

8

CONTINUED:

8

NATALIE

I remember.

MONK

I was in a box. I was underground  
for nine hours.

(beat)

That box is now the second most  
terrible place I've ever been.

The VENDORS notice our foursome. The Vendors stop. The Vendors glare at them. The mood becomes tense.

A huge, hairy, dirty man steps up. This is GEORGE GIANOPOLOUS- the Hot Dog King. He has ketchup and mustard stains all over his dirty undershirt. He's gobbling HOT DOGS, one after another.

He's accompanied by a smaller, equally-disgusting vendor named AL.

HOT DOG KING

Can I help you?

LT. DISHER

Mr. Gianopolous?

HOT DOG KING

You health inspectors?

Capt. Stottlemeyer flashes his BADGE.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER

Homicide.

Gianopolous exhales, relieved.

HOT DOG KING

(to the ROOM)

It's okay. They're only from  
Homicide.

All the Other Vendors sigh. Whew. They resume their work.

HOT DOG KING (CONT'D)

You scared the bejeezus outta me.

LT. DISHER

Are you the Hot Dog King?

"MONK" - ALL THE VENDORS

(CONTINUED)

1/5

AL

HOT DOG KING  
 (nodding)  
 My father was Frankie Gianopolous.  
 He was the original king. I was the  
 Duke of Dogs. When he passed away-  
 hold on-

Gianopolous stiffens. He clutches his chest, like he's having  
 a heart attack!

HOT DOG KING (CONT'D)  
 Hold on...  
 Then... it passes. Apparently, it happens all the time.

NATALIE  
 Are you okay?

HOT DOG KING  
 I'm fine. It happens three, four  
 times a week. My doctor can't figure  
 it out.

MONK  
 Really? Your doctor can't figure it  
 out?

HOT DOG KING  
 Anyway, when my old man passed,  
 I inherited his kingdom, so to speak.

START →

AL THE VENDOR  
 You hungry?

Al The Vendor is standing by a CART. He slaps a fresh HOT  
 DOG together, and holds it out. Disher takes it.

~~LT. DISHER  
 I'll take it. I love 'em.  
 HOT DOG KING  
 Take all you want. We take care of  
 our friends in blue. And they always  
 take care of us.~~

Lt. Disher takes a bite. He savors it.

LT. DISHER  
 Mmmmm. That's good. Are these beef  
 or pork?

A long, embarrassed beat.

AL

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

AL THE VENDOR  
(making air quotes)  
We use "meat."

NATALIE  
Why do you say it like that?

~~HOT DOG KING~~ AL  
We're required by law to put it in quotes.

//END  
sc.1

MONK  
Mr. Dog - Dog King. We're looking for Councilwoman Eileen Hill. She's been missing since yesterday.

HOT DOG KING  
Yeah, I heard that. It was on the news. I can't help you.

CAPT. STOTTEMEYER  
When was the last time you saw her?

HOT DOG KING  
Three weeks, maybe a month ago. She called here yesterday. She said she was coming over, but she never showed. Which was fine by me.

NATALIE  
You don't like her?

HOT DOG KING  
~~I would say I hate her. Hate. Every vendor in here feels the same way. She wants to keep us to death.~~

START  
→  
sc.2

AL THE VENDOR  
She wants us to wear gloves. And put lids on the condiment trays.

HOT DOG KING  
Lids.

AL THE VENDOR  
And change the water in the tanks every other day.

NATALIE  
What's wrong with that?

(CONTINUED)

3/5

AL.

HOT DOG KING

These dogs are like wine. You gotta let 'em simmer.

AL THE VENDOR

The simmering. That's the secret.

//END  
SC.2

MONK

(beyond disgusted)

The simmering.

(making air quotes)

The "meat" has to simmer.

(to Natalie)

Did you ever read Dante's Inferno?

Meanwhile, Disher is oblivious. He gobbles one hot dog down, and reaches for another.

LT. DISHER

Mmm. They're addicting. Just one more.

HOT DOG KING

Anyway, she never called to cancel, and never showed up. That's all I know.

MONK

Maybe she did show up. Maybe you got into a little fight. Maybe you hit her. Maybe you killed her.

CAPT. STOTTLEMEYER

Maybe we ought to get a search warrant and rip this place apart.

HOT DOG KING

Go ahead. Be my guest.

(smirking)

Believe me, if I had done... what you're accusing me of, I wouldn't just leave her body lying around. She'd be someplace you'd never find her. I mean, she'd be gone.

(then)

Have a good day.

The Hot Dog King and Al walk away.

Monk, Natalie and Stottlemeyer turn to Disher, who's still happily munching on a HOT DOG. They focus on the suspicious hot dog in Disher's hand.

AL

12 EXT. DOWNTOWN - BUSY STREET -- DAY 12

Moments later. Downtown. On a BUSY STREET.

Monk and Maria are at a HOT DOG CART. We recognize the vendor - it's Al, who we met in the warehouse. Al is slopping CONDIMENTS onto Maria's hot dog.

MARIA

And some cold slaw. Not too much.  
That's too much. A little more.  
(to Monk)  
Aren't you hungry?

Monk shudders.

MONK

Oh no. I'm fine. I ate... yesterday.

START →  
SC.3

AL THE VENDOR

That's two fifty.

An awkward beat. Maria waits for Monk to pay.

MONK

Oh. Let me get that. No problem.

Monk pays the Vendor.

AL THE VENDOR

Thanks a lot.

MONK

Thank you.  
(making air quotes)  
It was "a pleasure" to see you again.  
(more air quotes)  
It was a real "pleasure". The  
"pleasure" was all mine.

AL THE VENDOR

Alright. I get it.

// END  
SC.3

13 EXT. PARK BENCH - NEARBY -- MOMENTS LATER 13

Moments later. Nearby. Maria sits on a PARK BENCH, with her hot dog. Monk sits beside her.

MONK

How are you holding up?

(CONTINUED)

5/5