

Moon Mall: Issue #3- Lovesick Loops and Sour-Sweet Fruits

Alexander McNeil

Setting: Our story takes place in the far future, around the year 2350. Technology is far more advanced than what we have now. Moon Mall is stationed, of course, on the moon and serves the relatively small population of inhabitants. It is located within the Moon Base, a domed city on the moon. It serves as a midway point from Earth to space or vice versa. The mall itself isn't too different from a regular Earth mall, with two anchor stores on either end of it.

PAGE ONE

Splash page

Wide shot of the exterior of Candy and Buck's stores, Sweet Tooth and Port Sports respectively. Lionel is in the center, looking at them with his hands on his hips. Candy's store has leftover candy wrappers, half-eaten sweets, and poorly dismantled cardboard boxes near the entrance of the store. Meanwhile, Buck's store has broken coat hangers, worn-out jerseys, and scratched-up merchandise hastily shoved into the garbage can.

1Lionel (thought): Ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous.

2Lionel (thought): I leave for less than a week, and **this** is how they leave my mall?

3Caption: Lionel Atticus. Mall owner, bit of a Scrooge.

4Title: Moon Mall: Issue #3- Lovesick Loops and Sour-Sweet Fruits.

5Credits: Script: Alexander McNeil

PAGE TWO

Panel 1: Medium shot of Lionel as he continues to stare at the two stores in contempt, Sarah walks by holding an energy bar and a water bottle—her usual breakfast—and approaches Lionel with a friendly but professional smile.

1Sarah: Good morning, Mr. Atticus. I hope you had a good vacation.

2Caption: Sarah Sheif. Security guard desperately looking for a new job.

3Lionel: It was, but then I came back to whatever **this** is.

Panel 2: Medium close-up of Lionel and Sarah as the former looks at the security guard with a puzzled expression.

4Lionel: Hang on, why are you over here? Isn't this supposed to be Farney's side of the mall?

Panel 3: Close-up shot of Sarah as she takes a bite out of her energy bar and maintains a nonchalant composure.

5SFX: Munch

6Sarah: Oh, I'm just here for the show.

Panel 4: Close-up shot of Lionel as he squints his eyes in both confusion and mild annoyance, the same way he does with his children whenever he feels they might be lying to him.

7Lionel: Explain, please.

PAGE THREE:

Panel 1: Medium close-up shot of Sarah as she begins to fill Lionel in on what he's missed since his vacation, using her fingers to count off the events in order of when they happened.

1Sarah: Well, to put it short, it first began with Candy writing an anonymous love letter to Buck and packaging some of those new Sour-Sweet Fruits she stocked.

Panel 2: Medium close-up shot of Sarah scrunching up her face in befuddlement as she recalls this part of the event while she holds up her second finger.

2Sarah: Then, for **some** ungodly reason, Buck assumed that I was the one who wrote him the letter—Which, no—and decided to write one back.

Panel 3: Medium close-up shot of Sarah holding up her third finger while she shrugs.

3Sarah: Finally, in his infinite wisdom, Buck dropped the letter off into Farney's locker under the assumption it was mine. Farney read it and assumed it was from Candy, so he wrote anonymously to **her**, which has brought us to today where this endless love letter loop has continued for four days.

Panel 4: A close-up shot of Lionel's face. While outwardly stoic and plain, he is holding back a frustrated and disappointed groan.

4Lionel (thought): Idiots. I hired idiots to run my mall.

Panel 5: Medium side by side shot of Sarah finishing her energy bar with Lionel staring at her.

5Sarah: So, care to join me?

Panel 6: Wide shot of Lionel walking into Candy's store, giving a dismissive wave to Sarah as he approaches the pastel-colored establishment.

6Lionel: No thank you. In fact, I'm putting an end to all of this nonsense.

7Lionel: I'm expecting some investors to come in tomorrow, and the last thing I need is for them to assume this mall is some sort of twenty-first century romantic comedy.

PAGE FOUR:

Panel 1: Wide shot of the interior of the Sweet Tooth. Like the exterior of the store, it is painted with soft, pastel, and child-like colors. In addition, there are several cardboard cutouts of cutesy cartoon animals with giant eyes asking the customers to buy specific brands of candy. The newest edition is a monkey holding a lemon in one hand and a peppermint in the other saying, "Sour-Sweet Fruits are the way to go!" Lionel walks into the store and spots Candy behind the counter, twirling her pink and blue-colored ponytail with her finger while she reads a note.

1Candy: So romantic...

2Caption: Candy Kane. Sweet of heart, empty of head.

Panel 2: Medium shot of Candy looking up from her note. She still has a whimsical and lovestruck expression on her face.

3Lionel (OFF PANEL): Ms. Kane? A word if you would.

4Candy: Oh! Hi, Mr. Lion-o! Did you have a good trip?

Panel 3: Close-up of Lionel visibly cringing. Candy gives all of the people she works with nicknames, and despite his protests, Lion-o was the one she chose for him.

5Lionel: It went fine...Thank you for asking. May I ask what you are reading?

Panel 4: Medium shot of candy looking back down at the note and swooning.

6Candy: Yeah, isn't it great? My Bucky-Boo is writing me letters as a "secret admirer". That means he got my note!

7Lionel: Ah, perfect. I have to tell you something. That note isn't real.

8Candy: I know right? It's so unreal, it's out of this world!

9SFX: Gasp

10Candy: Just like we are! Cause we're in space!

PAGE FIVE:

Panel 1: Medium shot of Lionel closing his eyes and exhaling through his nose. Candy's airheaded demeanor can be endearing at times, but his patience is wearing thin.

1Lionel: No, Ms. Kane. I mean that you have the identity of your secret admirer wrong.

2Candy: Silly Lion-O, I just told you it was Bucky-Boo that sent it!

Panel 2: Close-up shot of Lionel grinding his teeth. It is taking every bit of his willpower to not shout at her.

3Lionel: Ms. Kane, I don't know how to make this any clearer, but Mr. Gordon did not—

Panel 3: Medium shot of several mall shoppers barging into the store and waving their currency cards in the air.

4Shopper 1: I'll take two boxes of Sour-Sweets!

5Shopper 2: I'll take three!

6Shopper 3: I'll take thirty!

Panel 4: Medium shot of Candy perking up and getting into her customer service mode. She sweetly smiles at her customers and briefly looks back to Lionel.

7Candy: Oh, I'll talk to you later, Mr. Lion-O!

Panel 5: Close-up shot of Lionel standing still with a flustered expression as he is slowly swarmed by candy-crazed customers.

Panel 6: Close-up of Lionel as he lets out a deep breath and turns around.

8Lionel (thought): I guess I better tell "Bucky-Boo".

PAGE SIX:

Panel 1: Wide shot of the interior of Port Sports. Like its name suggests, it is a place to shop for a myriad of sports equipment. Football helmets? Check. Golf clubs? Check. Hockey masks? Unfortunately, hockey was outlawed in 2204. But they do have badminton gear! Buck, the store's owner was sitting in front of the giant sports TV in the back with a few other patrons as they watched a football game between the Jupiter Jackalopes and their rivals, the Neptune Narwhals.

1Buck: Come on, McCready! You've shaken off a meteor shower! What's a sprained wrist gonna do?

2Caption: Buck Gordon. Big as a fridge and just as smart.

Panel 2: Medium shot of Lionel approaching him, still slightly agitated from his encounter with Candy.

3Lionel: Mr. Gordon, we need to talk.

4Buck: Oh, hey boss man. Here to watch the game? It ain't worth it, trust me.

5Lionel: Hardly. It's about this "secret admirer" nonsense.

Panel 3: Close-up of the TV, the quarterback of the Jackalopes throws an interception.

6Buck (OFF PANEL): There we go!

7Lionel: Are you even listening to me?

Panel 4: Medium shot of Buck sitting on the couch, his eyes glued to the television.

8Buck: Yeah, yeah. My love letters with Sarah. It's going great! By the way, I'm gonna ask her out this weekend, so I'll be taking some time off.

Panel 5: Close-up of Lionel's face. He's clenching his jaw so hard his vein is beginning to throb.

9Lionel (thought): Give me strength to deal with this...