARN - DAY

Parker is a BOOMBOX blasting dope beats as Ariel BREAKDANCES.

79 ARIEL **79**
 <BREAKDANCING SPIN> Wassup?

She spins to a stop as we reveal DANCEBOT (formerly known as PostBot) watching, arms crossed. Did he like it?

After a beat, he dances back and gives a thumbs up out of respect. PARKER DRONE rises up out DanceBot's ass and gives a thumbs up too.

INT. MAYOR'S MANSION - DAY

Mayor Peeve sits, a picture of Ariel splayed out on his desk.
He defaces it with a marker.

80 MAYOR PEEVE 80
<ANGRILY SCRIBBLES> Grrrrr. Stupid
beatnik.

Ryan approaches Mayor Peeve with an ENVELOPE.

81 RYAN 81
I found some dirt on Ariel just
like you asked, sir.

82 MAYOR PEEVE 82
Is it juicy, Ryan? Tell me it's
juicy.

83 RYAN 83
Ohhh, it's so juicy.

REVEAL a PHOTO: Ariel punching a SHARK in the face while
holding KITTENS.

84 RYAN (CONT'D) 84
With a little digging, I found out
that Ariel rescued a box full of
kittens that were about to be eaten
by sharks!

85 MAYOR PEEVE 85
Why are you telling me this, Ryan!?
That only makes her look good!

86 RYAN 86
Unless, she was the one who
abandoned the kittens.

87 MAYOR PEEVE 87
Did she?

88 RYAN 88
No, sir. <SAD GROAN>

89 MAYOR PEEVE 89
Ahhh! What else?

90 RYAN 90
Oh, oh! Get this. She's secretly a
firefighter.

Ryan puts up a PHOTO of Ariel in a FIREFIGHTER uniform saving
kittens again.

91 MAYOR PEEVE 91
That's not dirt, Ryan! That's the
opposite of dirt.

92 RYAN 92
But she's only a volunteer
firefighter, sir. She does it for
no pay.

93 MAYOR PEEVE 93
UGH!

Peeve walks off. Ryan chases after.

94 RYAN 94
Mayor, wait, I have more! In high school, she was voted "Most Likely to Be Mayor of a Mountain!"

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING

95 PARKER (O.S.) 95
Check it out, Angus!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Parker, Ariel, and Russell are sprawled out on the floor, crafting up a storm and making "VOTE 4 ARIEL" merch. Angus passes by.

96 PARKER 96
We're making buttons and posters for Ariel so people know to vote for her!

97 ARIEL 97
Wanna help, sailor?

98 ANGUS 98
I make a point to stay out of political matters, Ariel. It's important for me as a civil servant to stay neutral--

Ariel pulls up a BEANIE she's been knitting with her name stitched on it. Excitement fills Angus.

99 ANGUS (CONT'D) 99
<GASPS!> You're making beanies!??

100 ARIEL 100
Trying to. But it's super hard.

101 ANGUS 101
Pfft. Hard?

Angus pulls KNITTING NEEDLES from out of nowhere.

102 ANGUS (CONT'D) 102
Alright, make room. I'm tagging in.

Angus sits down and takes over the beanie knitting.

103 ANGUS (CONT'D) 103
<GLEEFUL GIGGLE!> For the record, I'm doing this for the sake of the beanie. Angus is still neutral when it comes to politics.

104 ARIEL 104
 Whatever you say, sailor.

Ariel gives Parker a knowing WINK. We PAN UP to a porthole directly behind them and find...

The face of Mayor Peeve pressed against the glass, spying.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Peeve stands atop Ryan's shoulders, looking into the ship.

105 MAYOR PEEVE 105
Ha! They're doing arts and crafts,
Ryan. As if a free T-shirt or a
stupid button would win them votes.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - PARK - DAY

Mayor Peeve and Ryan hand out FREE T-SHIRTS and BUTTONS to passersby. (The merch is pretty shitty.)

106 MAYOR PEEVE 106
Free T-shirts with my face on them!
Who wants one?

No one seems to want one. Peeve HURLS shirts at people whether they like it or not.

107 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 107
<SHOOTS T-SHIRT CANNON>

108	CROWD WALLA	108
	<u><FRIGHTENED WALLA/IMPACTS!></u>	

109 MAYOR PEEVE (O.S.) 109
Take it! It's free!

Ryan pins a Mayor Peeve BUTTON on MRS. SHORT. He accidentally sticks her.

110 MRS. SHORT 110
Ow! Watch it with that!

111 MAYOR PEEVE 111
Ryan! You're losing us votes!

112 RYAN 112
Sorry, sir.

113	PARKER	113
	Woo-hoo! Nice throw, Ariel! Goooo, Ariel!	

Peeve and Ryan spot Ariel nearby, playing FRISBEE with some random citizens. (Parker IS the frisbee.) Everyone is having a good time.

114 ARIEL **114**
 <RUNNING/LEAPING CATCH EFFORTS>

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115                CROWD WALLA                115
                <CHEERING WALLA!>

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116 MAYOR PEEVE 116
What does she think she's doing?

117 RYAN 117
Connecting with the people, sir.
Being "likeable" is important to
voters.

118 MAYOR PEEVE 118
I'm "likeable," Ryan. I can connect
with people.

AT A BASKETBALL COURT - CONT.

Rock Bros ROD and ROB play BASKETBALL against each other.

```

119          ROD
          Bro, stop fouling me, bro!
119

```

120 ROB 120
You stop fouling me, bro!

121 MAYOR PEEVE 121
What's up, b-ballers?

They turn to find Peeve with Ryan.

122 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 122
We got next.

123	ROD	123
	You got what?	

124 MAYOR PEEVE 124
<BASKETBALL JUKING> P-pass me the
rock. Come on. Hit me. Right here.
Right here. I'm open.

125 ROB 125
Uh. You sure, bro?

126	MAYOR PEEVE	126
	Yes, I'm sure. Dime me, dawg. Hit me with the rock.	

13.

127		ROB
	Okay, bro.	127

Rob hurls the "ball" at Peeve, but it's not a ball, it's an actual ROCK that caves in the face of Peeve.

128 MAYOR PEEVE 128
<SMASHED FACE IMPACT>

129 ROD/ROB **129**

<HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER!>

130 RYAN 130
Sir, for what it's worth, I think
you're really connecting with them.
Look at them laugh!

Peeve falls face first. <SLAM!>

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - ESTABLISHING

Title card: "ELECTION DAY!"

INT. MAYOR'S MANSION - DAY

Peeve paces back and forth in front of the door with Ryan trailing.

131 MAYOR PEEVE 131
What do the latest polls say, Ryan?

132 RYAN 132

Well, sir, uh, one pole had a flag that said, "Ariel is Awesome." How they got it up there, I don't know.

133 MAYOR PEEVE 133

Polls, Ryan! Like who's voting for who!? Ah, forget it, doesn't matter. Everyone knows it's the final speech that wins voters over. And your mayor has come prepared.

Peeve kicks open the door dramatically.

EXT. MAYOR'S MANSION - CONT.

Citizens have gathered on the steps for final speeches from the candidates. Peeve strolls up to the PODIUM.

134 MAYOR PEEVE 134
My dear citizens, thank you for
taking such an interest in this
year's election.
(MORE)

MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)

I know how important this mountain
is to you. It's important to me as
well. For I am from the mountain.

The CROWD listens with bated breath.

135

MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)

135

I grew up with nothing. Just a
scrappy kid doing his best in the
bowels of Old Stinkhole.

IN THE CROWD we find CAVEDWELLER01 and CAVEDWELLERHEALTH
nodding and relating big time.

136

MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)

136

No one thought that little boy
would climb his way out of the
stink and make something of
himself. Let alone be mayor.

IN THE CROWD citizens are really buying this speech. It
appears to be working. Peeve really sells the emotion.

137

MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)

137

I'm only here because of you. You
believed in me. Give me one more
chance to believe in you.

Ryan wipes a tear.

138

RYAN

138

<SNIFFLES>

139

MAYOR PEEVE

139

Vote Steve Peeve for mayor--

140

CROWD WALLA (O.S.)

140

<SHOCKED MURMURS>

141

MAYOR PEEVE

141

And we'll make our mountain better
together.

Suddenly, the crowd goes from completely on board to confused
and put off.

142

CROWD WALLA

142

<MORE MURMURING>

143

BRAD

143

Did you say, did you say your name
was Steve?

144

MAYOR PEEVE

144

Yeah. Steve Peeve. Why? You guys
didn't know that?

As the crowd awkwardly processes this info, Parker steps in.

145 PARKER 145
It's Ariel's turn! Speech! Speech!
Speech!

Peeve backs away as Ariel takes the podium.

146 ARIEL 146
Sup, dudes. I'm gonna keep it real.
Uh, <CHUCKLES> didn't know we had
to do a speech.

147 CROWD WALLA 147
"It's cool, Ariel!" / "You're the
best!" / "Don't worry about it!" /
"She's so chill."

148 ARIEL 148
You guys are awesome. Love you, Mt.
Middlemost! Ariel out! <KICKS
MICROPHONE>

149 CROWD WALLA 149
<CHEERS!>

Ariel walks off.

150 MAYOR PEEVE 150
Are you kidding me? She didn't say
anything! Why are they cheering?

CLAIR takes to the podium and addresses everyone.

151 CLAIR 151
Uh, hi, hello, hey. <CHUCKLES>

152 MAYOR PEEVE 152
(re: Claire)
Who's this!?

153 CLAIR 153
Uh, should we all just vote now? I
mean, we all want Ariel as mayor,
right?

The CROWD all responds in agreement.

154 CROWD WALLA 154
"My vote's Ariel!" / "Ariel all the
way!" / "Put me down for Ariel!" /
"Seems pretty obvious."

155 CLAIR 155
Any votes for... Steve?

Ryan raises his hand proudly, but no one else. Silence.

156 MAYOR PEEVE 156
Really, people!?

157 CLAIR 157
Looks like we have our new mayor.
Mayor Ariel!

158 CROWD WALLA 158
<CHEERING/CHANTING "ARIEL!">

Everyone celebrates. Even Angus for a brief moment.

159 ANGUS 159
Woo-hoo! Way to go, Ariel!
(catches himself)
For the record, I'm neutral. I just
like the beanie.

LADY DERRY backs away from Angus slowly. Parker hoists Ariel
into the air.

160 CROWD WALLA 160
<"HIP HIP HOORAY" CHANTING!>

161 PARKER 161
You did it, Ariel!

162 ARIEL 162
Nah, Parker J. We did it!

163 MAYOR PEEVE (O.S.) 163
What HAPPENED, Ryan!?

People surround Parker and Ariel, leaving Peeve and Ryan
standing alone.

164 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 164
Victory was mine!

Brad walks by.

165 BRAD 165
I just couldn't vote for someone
named, uh, Steve Peeve. <STIFLED
LAUGHTER!>

Brad joins the others.

166 RYAN 166
I'm sorry, sir. The, the people
have spoken.

Reality sets in for a disheartened Peeve.

167 MAYOR PEEVE 167
Well, at least I have you, Ryan.

168

RYAN

168

Ummm, I, uh, I work for the mayor,
sir, so technically I'm Ariel's
assistant now.

This is the saddest we've ever seen Peeve. His lowest low.

169

MAYOR PEEVE

169

Fine! Then leave, Ryan! I didn't
need you anyway. Never did!

Ryan starts to leave but turns back like he wants to say
something.

170

RYAN

170

Uhh--

171

MAYOR PEEVE

171

Go!

Ryan looks like he's about to cry, then runs off.

172

RYAN

172

<STIFLING TEARS!>

Peeve looks around. He's truly all alone.

173

MAYOR PEEVE

173

Well what am I supposed to do now?

END OF PART I.