

MIDDLEMOST POST

#057 - "The Box Smusher"

Written by

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WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 08/13/21
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EXT. BLUBERG - MAIL ROUTE - DAY

1 ANGUS 1
 <CLEARS THROAT> Parker? Package,
 please.

The MMP crew deliver mail like a well oiled assembly line.
RUSSELL shoots out packages while PARKER (shaped as a GUMBALL
MACHINE) catches them in the air.

2 PARKER 2
 <SMALL CHOMP>

He shoots the packages over to ANGUS, waiting on a doorstep.
One by one, Angus sets the packages down. He adjusts the last
package, making sure it's straight.

3 ANGUS 3
 Perfection.

Parker <POOFS> in next to Angus, teary-eyed.

4 PARKER 4
 Could be our best delivery yet.

5 ANGUS 5
 You said it, Parker. We might have
 ninety-nine problems, but a
 delivery ain't one.

6 ROGER (O.S.) 6
 Help!

Angus and Parker turn to see a frantic ROGER waving from the
mansion across the street.

7 ROGER (CONT'D) 7
 Heeeelp! There's a problem with my
 mail! A heinous, horrible problem!

Angus and Parker share a look.

EXT. BLUEBAY RESORT - POOL - DAY

From the bottom of the pool, we look up at a damaged CARDBOARD
BOX, bobbing in the water. A "distorted-from-the-pool" Parker
and Angus lean into the frame.

8 ANGUS 8
 Who would do something like this?

It's hard for Angus to even look at the TORN and DENTED
package. Packing peanuts float out from a SOGGY HOLE in the
box's side. It's a horror scene.

9 PARKER 9
It's okay, Angus. I bet the box is
just resting.

The box sinks. <BLOOP>!

10 PARKER (CONT'D) 10
It's a GONER, Angus! A goner!
<SOBS!>

Angus' comforts his friend.

11 ANGUS 11
There, there, little nimbus.

12 ROGER 12
The sticker said handle with care.
It's like you people don't even
respect stickers anymore.

13 ANGUS 13
Hold on there, pal. Are you
suggesting that the Middlemost Post
mishandled your package?

14 ROGER 14
I'm not "not" suggesting it.

15 PARKER 15
(whispers to Angus)
I think that means he's suggesting
it.

16 ANGUS 16
I know, Parker.
(to Roger)
Roger, no one messes with the mail
on my watch. Don't worry, my
partner and I will get to the
bottom of this.

Angus and Parker slide on AVIATOR SUNGLASSES. SFX: Dun Dun --
from Law & Order plays.

QUICK CUTS: CSI MODE -- Parker puts yellow tape around the
perimeter... and pretty much everywhere else. Angus uses "NET
PARKER" to fish the box out of the water. Russell takes
"crime scene" photos with "CAMERA PARKER"... And a bonus
selfie with her and the box.

EXT. BLUEBAY RESORT - POOLSIDE - DAY

The BOX lays on a PATIO TABLE as Angus, wearing gloves, uses
BBQ TONGS to examine it. A CROWD has gathered, breaths bated.

17 ANGUS 17
Well, the tearing on the left flap
indicates some sort of blunt force.
The question is, what caused it?

Bread CRUMBS fall onto the box. Reveal Parker, eating toast
over the evidence.

18 PARKER 18
(mouth full, chewing)
Mmm. Coulda been a pool noodle.
<CHEWS>

19 ANGUS 19
No pool noodle I know packs a punch
like that.

20 PARKER 20
<CLEANS TEETH> We should check the
alibis on all pool noodles. Just to
be safe.

21 ANGUS 21
You see the dampness and swelling
of this double-ply? It suggests
this box was smushed before it went
into the pool. Which means--

22 PARKER 22
We have a serial Box Smusher on the
mountain, people! Hide your kids!
Hide your walruses!

23 ANGUS 23
Which means, it was probably an
accident. Most likely the wind.

24 PARKER 24
Phew. That's way less scary than a
serial Box Smusher terrorizing the
mountain by destroying and smushing
packages.

The disappointed crowd disperses. Frantic, MS. PAM rushes
forward.

25 MS. PAM 25
Come quick! Somebody smushed one of
my packages!

Angus and Parker share a look. SFX: Dun Dun -- from Law &
Order plays.

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DUMPSTER - DAY

The MMP crew and Ms. Pam stand outside the dumpster. Angus works up his nerve then looks inside the bin. He recoils, covers his mouth. It's hard to look at.

26 ANGUS 26
 <ABOUT TO HURL><VIOLENTLY COUGHS!>

27 PARKER 27
Let me see, Angus.

28 ANGUS 28

No, Parker. Y-you don't want to
look in there. You can't unsee
that.

29 BRAD (O.S.) 29
What's going on?

BRAD and other "looky-loos" have gathered.

30 BRAD (CONT'D) 30
Is something in the dumpster there?

31 CROWD WALLA 31
"What's going on?" / "Something
wrong?" / "What's in the dumpster?"

32 ANGUS 32
Nothing to see here, folks. MMP
business. Move along.
(side to Russell)
Russell, get these people out of
here.

Russell jumps into crowd control, pushing the crowd away.

33 Why?! PARKER (O.S.) **33**

34 ANGUS **34**

Parker! I said not to look!

Angus turns back around to find Parker in the dumpster, cradling a mangled box like it's an injured bird.

35 PARKER 35
Poor, poor package. <SMALL GASP> It
never did nothin' to no one.
<SNIFFLES>

A BUTTER KNIFE sticks out from the side of the box. RED OOZE drips from the hole.

36 ANGUS (O.S.) 36
Careful now. We don't want to
contaminate the evidence--

Parker pulls the knife out.

37 PARKER 37
<BIG LICK>

38 ANGUS 38
<DISGUSTED RECOIL>

39 PARKER 39
Mmmmm. Strawberry jam. Delicious.

40 MS. PAM 40
I know it is! I special order it
every week. Who would smush a box
full of delicious strawberry jam?

Parker looks at Angus with a knowing and direct look.

41 PARKER 41
(to Angus)
I don't know. Maybe the wind?

42 MS. PAM 42
The wind? What kind of idiot would
blame this on the wind?

43 ANGUS 43
It wasn't the wind. No.
(beat)
It was raccoons. You get a pack of
raccoons fighting over a box of
strawberry jam, you get a smushed
box of strawberry jam.

STEWART strolls up.

44 STEWART 44
Hey, man. Like, someone smushed one
of my packages. Not cool, man.

SFX: Dun Dun -- from Law & Order plays.

45 STEWART (CONT'D) 45
(re: Dun Dun)
What was that noise, man? Like,
did, did no one else hear that?

EXT. GREENWOOD - DAY

The MMP crew looks up at a smushed box impaled in a tree.

46	ANGUS	46
	Looks like we have a serial Box Smusher on our hands.	

Parker and Russell roll their eyes.

47 PARKER 47
47 <SCOFFS> You think?

EXT. SOMEWHERE STORE - ESTABLISHING

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - DAY

Parker, Angus, and Russell watch as LILY examines the black and white CRIME SCENE PHOTOS.

48 LILY 48
(re: photos)
Uh-huh. Okay. Hmm. Ooh. That's
nice.

49 ANGUS 49
Eh, you see any clues in those
photos that might lead us to a
suspect?

50 LILY 50
No. But this might help.

Lily plops a CLUNKY OLD SCHOOL COMPUTER meets FAX MACHINE
down on the counter. It's very analog.

51	LILY (CONT'D)	51
	I call it the Profiler 3000. You	
	feed it information on box-related	
	crimes, and it creates a profile of	
	the culprit.	

52 ANGUS 52
Eh, I don't think that'll be much
help. Thanks anyway, Lily.

53 PARKER 53
Ah, come on, Angus. What do we have
to lose?

Lily dumps the photos into a bin on the side of the Profiler 3000. She pulls a couple of levers, then holds up a phone.

54 LILY **54**
This is Lily Nunchucks. Send it.

Moments later, a paper spits out.

55 LILY (CONT'D) 55
(re: paper)
It says our suspect is most likely
a male, with a gruff exterior that
hides his sweet vulnerability.

56 ANGUS 56
Well that can be anyone.

57 LILY 57
(re: paper)
It's likely the suspect grew up on
some sort of vessel on a large body
of water.

58 PARKER 58
<SMALL GASP!>

59 ANGUS 59
Hnnnnnn.

Parker and Russell slowly scooch away from Angus.

60 LILY 60
(re: paper)
There's a high probability that the
suspect has a beard, which he
wrongly believes keeps others from
getting too close.

Parker and Lily look to Angus, who scratches his beard in
thought.

61 ANGUS 61
Doesn't sound like anyone I know. I
think your machine here is broken,
Lily.

62 LILY 62
The Profiler 3000 also prints a
picture of the potential
perpetrator.

63 ANGUS 63
Now we're talking. Let's see what
we got.

64 LILY 64
It takes a day for the photo to
develop. Pictures don't magically
appear with a click of a button,
Angus.

65 ANGUS 65
Ugh, fine. We'll swing back
tomorrow then. Come on, Parker.

Angus leaves. Parker follows but looks back at Lily like it's the last time he'll ever see her.

66 PARKER 66
Bye, Lily.

67 LILY 67
Parker, wait. Be careful out there.
You never know who you can trust
these days.

68 PARKER 68
Thanks, Lily.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Parker lies in bed, wide awake. He looks down to Russell.

69 PARKER 69
(whispers)
Psst. Russell. You don't think
Angus is the Box Smusher, do ya?

Parker finds Angus in the doorway, backlit, holding something that looks like a KNIFE.

70 PARKER (CONT'D) 70
AHHH!

Angus emerges into the light, TOOTHBRUSH in hand as he brushes.

71 ANGUS 71
What are you two talking about?
<BRUSHES TEETH><SPITS>

72 PARKER 72
Phew! Nothing. Just wishing Russell
a good night's sleep, that's all.

73 ANGUS 73
Eh, easier said than done when
there's a serial Box Smusher on the
loose. Guy could be anywhere.

74 PARKER 74
<TERRIFIED TREMBLING>

75 ANGUS 75
Or anyone.

Angus hops into bed.

76 ANGUS (CONT'D)
Goodnight, Parker. <BLOWS OUT
CANDLE>

76

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BEDROOM - NIGHT

We hear <POUNDING> and <CRUSHING> of cardboard. Parker shoots awake, startled by the noise.

77 PARKER
It's the Box Smusher!! Angus,
Angus, he's here!
(beat)
Angus?

77

Parker looks over to find... Angus gone. The <NOISES> continue, clearly coming from inside the ship.

78 PARKER (CONT'D)
Oh, no. The smushing's coming
from... inside the ship.

78

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

Parker creeps towards the mailroom as the <NOISES> get louder and louder. He steels himself, then peeks in to find...

Angus, looking manic, as he SLAMS his fists into cardboard boxes. He throws another box against a wall! He sits on another and belly bashes one into a pancake.

79 ANGUS
<BOX SMASHING EFFORTS>

79

80

PARKER

<GASPS!>

80

81 ANGUS
<EVIL LAUGH!>

81

Angus suddenly stops. The little nimbus ducks out of sight.

82 PARKER
<GASPS!><COWERS IN FEAR>

82

Angus pops right up in front of Parker.

83 ANGUS
What are you doing up?

83

84 PARKER
AHHH!!!!
(composes himself)
Why are you smushing boxes, Angus?

84

85 ANGUS 85
I think you know why, Parker.

86 PARKER 86
<TERRIFIED SQUEAL>

87 ANGUS 87
I'm trying to get into the mind of
the "Smusher." Can't catch a
smusher if you don't know what it
feels like to smush.
(little crazy)
To taste how satisfying it is to
crush cardboard with your big,
strong hands.

As he talks, he's twisting a box slowly. Brutally.

88 PARKER 88
(matter-of-fact)
Angus, are you the Box Smusher?

89 ANGUS 89
HA! Of course not.

90 PARKER 90
Phew. That's a relief! Okay, I'm
going back to bed.

Parker zips off. The smile slowly fades from Angus' face.

91 ANGUS 91
Night.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - BEDROOM - DAY

Parker <SNORES> contently before stirring awake.

92 PARKER 92
<YAWNS><SMACKS LIPS>

He opens his eyes to find... Angus hovering over him.

93 ANGUS 93
Get dressed. There's been another
smushing.

Angus walks off with purpose. Parker looks to Russell.

94 PARKER 94
Get dressed? But I wear the same
thing everyday, and I never take it
off.

Russell shrugs.

EXT. RED RIDGE - NANCY AND DOUG'S HOUSE - DAY

DOUG comforts NANCY as Angus and Parker study the crime scene.

95 NANCY 95
 <SOBS!>

There's a STRETCHER holding a box smushed by a BLENDER. Angus studies it.

96 ANGUS 96
Hmmm. Looks like the Box Smusher
has evolved.

We PAN to a SERIES OF STRETCHERS holding other boxes smushed in various ways.

97 PARKER 97
Poor, poor tiny boxes. Gone too soon.

98 NANCY 98
I've been expecting these packages
for weeks! This can't be happening!

Doug holds her back.

99 DOUG 99
It's okay, Nance. Maybe the
Middlemost Post will finally do
something about this.

Doug gives Angus the stink eye before ushering Nancy away. As Angus continues to examine the area, Parker hears a <PSSST>.

100 LILY (O.S.) 100
Pssst! Parker.

Parker finds Lily hiding behind a rock. She waves Parker over.

101 PARKER **101**

Lily!

102	LILY	102
	Ssssh! The Profiler 3000 finished printing the picture of the perpetrator, aka the Box Smusher.	

103 PARKER 103
Cool! I'll tell Angus.

104 LILY 104
No, Parker. You can't.

105 PARKER 105
How come?

106 LILY 106
Because Angus IS the Box Smusher.

SFX: Dun Dun -- from Law & Order plays. Lily holds up a picture that IS Angus. But Angus in a TUXEDO.

107 PARKER 107
<GASPS!>
(then)
How come he's a wearing a tuxedo?

108 LILY 108
The Profiler 3000 is great at predicting perpetrators but horrible at predicting their sense of style.

109 PARKER 109
It can't be Angus! Why would he ever want to destroy someone's mail? He loves the mail!

110 LILY 110
It doesn't matter why, Parker. All that matters now is that we need to stop him before he strikes again.

111 PARKER 111
No, Lily. I need to stop him. He's my best bud. It's only right that I take him down alone.

Parker wipes a tear, bucks up, and heads back to Angus.

AT DOUG AND NANCY - CONT.

Parker floats up, sees that Angus is missing.

112 PARKER 112
Hey, where's the Box Smusher-- I mean, Angus?

113 DOUG 113
He left.

114 PARKER 114
He left!? And you just let him!?

115 DOUG 115
Uh. Yeah.

116 PARKER 116
Smooth move, Doug. He probably
knows that I know and now he's
gonna go off the grid and I'm never
gonna find him and more and more
boxes will be smushed!

117 NANCY 117
He said he was going to the Nickel
Store.

118 PARKER 118
Oh. Cool. Thanks!

Parker <ZIPS> off.

119 PARKER (O.S.) (CONT'D) 119
Sorry about your packages!

EXT. NICKEL STORE - ESTABLISHING

INT. NICKEL STORE - CONT.

Parker enters the store. It's quiet. Too quiet.

120 PARKER 120
Hello. Mr. Dick Nickel? Have you
seen Angus?

Parker hears <MURMURS> and foreboding <MUSIC> coming from the
backroom.

121 CULT MEMBER WALLA (O.S.) 121
Oohhhmmmmmm...

IN THE BACKROOM - CONT.

Parker's eyes grow wide as a HOODED FIGURE emerges from the
shadows holding a box.

122 PARKER 122
The Box Smusher.

The Hooded Figure pulls back the hood to reveal...

123 PARKER (CONT'D) 123
Ms. Pam? You... you're the Box
Smusher!?

124 MS. PAM 124
No, PJC.

Suddenly, another Hooded Figure approaches holding a box.

125 CULT MEMBER WALLA 125
Oohhhmmmmmm...

He pulls back his hood to reveal...

126 PARKER 126
Roger? You're the Box Smusher!?

127 ROGER 127
No.

Two more Hooded Figures emerge holding boxes.

128 CULT MEMBER WALLA 128
Oohhhmmmmmm...

They pull back their hoods to reveal...

129 PARKER 129
Doug? Nancy? You two are the Box
Smusher!??

130 DOUG 130
Course not. Neither is Lil Dougie.

They pull the hood off of LIL DOUGIE.

131 LILY (O.S.) 131
It's not me, Parker.

Parker spins around to find a cloaked Lily holding a box.

132 PARKER 132
<GASPS!> Lily!?

More and more Hooded Figures emerge from the shadows.

133 CULT MEMBER WALLA 133
Oohhhmmmmmm...

134 PARKER 134
WHO IS THE BOX SMUSHER!? I demand
to know!

Right then, a LARGE HOODED FIGURE appears. The others fall in line, placing their boxes down, creating a pathway that leads to Parker.

The Hooded Figure <STOMPS> on each box, mercilessly flattening them as he approaches a cowering Parker. Mere inches away, the Figure finally flips his hood back to reveal...

135 ANGUS 135
I'm the Box Smusher, cloud. It was
ME all along!

136 PARKER 136
Nooo!

137 ANGUS 137
Mwahahahaha!

Angus' laugh fades into:

INT. MAYOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

138 MAYOR PEEVE 138
Mwahahahaha!

We find MAYOR PEEVE reading from a BOOK. Ryan sits at his feet like it's "reading time." Peeve closes the book.

139 MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D) 139
And that concludes part one of my debut novel, "*Angus Shackleton: The Box Smusher of Mt. Middlemost.*" Well, what do you think?

140 RYAN 140
First off, sir, can I say wow? To even write a novel... that's a huge accomplishment. But to write one that's eight hundred pages long, that's impressive.

141 MAYOR PEEVE 141
I want honest feedback, Ryan. Lay it on me. Don't hold back, I can handle it.

142 RYAN 142
Ok, sure. Uh, I guess I'm confused how Doug and Nancy got to the Nickel Store before Parker? Also, why are Doug and Nancy even there?

143 MAYOR PEEVE 143
It's called a misdirect, Ryan. Look it up.

144 RYAN 144
Oh! And Roger, he was at the end too, but he complained about his package being smushed? Ah, Lily. Why would she pretend--

Peeve shoves the book cover in Ryan's face.

145 MAYOR PEEVE 145
Angus is the bad guy, Ryan! That's all you need to know.
(MORE)

MAYOR PEEVE (CONT'D)
(mumbles under breath)
Everyone's a critic.

Peeve storms off in a huff.

146 RYAN 146
Oh. Yes, sir.

The doorbell <RINGS>.

147 RYAN (CONT'D) 147
I'll get it.

Ryan answers the door. There's no one there. He looks around.

148 RYAN (CONT'D) 148
Hello?

Then he sees it! A SMUSHED PACKAGE at his feet. His eyes grow wide.

149 RYAN (CONT'D) 149
Nooooooooo!

SFX: Dun Dun -- from Law & Order plays.

SMASH TO BLACK.

THE END.