

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.

START →

HOT DOG KING

Can I help you?

LT. DISHER

Mr. Gianopolous?

HOT DOG KING

You health inspectors?

Capt. Stottlemeyer flashes his BADGE.

CAPT. STOTTMMEYER

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?

(CONTINUED)

1/4

"MONK" - Hot Dog King (George Gianopolous)

George

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

2/4

George

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8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

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

NATALIE  
Why do you say it like that?

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

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. STOTTLEMEYER  
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 wouldn't say that. I would say I hate her. Hate. Every vendor in here feels the same way. She wants to regulate us to death.

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)

3/4

George

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8 CONTINUED: (4)

8

HOT DOG KING

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

AL THE VENDOR

The simmering. That's the secret.

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 on 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.

END

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.

(CONTINUED)

4/4