

MIDDLEMOST POST

#059 - "The Gift of the Mech Suit"

Written by

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WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 08/06/21
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 08/13/21
FIRST DRAFT - 08/30/21
BOARD DRAFT - 09/03/21
REC DRAFT - 10/28/21
SHIPPING DRAFT - 01/19/22

PARKER/ANGUS (O.S.) 1
(singing)
"Happy birthday to you! Happy
birthday to you! Happy birthday,
dear Lily!"

PARKER, ANGUS, and RUSSELL stand in front of LILY.

11 PARKER 11
Ha! Good one, Lily.

Angus hands Lily his GIFT.

[illegible]

Lily shakes the box and listens.

13 LILY **13**

It sounds like... a box of screws.

14 ANGUS 14

It is a box of screws! You can
never have too many screws.

Lily clearly likes this gift.

15		LILY	15
	Indeed.		

16 PARKER 16
My turn! You're gonna love your
gift, Lily. I spent soooo much time
on it. It's awesome. Russell?

Russell <HORKS> up an enormous WRAPPED ITEM.

17 LILY 17
Wow, Parker. You shouldn't have.

18 PARKER 18
Lily, pleaaaasse. You're my BGF.
Bestest grub friend in the whole
world. Go on, open it!

Lily unwraps the gift but does it super slow and cautiously, which drives Parker mad.

19 LILY 19
Hm. Okay. Wonder what it is. This
is exciting. The paper is nice.
Good job on the corners. And the
bow.

20 I'LL HELP! PARKER 20

Parker turns into a mini HURRICANE and tears off the wrapping paper revealing a... **HOMEMADE MECH SUIT!** It's made out of random packing supplies and items from the Steadfast, and it's super janky looking.

21 PARKER (CONT'D) 21

Well?

22 LILY 22
Ummm. What is it?

23 PARKER 23
It's your new Birthday Suit, silly!
Anyone can buy their friend a
present. I wanted to make you one,
from the heart. <SWEET HUG NOISES>

Parker poofs into a heart and heart hugs Lily.

24 PARKER (CONT'D) 24
Do you love it? You love it. Huh?
Huh?? Do you love it?

It's clear Lily doesn't love it. She anxiously looks to
Angus, who looks away like a coward.

25 LILY 25
Ummm... I... I... love it?

26 PARKER 26
I knew you would!

27 LILY 27
I love it so much, I should never
wear it, like ever, so it doesn't
get scratched.

28 PARKER 28
Shhhh. Nonsense! I have a WHOLE day
planned with just me, you, and your
dope new Birthday Suit!

29 ANGUS 29
Okay, you two have fun now.

Angus and Russell dart off, leaving Lily hanging.

30 PARKER 30
(re: mech suit)
Hop on in, Lily. Let's get this
birthday parrrrtaaaay started!

31 LILY 31
(half-hearted.)
Yay.

EXT. CITY OF SOMEWHERE - DAY

Parker floats along looking at a giant LIST of "fun birthday
activities."

32 PARKER 32
I have sooooo many fun things for
us to do for your birthday, I don't
even know where to start!

Parker looks behind him.

33 PARKER (CONT'D) 33
Come on, Lily! The day's not
getting any shorter.

We see Lily for the first time in her "Birthday Suit,"
trailing far behind.

34 LILY 34
Coming, Parker. <STRUGGLES TO WALK>

She plods along awkwardly. The suit is impossible to handle.

35 PARKER 35
Okay, first activity on the list:
dumpster diving!

EXT. MT. MIDDLEMOST - VARIOUS - MUSIC MONTAGE!

- ACTIVITY #1: DUMPSTER DIVE!

Parker jumps around in Ms. Pam's dumpster, having a blast.

36 PARKER 36
<SPITS OUT GARBAGE> Come on, Lily!
Jump on in! <GIGGLES!>

Lily struggles to join, the suit ramming against the
dumpster.

37 LILY 37
<STRAINING EFFORTS>

She finally sees an "UP" button on her suit and presses it.
Lily's spring-loaded legs <LAUNCH> her into the air.

38 LILY (CONT'D) 38
Ahhhhhh!

She <SMACKS> into the TOAST SIGN on the roof. Having too much
fun, Parker doesn't even notice.

- ACTIVITY #32: MOUNTAIN RACE!

39 PARKER (V.O.) 39
Birthday activity number thirty-
two: a race down the mountain!

Parker RUNS down the mountain.

40 PARKER 40
Race you to the bottom! <GIGGLES!>

Lily TUMBLES down the mountain like a skier who ate shit.

41 LILY 41
<TRIPPING EFFORTS> Ahhhhhh!

She slides past Parker, who's still running, completely oblivious.

42 PARKER 42
<JOYFUL LAUGHTER!>

43 LILY 43
<TUMBLING EFFORTS> Ow.

She <CRASHES> at the bottom of the mountain and pops out of her suit.

44 LILY (CONT'D) 44
<DEEP INHALE/EXHALE>

Parker catches up to her.

45 PARKER 45
Woo! You win!

- ACTIVITY #38: DANCE PARTY!

46 PARKER (V.O.) 46
Birthday activity number thirty-eight: we be clubbin'.

The BLUBERG DANCE CREW dance, all in sync. Lily tries to dance but looks like a spaz as her mech suit fights her.

47 PARKER 47
Throw your hands in the air like
you just don't care! Ooh, ahh!
Throw your hands up, Lily! Throw
your hands up!

48 LILY 48
<STRUGGLES> Okay, almost got it.
Ugh.

Lily tries to flip her dead arms into the air, but it's futile. Parker and the other dancers wave their hands side to side.

49 PARKER 49
Throw your hands up, Lily! Throw
'em up! Raise the roof!

- ACTIVITY #78: MEAT CART!

50 PARKER (V.O.) 50
Birthday activity number seventy-eight: munchin' on meat!

Parker and Lily are at the Meat Cart.

51 PARKER 51
One meat stick, please!

MEAT VENDOR hands Parker a MEAT STICK.

52 PARKER (CONT'D) 52
Thanks!

53 LILY 53
One meat stick, please.

Lily holds out her rigid arm. Meat Vendor hands her a stick of meat. It slips through Lily's grasp.

54 LILY (CONT'D) 54
Farts. Another, please.

Meat Vendor hands her another. Same thing happens.

55 LILY (CONT'D) 55
Farts. Another.

Third time is a charm. She gets it.

56 LILY (CONT'D) 56
Nice.

She goes to eat it...

57 LILY (CONT'D) 57
<TUG EFFORT>

<THWING>! Her mech arm zings it into the sky. Parker catches the meat stick by accident.

58 PARKER 58
Wow! <CHEWS> Mmmm, that is delicious!

- ACTIVITY #128: ROLLERCOASTER RIDE!

59 PARKER (V.O.) 59
Birthday activity number one hundred and twenty-eight: ride rollercoasters!

At the Orangefield Fairgrounds, Parker and Lily ride the rollercoaster. They reach the top then FAAAALLLL.

60 PARKER 60
Woo-hoo!

Lily's cardboard legs fold up from the force and <WHAP> her in the face again and again. <WHAP> <WHAP> <WHAP>!

61 LILY 61
Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow. Ow.

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

Parker looks at their ride photo from the coaster as he
<CHOWS> down on toast.

62 PARKER 62
On a scale from nine to ten, how
awesome is your birthday so far?

63 LILY 63
It's, ah... pretty awesome.

Lily tries to eat a piece of toast, but her MECH HAND can't
reach her face.

64 LILY (CONT'D) 64
<STRAINS TO EAT><SIGHS>

65 PARKER 65
Knew it. <BITES/CHEWS> Mmm.

Lily sees Angus sitting down at the counter.

66 LILY 66
I have to go to the little grub's
room. Be right back.

67 PARKER 67
Okay!

Lily clumsily gets out of her seat.

68 LILY 68
<STRAINS TO GET UP>

Lily makes her way to Angus, bumping into several CUSTOMERS.

69 CUSTOMER WALLA 69
<GETTING BUMPED INTO COMPLAINTS>

70 LILY 70
Sorry. My bad.

Lily sits down next to Angus. The two talk, looking straight
ahead. It's all very covert.

71 ANGUS 71
Lily.

72 LILY 72
Angus.

73 ANGUS 73
Looks like you've found yourself in
quite the predicament.

74 LILY 74
How do I get out of this?

75 ANGUS 75
You mean, how do you tell Parker
you hate the birthday gift the kid
made you without crushing the
little cloud's heart?

76 LILY 76
Exactly.

77 ANGUS 77
You don't. <SIPS FROM MUG>

78 LILY 78
So I'm stuck wearing this crummy
Birthday Suit for the rest of my
life?

79 ANGUS 79
You know how many knickknacks and
doohickeys Parker has made me over
the years? Believe me you, they're
not all winners. Few are.

Angus looks around, making sure no one can hear.

80 ANGUS (CONT'D) 80
Of course, "accidents" happen.
(gives Lily a look)
That's the thing about knickknacks
and doohickeys. Sometimes they
break. On accident. Feel me?

81 LILY 81
(nods)
I feel you.

82 ANGUS 82
<TAKES ANOTHER SIP>
(whispers)
I was never here.

Angus slips away.

83 MS. PAM 83
Angus! You forgot to pay!

Angus slips back in, slides some money onto the counter.

84 ANGUS 84
Whoops. Sorry, Ms. Pam. <CHUCKLES
NERVOUSLY>
(to Lily)
I was never here...

He slips away again before--

85	ANGUS (CONT'D)	85
	Ooh, I forgot my toast!	
	(to Lily)	
	Remember, I was never here...	

He ducks out of frame with his toast.

EXT. GREENWOOD - DAY

Parker and Lily walk through Greenwood.

86	LILY	86
	Parker, how many more birthday	
	activities are on the list?	

87	PARKER	87
	Don't worry, Lily. We're not even	
	close to being finished. We're just	
	getting started!	

They pass a GREENWOOD CITIZEN tossing branches into a WOOD CHIPPER. Lily sees it and stops walking. Angus' head floats through the screen, his voice echoing.

88	ANGUS	88
	Accidents happen.	

We follow Parker floating along until Lily is out of frame.

89	PARKER	89
	Next up, we get matching fake	
	tattoos--	

90	LILY (O.S.)	90
	Oh no.	

91	PARKER	91
	<GASPS!>	

Parker zips back to find Lily's mech suit deep in the wood chipper.

92	PARKER (CONT'D)	92
	Lily!	

93	LILY	93
	I accidentally stepped into this	
	wood chipper. My poor Birthday	
	Suit, it's ruined now.	

94	PARKER	94
	Ruined? Your Birthday Suit is made	
	entirely out of packing and office	
	supplies.	
	(MORE)	

PARKER (CONT'D)
Everything you need to fix it is
built right into the suit!

Parker pulls off a roll of DUCT TAPE and a STAPLER from
somewhere on the suit.

95 LILY 95
(half-hearted)
Cool.

EXT. RED RIDGE - DAY

Parker and Lily walk through Red Ridge. Lily's LEGS have been
stapled and duct taped together haphazardly as she drags them
across the ground.

96 PARKER 96
Man, Marshmallow Fest was going off
this year! Hope Terry's okay. I
don't think he's ever getting that
out of his mustache.

97 ROD (O.S.) 97
<STRAINED EFFORT> Push it, bro!

Lily spots ROB and ROD struggling to push a giant BOULDER off
a ledge.

98 ROB 98
Bro! I am! <PUSHING EFFORTS>

99 ROD 99
Push harder then, bro!

Lily stops as Parker continues to float on.

100 PARKER 100
Next up, antiquing in Yellow
Springs!

<CRASH>!

101 LILY (O.S.) 101
Oh no.

102 PARKER 102
<GASPS!>

Parker zips back.

103 PARKER (CONT'D) 103
Lily!

Lily's suit is crushed underneath the boulder. The suit is
totally pancaked.

104 LILY 104
My Birthday Suit. It's totally
destroyed.

Parker grabs the boulder and chucks it.

105 PARKER 105
<GRABS/HURLS BOULDER>

106 LILY 106
Uhhhh.

Parker <BLOWS> into one of the suit's FINGERS, inflating it
back to normal like it's a raft.

107 PARKER 107
<INHALES/BLOWS> Good as new!

108 LILY 108
Thanks, Parker.

109 PARKER 109
No problemo!

Frustrated, Lily follows Parker, limping the entire way. Rob
and Rod let out a deep breath.

110 ROB 110
Broooo. That was a close--<CRUSHED
IMPACT!>

A giant boulder suddenly lands on them for some reason.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

Lily and Parker walk through Yellow Springs. Parker drags an
old clock and other old crap.

111 PARKER 111
Someone should have told us
antiquing is just buying old
things.

Lily spots a FOUNTAIN.

112 PARKER (CONT'D) 112
Don't you worry. I will take it off
the birthday list for next year.

113 LILY 113
<JUMP EFFORT>

Lily flops into the fountain when Parker's not looking.

114 LILY (CONT'D) 114
Oh no. I fell into this fountain.

123 PARKER 123
I'm gonna go check on dinner. Be
right back!

Parker zips off, leaving Lily and Angus alone.

124 LILY 124
I can't take it anymore, Angus.
This suit can't be destroyed. I'm
doomed to wear it forever.

125 ANGUS 125
Not necessarily. There is one other
option. But I don't know if you're
ready, Lily.

Lily grabs Angus, looking manic.

126 LILY 126
I'll do anything. ANYTHING.

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - DECK - DAY

127 LILY (O.S.) 127
You want me to throw the suit off
the ship?

Lily and Angus stare over the railing of the ship, but we
don't see at what.

128 ANGUS 128
Well don't think of it as
"throwing." Think of it more as
"dropping." Many a gift of Parker's
has met their demise here.

We see that Angus and Lily are staring at a vast GRAVEYARD of
homemade Parker gifts--most of them made from macaroni
(necklaces, wallets, sculptures, etc.).

129 ANGUS (CONT'D) 129
So much wasted macaroni...

130 LILY 130
I don't know. What if Parker found
out? I'd feel like the worst friend
ever.

Angus puts a hand on Lily's mech suit shoulder.

131 ANGUS 131
What Parker doesn't know won't
hurt.

132 LILY 132
You're right.

Parker and Russell emerge onto the deck.

133 PARKER 133
Dinner's ready!

They catch Lily just about to push the suit overboard.

134 PARKER (CONT'D) 134
<GASPS!> Lily, what are you doing?

135 LILY 135
Ummm, uh, Angus told me to throw
your birthday gift off the ship.

136 ANGUS 136
Hey!

137 PARKER 137
He did?

138 LILY 138
Yeah. Only because he says he
throws your gifts off the ship.

139 PARKER 139
What?!

Parker becomes more and more incredulous.

140 LILY 140
When you asked me if I loved your
gift, I said I loved it, but I
lied.

141 PARKER 141
What??!

142 LILY 142
I actually hate it. It's not very
functional nor pleasing to look at.

143 PARKER 143
WHAT?!?!

144 LILY 144
I didn't tell you all of this
because I didn't wanna break your
heart.

145 PARKER 145
Well then you FAILED, Lily! Because
my heart is hurt. Big time!
(to Russell)
At least Russell loves all my
gifts. Don't you, girl?

Russell guiltily shrugs.

146 PARKER (CONT'D) 146
Not you too! <SOBS UNCONTROLLABLY!>

147 ANGUS 147
Parker, just because we threw away
some of the things you made us
doesn't mean we didn't appreciate
the hard work you put into them.

148 PARKER 148
Fine way of showing your
appreciation! Just chuck it off the
ship! <SNIFFLES>

149 LILY 149
He's right, Parker. Even though
Angus called your gifts, and I
quote, "not all winners,"--

150 ANGUS 150
Seriously?

151 LILY 151
It's the fact that you took the
time to make something from your
heart that counts the most, not the
gift.

Parker settles down a little. Wipes a tear.

152 PARKER 152
Really?

153 ANGUS 153
You betcha! And some of your gifts,
oh-ho-ho boy, they're serious
keepers.

Angus reaches into his shirt and pulls out a huge MACARONI
MEDALLION with a hand-drawn image of Parker, Angus, and
Russell on it.

154 PARKER (O.S.) 154
My Best Buds Medallion. You still
have it?

155 ANGUS 155
I wear it every day, rain or shine.

156 LILY 156
And I still use this...

Lily pulls a RETAINER out of her mouth made of macaroni.

157 PARKER (O.S.) 157
The Macaroni-tainer!

158 LILY 158
All you need to do is add cheese,
and it's a party in your mouth.
Best gift you've ever given me.

Russell <WARBLES> then holds out her tongue. She wears a dope
ROLEX (but not, but close).

159 PARKER 159
The diamond encrusted watch I got
you! You still have it.

Angus and Lily share a look.

160 ANGUS/LILY 160
Whaaaat?!

161 PARKER 161
Wow. You guys cared so much about
hurting my feelings that you hid
your own feelings from me. That's
pretty special.

Angus and Lily look to each other again, impressed with
themselves.

162 ANGUS 162
I guess it is.

163 LILY 163
Yeah.

Parker floats over to the Birthday Suit on the rail.

164 LILY (CONT'D) 164
What are you doing, Parker?

165 PARKER 165
Lily, I know you hated your
birthday. So my gift to you is
throwing it off the ship so you
don't have to feel bad.

166 LILY 166
I didn't hate my birthday, Parker.
Any birthday spent with you is the
best birthday ever. But yeah, I do
hate the suit.

167 PARKER 167
I'll do the honors, Lily. That's
what friends are for.

The two share a smile as Parker grabs the suit. He's about to
chuck it over the side but then sees ALL the gifts Angus has
tossed overboard.

168 PARKER (CONT'D) 168
Hey! There's the paperclip shirt I
gave you! Angus, you said you lost
it.

169 ANGUS 169
Well, I ummm--

170 PARKER 170
And the bubblewrap sneakers I made
you! You said they were stolen!

As Parker rattles off more fallen gifts, Lily and Russell
slink away, leaving Angus to flounder.

171 ANGUS (O.S.) 171
A-a-about that, you see--

172 PARKER (O.S.) 172
Is that the egg carton sweater I
gave you? Angus!

173 ANGUS (O.S.) 173
Well, I... I...

174 PARKER (O.S.) 174
There's the paper mache underwear,
the cut off jean shorts... <GASPS!>
Not the macaroni salad napkins!

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Lily and Russell slip out the front door and slide down the
mountain as Parker keeps going.

175 PARKER (O.S.) 175
The noodle whistle! The bean
headtootle! The squash slippers!
The pillow plunger!

THE END.