

[ROCKY is standing behind his hot dog vendor cart outside of Fenway Park. In front of his cart is a SCREEVER, a 20-something pavement artist. She is on her knees, chalking an image on the sidewalk.]

ROCKY

Miss? Excuse me, Miss.

SCREEVER

Yes?

ROCKY

You have to do your little paintings someplace else.

SCREEVER

I'm not painting, I'm chalking. I'm a screever.

ROCKY

A what?

SCREEVER

A screever. A pavement artist.

ROCKY

You mean like Dick Van Dyke?

SCREEVER

Exactly! Ever since I saw Mary Poppins, I knew I was going to be a screever.

[SCREEVER goes back to her work.]

ROCKY

Hey, are you listening to me? *[beat]* Whatever you are, and whatever you're doing, you can't do it in front of my stand.

SCREEVER

But the light is perfect here all day.

ROCKY

Look, honey. I have a license to sell hot dogs from this exact spot. This is my spot. It has been my spot for 44 years, and you're taking up too much space.

SCREEVER

I'm not bothering anybody, Mister. There's plenty of room for both of us.

ROCKY

There may be room for the both of us, but what there ain't room for is you, and me, and all my hungry customers.

SCREEVER

They can walk on it. I don't mind.

ROCKY

Look, girlie. If people see you slaving over your masterpiece, they're gonna walk in a big circle around it. And after they tiptoe around your tulips, they may decide that it ain't worth comin' over here for a Dog King. So move, or I'll have to involve the police.

SCREEVER

What's a Dog King?

ROCKY

What? You've been here all morning and you don't even know what a Dog King is?

SCREEVER

I thought you were the Dog King.

ROCKY

[holds up a hot dog in a bun] This is the Dog King. I am merely the creator. It's my specialty. Rocky Sullivan's Dog King contains every food group you can think of. Eat one Dog King and you won't need any sustenance for the rest of the day. Eat one Dog King a day and I guarantee you'll live forever.

SCREEVER

Really?

ROCKY

Here. Try it.

SCREEVER

No thanks, I'm a vege—

ROCKY

—Come on! Free of charge.

SCREEVER

[pause] OK. *[she takes a bite]* Wow. This is awesome.

ROCKY

Of course it is.

SCREEVER
What's in it?

ROCKY
I'm afraid I can't tell you that, honey.

SCREEVER
Or you'd have to kill me, right?

ROCKY
[laughs] Loose lips sink ships.

SCREEVER
Mum's the word.

ROCKY
Now you're talkin'.

[ENTER a couple. They start towards the hot dog stand, but stop to watch SCREEVER.]

SOFIA
Come on, Jason, I'm starving.

JASON
I don't want to step all over the mural. We can buy something in the stands.

ROCKY
You see? You see what I'm talkin' about? You and your chalk are takin' the money right out of my pocket.

SCREEVER
[to JASON] Go ahead and walk across. This is special pavement chalk, it doesn't rub off.

JASON
That's OK.

SCREEVER
You know what keeps me going while I slave over a hot pavement? One of Rocky Sullivan's Dog Kings. You gotta try one.

SOFIA
It smells delicious.

SCREEVER

You haven't lived until you've tried a Dog King. I've been a vegetarian for 10 years, but I took one bite of this Dog King and, bang! I'm a carnivore again.

JASON

It looks great, but—

ROCKY

—Step right up, folks. Eat just one Dog King, and you can sit through a double header – with overtime – and never have to eat another bite.

SOFIA

I'm sold. One Dog King, please.

JASON

For fuck's sake, Sofia. We'll miss the National Anthem!

SOFIA

Just go then. I'll meet you in there. *[beat]* My boyfriend is totally geeked out on the Star Spangled Banner.

JASON

[pause] Oh all right. Make it two.

ROCKY

Two Dog Kings comin' right up!

[ROCKY hands them each a Dog King, they pay, each takes a bite.]

SOFIA

Wow!

JASON

This is fucking awesome! *[beat]* Can you make us two more to go?

ROCKY

You got it, folks.

[While ROCKY makes them, JASON opens his cellphone.]

SOFIA

Who are you calling now?

JASON

[beat] Hey, Ryan. You inside yet? Well, you gotta get over here and have a Dog King. *[beat]* It's a hot dog with... *[beat]* Trust me, it's awesome. *[beat]* You can't miss it. The stand's by

the West Gate, and there's a girl doing a sidewalk mural right in front of it. *[beat]* Cool. We'll see you in there.

[SOFIA takes their Dog Kings]

SOFIA

Thanks. *[to SCREEVER]* Hey, why don't you make a ginormous picture of the Dog King right over here?

SCREEVER

Maybe I will.

[EXIT SOFIA and JASON. Pause.]

ROCKY

Never let it be said that Rocky Sullivan isn't man enough to admit when he's wrong.

SCREEVER

So I can stay?

ROCKY

Absolutely. *[pause]* Are you really a vegetarian?

SCREEVER

I was until five minutes ago.

[pause. They smile at each other.]

ROCKY

Get yer Dog Kings right here! So good they'll turn a lamb into a lion! Get 'em while they're hot, folks, get 'em while they're hot!

END