

MIDDLEMOST POST

#062 - "Fear and Loathing in Yellow Springs"

Written by

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WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 09/10/21
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 09/17/21
WRITERS DRAFT #3 - 09/27/21
FIRST DRAFT - 10/11/21
BOARD DRAFT - 10/18/21
REC DRAFT - 12/09/21
SHIPPING DRAFT - 03/01/22

INT. SOMEWHERE STORE - BACKROOM - CONT.

1 PARKER 1
Lily! Lily!

2 PARKER (CONT'D) 2
I have great news!

3 LILY 3
What is it, Parker?

4 PARKER 4
Remember how we started collecting
objects around Mt. Middlemost that
looked exactly like your mech
suits?

5 LILY 5
You mean the Natural Mech Suit
Museum of Mt. Middlemost? Obvi.

Lily presses a red button on her work bench. Multiple GLASS CASES suddenly rise out of the ground. (Think Tony Stark and his Iron Man suits on display.)

6 PARKER 6
That's the one!

Each case is labeled by neighborhood and houses objects that resemble her mech suit (i.e. lava rock from Red Ridge, ice sculpture from Bluberg, gourd from Orangefield, etc.).

7 PARKER (CONT'D) 7
Remember when we said we'd never
find anything, not ever, that would
resemble your mech suit in Yellow
Springs?

The glass case labeled "Yellow Springs" is the only one empty. Lily looks at it, forlorn.

8 LILY 8
It's been the bane of my existence.

9 PARKER 9
Well bane no more, Lily. I just
found a cactus in Yellow Springs
that looks JUST like your mech
suit!

10 LILY 10
Gasp! You're kidding.

11 PARKER 11
I would never kid about the Natural
Mech Suit Museum of Mt. Middlemost,
Lily. Never.

Lily wipes a tear, touched.

12 LILY 12
Wow.

13 PARKER 13
Come on. There's a cactus out there
with your name on it!
(zips off/zips back)
Just to be clear, your name's not
on it. But we can put it on it
later.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - DESERT - DAY

Parker and Lily trudge through a long, unforgiving stretch of
desert. It looks like they've been at it for awhile. The sun
beats down on them.

14 LILY 14
Pant. Pant. <GULPS> Pant.
(beat)
I forgot just how much sand the
desert has. Turns out, it's a lot.

15 PARKER 15
It'll be worth it, Lily. Trust me.
This cactus, it is a <SPITS ON
LILY'S SUIT> spitting image of one
of your mech suits.

16 LILY 16
I can't wait to see it.

17 PARKER 17
And see it you shall. We're almost
there!

Right then, Lily trips up and falls on her face.

18 LILY 18
<SOMERSAULTING EFFORTS>

19 PARKER 19
<GASPS!>

She continues to tumble down a loooong stretch of sand dune.

20 LILY 20
<MORE SOMERSAULTING EFFORTS>

21 PARKER 21
<CRINGES>

22 LILY 22
Ahhhhhh! <HARD IMPACT> Oof.

REVEAL the long sand dune was merely a bunny hill.

23 PARKER 23
Lily! You okay!?

24 LILY 24
I'm okay, Parker.

She sits up. She has the perfect SAND BEARD.

25 PARKER 25
<SNICKERS> Nice beard.

She touches it.

26 LILY 26
Thanks. I'm thinking about keeping
it. <GIGGLES>

Parker smashes his face in the sand and pops up with a
handlebar SAND MUSTACHE.

27 PARKER 27
Look, I'm Terry!
(mimics Terry)
Hey man, where's the party at?

Lily slams her face into the sand and pops up with a SAND
NOSE.

28 LILY 28
Hmm. Parker, I don't nose.

We rapid fire as Parker and Lily take turns donning different
sand accessories.

- Parker with SAND EYEBROWS.

29 PARKER 29
Hnnnnnn.

- Lily with SAND EARS.

30		LILY	30
	Ehhhhh.		
	- Parker with SAND GLASSES.		
31		PARKER	31
	Duuurrr.		
	- Lily with a SAND CHICKEN HEAD.		
32		LILY	32
	<CHICKEN NOISES>		
	- Parker with a SAND COWBOY HAT.		
33		PARKER	33
	Grrrngh.		
	- Lily with SAND TEETH.		
34		LILY	34
	Nom nom nom nom nom nom.		
	- Parker with a SAND PIRATE HAT.		
35		PARKER	35
	Rrrrrrr.		
	- Lily with a SAND UNICORN HORN.		
36		LILY	36
	Blergh blergh.		
	- Parker with a SAND ELVIS WIG.		
37		PARKER	37
	Urrrrrr.		
	- Lily with giant SAND LIPS.		
38		LILY	38
	Ooooooh.		
	- Parker with a SAND AXE in his head.		
39		PARKER	39
	Ughhhhh.		
	- Lily with SAND FANGS and SAND VAMPIRE WINGS.		
40		LILY	40
	Eeeeeee.		
	- Parker with a SAND MOHAWK.		

41 PARKER 41
<HEAVY METAL ROCKING OUT>

Parker trails off seeing Lily's blank stare.

42 LILY 42
That was fun.

43 PARKER 43
So much fun.

44 LILY 44
How far away are we from that
cactus again?

45 PARKER 45
Not far. Should be right up here.

Parker starts to lead the way again, but this time, he's
heading in the opposite direction as before.

46 LILY 46
Parker, I think you're going the
wrong way.

47 PARKER 47
How can I be going the wrong way?
I'm the only one that knows the
way.

48 LILY 48
True. But we were going that way
before.

Lily points the other way.

49 PARKER 49
Ummm, pretty sure we're going this
way, Lily.

50 LILY 50
Parker, are we lost?

Parker's offended.

51 PARKER 51
Lost? Lily, Lily, Lily. Clouds
can't get lost. <SMACKS LIPS
TOGETHER> So cute.

Super confident, he floats up to the sky.

52 PARKER (CONT'D) 52
All I have to do is float up to the
sky, look around, and see where we
need to go.

Lily looks up at the blazing sun.

53 LILY 53
You probably shouldn't do that. The
sun is really hot.

The sun immediately burns Parker to a crisp! He plummets to the sand below.

54 LILY (CONT'D) 54
 <FRANTIC RUNNING EFFORTS>

55 PARKER (O.S.) 55
HOT! HOT! HOT!

Lily catches Parker in her suit hand FRYING PAN. She <SPITS>
on his dried out body.

56 LILY 56
 <BIG INHALE> Patooy.

Parker <POOFS> back into his regular form, panicking!

57 PARKER 57
Oh. My. Cloud! We're lost forever!
We're goners, Lily! Goners!
<HYPERVENTILATES>

58 LILY 58
No we're not.

59 PARKER 59
(hopeful)
You know how to get out of here?

60	No.	LILY	60
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61 PARKER 61
 <SNIFFLES> ME EITHER! <CRIES>

62 LILY 62
Parker, you need to stop crying.

63 PARKER 63
(blubbering)
<SNIFFLES> I know it's not a good
look, but I don't care, Lily!

64 LILY 64
It's not that. If we are lost,
we're gonna need all the water we
can get. And you're kinda our only
source of water, Parker.

65 PARKER 65
(overconfident)
Lily, Lily, Lily. Clouds can't run
out of water.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS DESERT - DAY

A pruned Parker is completely dried out, slogging along as the sun beats down on him.

66 PARKER 66
<GASPS!> I can't believe I ran out
of water! What else don't I know
about clouds? I'm made of cotton,
right? That's still true, right??

A frustrated Lily, with her skin shriveled like beef jerky, swallows her anger.

67 LILY 67
We'll find our way out of here. All
we have to do is retrace our steps.

At that moment, the desert wind blows away their trail of footprints.

68 LILY (CONT'D) 68
Farts.

69 PARKER 69
Told you, we're goners! <CRIES>

Parker starts to cry but is out of tears, so he cries sand instead. Which hurts, making him only cry more.

70 PARKER (CONT'D) 70
(crying)
Ow! Ow! It stings! I'm out of
water! I can't stop. Ah, ahh!

Lily is over the dramatics. She walks off.

71 LILY 71
Sigh. Come on, Parker.

Parker follows her, still crying dry tears.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS DESERT - DAY

The sun beats down on our duo as they slog through the unforgiving desert. The mechanical <TRILL> from Lily's suit is the only thing we hear. It catches Parker's attention, although he doesn't know where it's coming from.

72 PARKER 72
You hear that noise, Lily?

73 LILY 73
No.

He quiets down for a sec. Yep. There is definitely a <NOISE>.

74 PARKER 74
You really don't hear that?

Lily stops. Listens.

75 LILY 75
No, Parker. I don't.

76 PARKER 76
Huh. It stopped.

77 LILY 77
<SIGHS>

Annoyed, Lily walks on. The mechanical <NOISE> starts again.

78 PARKER 78
There! It's back. Hear it!?

79 LILY 79
Still don't hear it, Parker. What's
it sound like?

80 PARKER 80
Imagine something suuuuper
annoying. And then double it.

81 LILY 81
Doesn't help.

82 PARKER 82
Okay, it sounds like... <MIMICS
NOISE HORRIBLY>.

Impatient, Lily stops. Listens. By stopping, the sound stops.

83 LILY 83
Nope.

84 PARKER 84
It's gone again.

She resumes walking, determined to get the heck out of this
desert.

85 PARKER (CONT'D) 85
It's back! And way worse!

86 LILY 86
Parker, can you please stop? I'm
trying to focus on getting us out
of here.

87 PARKER 87
Fine.

The <NOISE> resumes. The sound grows more annoying in
Parker's head, driving him mad.

88 PARKER (CONT'D) 88
Ahhh, get out of my head! <LONG
SCREAM!>

Lily turns to Parker, waving her arms...

89 LILY 89
Parker! You're not helping!

That's when Parker makes the connection. The <NOISE> is
coming from Lily's mech suit when she moves!

90 PARKER 90
<GASPS!> It's you! That suuuuuper
annoying sound is coming from your
mech suit.

91 LILY 91
Doubt it. This is the same suit I
always wear. Maybe crying out our
entire water supply has you hearing
things.

This stings Parker.

92 PARKER 92
Low blow, Lily. Low blow.

93 LILY 93
Well, this is all your fault.

94 PARKER 94
My fault!? Fine. Maybe we should
split up then. You go your way, and
I'll go mine.

95 LILY 95
Sounds good.

Lily walks off. Parker clearly didn't think she would take
him up on it. He's hurt even more now.

96 PARKER 96
Fine!

97 LILY 97

Fine!

98 PARKER 98

Fine!

Lily exits screen right while Parker exits screen left.

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99                                PARKER (CONT'D)                                99
                                (mocking)
                                Fine!

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Both come back into frame but from the opposite side they exited. They bump into each other, face to face again.

100	PARKER/LILY	100
	<SMALL IMPACT>	

101 LILY 101
I thought you were going your own
way.

102 PARKER 102
I did go my own way!

103	Ugh!	PARKER/LILY	103
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104	Fine!	LILY	104
-----	-------	------	-----

105	Fine!	PARKER	105
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They each go their separate ways again like before. And like before, they enter through the opposite side of the frame, coming face to face.

106	UGH!!	PARKER/LILY	106
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This time, they cross in front of each other before exiting frame on opposite sides.

A moment passes. Parker and Lily poke their heads back into frame.

107 PARKER 107
Did it work?

108 LILY 108
I think so.

They go right back to glaring.

109	Fine!	PARKER	109
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110		LILY	110
	Fine!		

As they stomp away from each other...

[illegible]

112		PARKER	112
	Fine!		

113	Fine!	LILY	113
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114 Fine! PARKER **114**

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS DESERT - DAY

Parker, now alone, drags his dried up body along the sand.

115 PARKER **115**

Come on, Parker J. You got this,
buddy. <STRUGGLES> You don't need
Lily. Never did.
<STRUGGLES/COLLAPSES>

116 ANGUS (O.S.) 116
Parker? Is that you?

Parker shoots up.

117	Angus?	PARKER	117
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Rising over a sand dune are ANGUS and RUSSELL, heroic light rays shining behind them.

118		PARKER (O.S.) (CONT'D)	118
	Angus!		

119 ANGUS 119
Don't worry, kiddo! Your old pal
Angus is here to rescue you.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS DESERT - SAME TIME

Lily trudges through the endless sand, her suit making the <TRILL> noise. She stops. Moves her hand. Hears it.

120 LILY 120
Oh. Now I hear it. That is
annoying.

Suddenly, a DARK SHADOW of a large winged creature passes overhead. She looks up, sees nothing but the sun. She shakes it off, not worried.

121 LILY (CONT'D) 121
It's only a mirage, Lily.

Lily continues to walk when a GIANT VULTURE suddenly lands right in front of her. Lily barely reacts.

122 LILY (CONT'D) 122
Not bad for a mirage. Almost looks
real.

She walks right past the behemoth, completely confident until... she's plucked up into the air!

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123              LILY (CONT'D)                               123
               <SQUEEZED EFFORT> Ahhhhhh!

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EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS DESERT - SAME TIME

Back to Parker, Angus, and Russell, who now sit on a blanket, having a nice PICNIC.

124 PARKER 124
<RAVENOUS EATING/DRINKING><HAPPY
SIGH>

Parker's <GULPING> down everything in sight!

125	PARKER (CONT'D)	125
	How'd you know to pack all this food and water, Angus?	

126 ANGUS 126
 Actually, it was Russell's idea.
 Wasn't it, girl?

Russell excitedly <WARBLES>.

127 PARKER 127
 <GLUGS><SPITS> Good looking out,
 girl. I was so thirsty. I was
 afraid I'd start seeing things.

Angus and Russell's heads have suddenly switched bodies.

128 ANGUS 128
Well you're definitely not doing
that. <LAUGHS!> Ah, dig in,
everyone!

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129          PARKER          129
          This is great!
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130 ANGUS/PARKER 130
 <HAPPY EATING EFFORTS>

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS DESERT - DAY

Lily runs for her life as the giant Vulture chases her across a long stretch of sand. Her face scratched, worse for wear.

131 LILY 131
 Ahhhhh! AHHHHH!

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS DESERT - DAY

Parker lays on his back, his plump tummy threatening to tear the stitching of his onesie.

132 PARKER 132
 <CONTENT SIGH> I can't take another
 bite.

133 ANGUS (O.S.) 133
 Mind if I eat the last pickle?

134 PARKER 134
 Huh?

Parker startles, sitting up.

135 PARKER (CONT'D) 135
 <STRUGGLES>

We see Angus, now a PICKLE, holding a pickle.

136 ANGUS 136
 <LOUD MUNCHING>

137 PARKER 137
 But you hate pickles. Angus thinks
 pickles are nothing more than
 cucumbers that quit.

Parker punches right through Mirage Angus, who disappears.

138 PARKER (CONT'D) 138
 But you're not Angus, are you?
 YOU'RE A MIRAGE!

Parker's crushed.

139 PARKER (CONT'D) 139
 I can't believe I fell for it! Nice
 going, Parker.

140 LILY (O.S.) 140
 HELP!

141 Lily? PARKER 141

Racing over a sand dune is Lily.

142 LILY 142
Ahhhh! Run for it, Parker! There's
a giant vulture trying to eat me!

143	PARKER	143
	Giant vulture?	

She runs right past Parker.

144 LILY **144**

Ahhhhh!

The Vulture chases after Lily, who runs around in circles, trying to lose this thing.

145 LILY (CONT'D) 145
Ahhhhh! <RUNNING/DODGING EFFORTS>

146 PARKER 146
Oh. <CHUCKLES> That's just a
mirage, Lily. I totally fell for
one too. It's not real.

The Vulture catches up to Lily, trying to <YANK> her out of her suit.

147	PARKER (CONT'D)	147
	<GASPS!>	

148	LILY	148
	<BEING SHAKEN EFFORTS>	

149 PARKER 149
Oh. My. Cloud! That vulture is NOT
a mirage, Lily!

150	I know.	LILY	150
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The Vulture lifts her up into the air, trying to <SWALLOW> Lily whole just as her mech suit malfunctions.

151	Farts.	LILY (CONT'D)	151
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The Vulture starts to fly away with Lily in its beak!

152	Lily!	PARKER	152
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153 LILY **153**

Ahhhhh!

163 PARKER 163
Thanks, Lily.
(beat)
Are we goners?

164 LILY 164
I believe so, Parker. But we had a
good run.

165 PARKER 165
The best run.

Parker <POOFS> into a SHOVEL and starts digging a hole.

166 PARKER (CONT'D) 166
How deep do you want your hole?

As Parker digs their sandy graves, they hear nearby <VOICES>.

167 BRAD (O.S.) 167
What a stupid looking cactus.

168 RONDA (O.S.) 168
It doesn't look like it's supposed
to look.

169 BRAD (O.S.) 169
Yeah, it looks stupid.

Parker and Lily share a knowing look. Could it be?

170 PARKER 170
Did they say cactus?

171 PARKER/LILY 171
<FRANTIC CRAWLING EFFORTS>

The two crawl over the sand dune to find BRAD and RONDA,
standing next to a CACTUS that looks just like one of Lily's
mech suits!

172 PARKER/LILY (CONT'D) 172
There it is! The cactus! / <GASPS!>

173 BRAD 173
I feel dumber for just looking at
it. Let's get out of here.

Brad and Ronda walk away.

174 LILY 174
Wow. It does look just like one of
my mech suits.

175 PARKER 175
Told you.

176 LILY 176
(wipes tear)
<SNIFFS> Totally worth it.

Parker and Lily bear hug the cactus. The needles go right through Parker's body, but Lily winces.

177 LILY (CONT'D) 177
Ow.

178 PARKER 178
Oh and look! There's a road that
will take us right into town. What
luck!

REVEAL a road feet from the cactus. Lily glares at Parker.

179 LILY 179
There was a road?

180 PARKER 180
Oh yeah, I didn't tell you?

181 LILY 181
Sigh. Let's just get back to the
store.

182 PARKER 182
You got it!

Lily exits screen left while Parker exits screen right.

THE END