

MIDDLEMOST POST

#066 - "Inside Angus"

Written by

Mo Moffett and Dave H. Johnson

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INT. S.S. STEADFAST - MAIN QUARTERS - DAY

1 PARKER 1
Angus, did you know it's impossible
to sneeze AND keep your eyes open
at the same time?

PARKER tapes his mouth and eyelids back with packing tape.

2 PARKER (CONT'D) 2
Well today, I'll make the
impossible, possible.

Parker tickles himself and <SNEEZES>.

3	Achoo!	PARKER (CONT'D)	3
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He looks around, but there's no Angus.

4 Angus? PARKER (CONT'D) 4

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - VARIOUS

QUICK CUTS of Parker searching for Angus everywhere. Drawers. Under rugs. Toilet. Crow's nest. Inside Russell. Etc.

5 PARKER 5
Angus? Angus? Where are you, buddy?
Angus? Hello? You in here? Angus?
Helllllooo?

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - THE HULL - CONT.

Parker looks in the hull.

6 PARKER 6
Anquuuusss?

He spots a strange OPENING in the wall that looks like a secret door.

7 PARKER (CONT'D) 7
<GASPS!>

Parker eagerly swings open the door and heads inside.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - SHACKLETON FAMILY SHRINE - CONT.

Parker finds himself in what appears to be a small MUSEUM ARCHIVE filled with old Shackleton family ARTIFACTS.

8 PARKER 8
Whoaaaaa.

9 ANGUS (O.S.) 9
Parker?

10 PARKER 10
<GASPS!>

ANGUS (wearing a DIAMOND MONOCLE) appears from behind a bookshelf, holding a TINY BRUSH and POSTAL STAMP.

11 ANGUS 11
What in the world are you doing
down here?

12 PARKER 12
I think the better question is...
We had a secret room on the ship,
and you didn't tell me!!?

Parker spots KNITTING NEEDLES displayed on a pedestal.

13 PARKER (CONT'D) 13
<GASPS!> Are those the original
knitting needles that made the
Shackleton lucky beanie?

Parker goes to touch the knitting needles.

14 PARKER (CONT'D) 14
<EXCITED ANTICIPATORY NOISES>

Angus slides in front of the kid to stop him.

15 ANGUS 15
NO TOUCHING!
(eases)
Sorry, little nimbus. But these
family heirlooms are very special
to your old pal Angus.

16 PARKER 16
You didn't tell me about the secret
room because you thought I'd touch
everything.

17 ANGUS 17
Bingo.

18 PARKER 18
Respect.
(re: stamp)
What's that?

Angus proudly holds up the STAMP using a pair of tweezers.
The stamp is old, ornate, and has the Shackleton CREST on it.

19 ANGUS 19
This is the Shackleton family
stamp. Ain't it a beaut? There's
only one left in the entire world,
and you're looking at it.

20 PARKER 20
Only one?

21 ANGUS 21
Yup. It's up to me to make sure
nothing ever happens to it. Because
if the last Shackleton stamp went
missing on my watch, I'd never be
able to forgive myself-- <INHALES!>

Angus accidentally swallows the stamp!

22 PARKER 22
<SHOCKED GASP!>

Angus freaks out!

23 ANGUS 23
<PANICKED WALLA>

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

24 ANGUS (O.S.) 24
Noooooooooooo!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - KITCHEN - DAY

Angus sits at the table, totally distraught. Parker floats
over, hands him a glass of MILK.

25 PARKER 25
It's okay, big guy. This is gonna
work, I promise.

26 ANGUS 26
I don't know, Parker.

27 PARKER 27
I'll be in and out with the stamp
before you know it.

Parker <POOFS> into the cutest little COOKIE, landing in
Angus' palm. Angus looks to RUSSELL, who shrugs.

28 ANGUS 28
<SIGHS>

Angus closes his eyes and tosses Parker in his mouth.

29 ANGUS (CONT'D) 29
Ahhhhh. <SWALLOWS>

INT. ANGUS' ESOPHAGUS - CONT.

Parker falls inside of Angus like *Alice in Wonderland*.

30 PARKER 30
Weeeeeee-- Oof!

He squeezes through a tight little spot in Angus' throat,
bouncing around.

31 PARKER (CONT'D) 31
<VARIOUS FALLING/SCREAMING WALLA>

INT. ANGUS - STAGING AREA - CONT.

He finally makes a super soft landing. (Angus is made of yarn
and patchwork and feels extra cozy.) Parker takes it all in.

32 PARKER 32
<GIGGLES!> Oh. My. Cloud. Angus is
soft on the inside. I knew it!
<HAPPY BOUNCING> So fluffy!

Parker bounces around like he's in a SkyZone. He stops to
<SNIFF> a nearby flower.

33 PARKER (CONT'D) 33
<SNIFFS><GIGGLES!>

A TRAIN WHISTLE blows. Parker looks over and spots a RAILROAD
HANDCAR attached to a FLATCAR.

34 GUM 34
ALL ABOARD!

What looks like a chewed up piece of GUM wearing a conductor
hat continues to yell out.

35 GUM (CONT'D) 35
The D Train to the Stomach
Station's now departing!

Parker brightens up and zips over to Gum.

36 PARKER 36
Hi! Can I get a ride to the
stomach? My best bud accidentally
swallowed a super important stamp,
and I promised I'd get it back.

37 GUM 37
That depends. Are you food?

38 PARKER 38
No. I'm a cloud. Parker J. Cloud.
Who are you?

39 GUM 39
Gum. Just Gum. And my job is to
take food, and only food from the
Mouth Station to the Stomach
Station. Considering you're not
food--

40 PARKER 40
Oooh, you said food. I must've
misheard you. Yep, I'm food.
Totally food. Food.

Parker <CHEWS> on his butt to sell it.

41 PARKER (CONT'D) 41
(while eating self)
<CHOMPS> Mmmhmm. Mmmm-mmm. Mmm!
Good food too. Tastes yummy.

42 GUM 42
Okay, whatever. Hop in the back
with the rest of the slop.

43 PARKER 43
Woo-hoo!

Parker climbs onto the flatcar.

44 PARKER (CONT'D) 44
Hey! There's the breakfast Angus
had this morning. Cool!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - SAME TIME

A nervous Angus paces the room.

45	ANGUS	45
	I sure hope everything's okay in there. I don't know what I'd do if something happened to that stamp.	

Russell gives Angus a judging look.

46	ANGUS (CONT'D)	46
	And Parker. Of course, Parker. <NERVOUS CHUCKLING> You know.	

Russell leaves, disappointed.

INT. ANGUS - TRAIN - CONT.

The train cars slowly glide along the railway tracks through Angus. Gum pumps the "teeter-totter" cart handle to make it move as Parker soaks in the fantastical scenery.

47	PARKER	47
	Are we there yet?	

48	GUM	48
	No.	

A moment passes.

49	PARKER	49
	What about now?	

50	GUM	50
	No.	

A slightly longer moment.

51	PARKER	51
	We there now?	

52	GUM	52
	No!	

53	PARKER	53
	Are we--?	

54	GUM	54
	NO!	

Parker kicks his feet, rocking back and forth.

55 PARKER 55
How much longer 'til we get there?

56 GUM 56
In here, time and space is nothing
but a construct of the mind.

57 PARKER 57
So like, ten/fifteen minutes?
(spots something)
<GASPS!> Is that the big guy's
heart!?

Parker points to an ORGAN in the distance.

58 GUM 58
Like I said before, my job is to
deliver food from the Mouth Station
to the Stomach Station. Not play
twenty questions--<GASPS!>

Gum turns around to find Parker gone.

59 GUM (CONT'D) 59
Hey!

60 PARKER (O.S.) 60
Whoaaa.

AT THE "HEART" - CONT.

Parker admires the heart like it's the Sistine Chapel. He
reaches out to touch it--

61 PARKER 61
<GASPS!> Wooooow.

Gum steps in and stops Parker.

62 GUM 62
NO TOUCHING!

63 PARKER 63
But it's Angus' heart. I gotta
touch it. It's kinda my jam.

64 GUM 64
That's his pancreas. Not his heart.

65 PARKER 65
Oh. What's it do?

66 GUM 66
Nobody knows.

BACK ON THE TRAIN - CONT.

Gum is back to hand powering the handcar as Parker sits in the back.

67 GUM 67
Okay. I think it's time we set some
ground rules. Rule number one:
never, ever, ever get off the
train. You think you can handle
tha--

Gum turns around. Parker's gone again.

68 GUM (CONT'D) 68
Seriously!?

AT THE REAL HEART - CONT.

Parker admires what is Angus' actual heart. Gum races in, out of breath.

69 PARKER 69
(re: heart)
Woooooow.

70 GUM 70
What did I just say about getting
off the train? <FORCED CHUCKLES>

71 PARKER 71
(in awe)
It's... <SNIFFLES> it's beautiful.

Parker wipes a tear. Gum can see how much this means to the kid and backs down a little.

72 GUM 72
If you want, you can touch it.

73 PARKER 73
<GASPS!>

74 GUM 74
But make it quick!

Parker slowly floats towards Angus' beating heart.

75 PARKER 75
Whoaaaa. <GASPS!>

Instead of touching, Parker immediately bear hugs it.

76 PARKER (CONT'D) 76
I love you, Angus!

77 GUM 77
I said touch it, not hug it!

Parker <SQUEEZES> the heart nice and tight.

78 PARKER 78
(while squeezing)
Oh, I just love you so much!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - CONT.

Angus faceplants onto the table. <THUD!>

Russell takes the opportunity to sneak a glance at his playing cards. Just as she expected.

INT. ANGUS - CONT.

The train glides down the tracks once again. An annoyed Gum pumps away while Parker sits on the handle, contrite.

79 GUM (O.S.) 79
What's rule number one?

80 PARKER 80
Don't get off the train.

81 GUM 81
And rule number two?

82 PARKER 82
Don't hug vital organs.

83 GUM 83
Correct. Don't hug vital organs!!
(under his breath)
You think that would be obvious.

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - SAME TIME

Angus rocks back and forth on the floor. Russell scurries over with a glass of WATER.

84 ANGUS 84
Thanks, girl. It was probably just
heartburn. Don't worry, I'll be
okay. <GUZZLES WATER> Ahhh.

Angus then has a realization.

85 ANGUS (CONT'D) 85
That was probably a bad idea.

INT. ANGUS - CONT.

Gum pumps the handcar. Parker sits on the other end, not pumping, just sitting. Up, down, up, down...

86 PARKER 86

You know, you're a lot like my best
bud Angus. You both like rules. You
both deliver things for a living.

Gum continues to pump, unfazed.

87 PARKER (CONT'D) 87
You're gum, and Angus used to love
gum, until he accidentally
swallowed a piece once.
(suddenly realizes)
Ohhh. That was you, wasn't it? Man,
tough break--

Suddenly, the train cars <RUMBLE>. The walls <SHAKE>.

88

GUM

88

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa! Quiet
down, quiet down, quiet down, quiet
down, quiet down...
(beat)
You feel that?

Gum looks back at a dark TUNNEL they just came out of. It sounds like WATER rushing towards them.

89	Oh, no.	GUM (O.S.) (CONT'D)	89
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Right then, water <BLASTS> through the tunnel!

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90                                GUM (CONT'D)                                90
                                Start pumping!!

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Before Parker can react, Gum starts pumping the cart frantically as water barrels down on them.

91 GUM (CONT'D) 91
<FRANTIC PUMPING EFFORTS> What are
you doing?! Help! You're not
helping at all!

Parker is jerked up and down by the cart handle.

92 PARKER 92
<FRANTIC SHAKEN EFFORTS>

93 GUM/PARKER 93
<FRANTIC/WORRIED WALLA>

What transpires is an exciting "Indiana Jones/Mine Cart" action sequence of Parker and Gum trying to outpace the water. It's absolutely awesome!

94 GUM/PARKER (CONT'D) 94
<LONG SCREAMS!>

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - SAME TIME

Angus, still holding his glass of water, stares at his stomach. It rumbles. He looks to Russell.

95 ANGUS 95
Eh, I'm sure it's fine.

INT. ANGUS - CONT.

The exciting action sequence ends with the train cars launching off the rails.

96 GUM/PARKER 96
Ahhhhhh!!!!

Gum and Parker SPLATTER onto a wall, pancake flat. They peel off, landing on the ground.

97 GUM 97
<WOOZY EFFORTS>

Gum sees the handcar busted up in pieces.

98 GUM (CONT'D) 98
My ride! Oh, no! Look at this mess.
It's gonna take forever to fix.

Gum gathers the broken pieces.

99 PARKER 99
But the good news is, we made it to
the stomach!

Parker points to a BEADED CURTAIN. Instead of beads, it's fish, chicken bones, and meat. A sign reads "*Stomach Station: Transfer to Digestive Tract.*"

100 GUM 100
I don't know what you're so giddy
about.

101 PARKER 101
I get to save the Shackleton family
stamp, which will make Angus super,
super happy.

Gum rips chunks of himself off and uses the gum to piece the cart back together.

102 GUM 102
Oh, that stamp's long gone, buddy.
(rips a chunk of self)
Ouch.

103 PARKER 103
What do you mean?

104 GUM 104
The stomach's sole purpose is to
digest and destroy anything and
everything that comes its way.

Parker notices all the BIOHAZARD symbols surrounding the entrance to the stomach. It looks much more dangerous all of a sudden.

105 PARKER 105
Then how come you're still here?

106 GUM 106
Hello. Gum. Everybody knows you
can't digest gum.
(rips another chunk)
Ow.
(then to Parker)
If I was you, I'd let it go. Live
to fight another day.

Suddenly not so confident, Parker looks back at the scary entrance to the stomach. He steels himself. Then...

107 PARKER 107
I'm going in.

Parker heads toward the stomach. Surprised, Gum hurries over to Parker.

108	GUM	108
	Wait! Didn't you hear me? The stomach destroys <u>everything</u> . That includes you!	

109	PARKER	109
	I can't give up now. The stamp could still be in there.	

Parker continues his march towards the stomach.

110	GUM	110
	It's just a stupid stamp! It means nothing.	

111 PARKER 111
It means something to Angus, and if
it means something to him, then it
means something to me.

112	GUM	112
	Fine. Go to the stomach. See if I	
	care.	

It's obvious Gum does care but won't admit it. He watches Parker walk away.

113	GUM (CONT'D)	113
	It was nice knowing ya! By the way,	
	I know you're NOT food! I just felt	
	sorry for you!	

Gum watches as Parker disappears inside the curtain entrance. He shakes his head, clearly worried.

114 GUM (CONT'D) 114
(to himself)
Good luck, kid.

INT. ANGUS - STOMACH - CONT.

Parker enters the stomach. It's a giant cavernous room with a bubbling acid pool in the middle.

115	PARKER	115
	<SNIFFS> Ooo-eee, it's funky up in here.	
	(looks around)	
	Okay. If I was a lost stamp, where would I be?	

Parker floats above the acid pool and surveys the stomach for the stamp. He spots it on a pile of yet to be digested food.

116 PARKER (CONT'D) 116
<GASPS!> The stamp!

Parker <ZIPS> over to it. Peels it off the mound of food and holds it up.

117 PARKER (CONT'D) 117
<GASPS!> And it's still in perfect
condition. <CHUCKLES> What luck!
(ponders)
It was pretty easy to find too, all
things considered.

A TENTACLE with an EYE rises from the acid like a periscope, directly in Parker's line of sight. (Think Star Wars IV Trash Compactor Creature.)

118 PARKER (CONT'D) 118
(shrugs it off)
Eh. When you got it, you got it.

Parker turns to find himself face to face with the creature.

119 PARKER (CONT'D) 119
(re: tentacle)
Uhhh. Hi. <NERVOUS CHUCKLING>

The tentacle eye inspects him. Parker shutters.

120 PARKER (CONT'D) 120
I think I left the bathtub water
running. I-I should probably get
back.

Parker floats off, but ANOTHER TENTACLE blocks his path.

121 PARKER (CONT'D) 121
No worries. Heh. I'll just go on
out the, the back door. <NERVOUS
CHUCKLING>

Parker goes the other way and is once again stopped by a tentacle blocking his path.

122 PARKER (CONT'D) 122
<MORE NERVOUS CHUCKLING>

Parker then spots the undigested pile of food. He picks up a FISH and waves it around like you would a stick for a dog.

123 PARKER (CONT'D) 123
(re: fish)
Wanna play fetch? Y-you want it?
You want it? Go get it!

He chucks the fish, and it works! The tentacles take off after it.

Parker wastes no time and darts for the exit, but he's stopped once again by the tentacles. The acid pool <BUBBLES>. Rising out of the acid is the rest of the STOMACH MONSTER. This thing looks like one big ULCER.

124 PARKER (CONT'D) 124
Hey there...

The Monster <GROWLS>!

125 PARKER (CONT'D) 125
Ahhhhhh!

Parker <DODGES> as the tentacles <SPIT> acid at him.

126 PARKER (CONT'D) 126
<VARIOUS DODGING/SCREAMING EFFORTS>

After a valiant escape effort, Parker finds himself cornered, out of breath, scared. He clings to the stamp.

127 PARKER (CONT'D) 127
I'm sorry, Angus. I tried.

The Monster crawls out of the acid and onto dry land. It bears down on Parker as the little nimbus closes his eyes. He hugs the stamp tight, remembering all the good times he had with his pal Angus.

128 PARKER (CONT'D) 128
<SOBS>

But just as the Monster lunges, it stops short. It appears to be STUCK on something. That something is GUM!

129 PARKER (O.S.) (CONT'D) 129
Gum?

Gum has stuck himself to the bottom of the Monster, preventing it from moving any further.

130 GUM 130
<STRAINING EFFORTS>

131 PARKER 131
What are you doing here?

132 GUM 132
(while straining)
Eh, what's it look like? <STRAINS>
I'm stopping this freakshow... Ow!
From eating you! <MORE STRAINING>

133 PARKER 133
But you said you didn't care.

134 GUM 134
(while straining)
Okay, fine. <STRAINS> Maybe I care
a little bit. Whatever.

135 PARKER 135
You are just like Angus! He also
pretends not to care, but deep down
he totally does.

136 GUM 136
You're a good bud, Parker. Now go
on. Get out of here before it's too
la--!

The Monster breaks free and devours Gum.

137 PARKER 137
Nooooo!
125 (teary) 125
<SHAKY INHALE> Goodbye, Gum. <BLOWS
NOSE> Your legend will live on
<SNIFFLES> long after you're gone.

138 GUM (O.S.) 138
After I'm gone?

Gum emerges from the Monster just fine.

139 GUM (CONT'D) 139
(yells out)
I'm gum! I'll be in this stomach
forever.

Parker grins.

140 GUM (O.S.) (CONT'D) 140
<CHUCKLES>

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - SAME TIME

Angus sits across from Russell. Both quiet. Pensive. After an
extended beat of silence...

141

ANGUS

141

<SIGHS> Well, I think it's time to
face the truth, girl. The
Shackleton family stamp is lost--
<GAGS> Whoa. Well, eh, you know.
It's, it's lost for-- <GAGS AGAIN>
Ugh. I don't know. I ju-- I mean, I
think the stamp is-- <VIOLENT VOMIT
NOISE>

Parker <BURSTS> out of Angus' mouth. He holds the stamp up
valiantly.

142

PARKER

142

Got it!

THE END.