Diet For A New America John Robbins Stillpoint Walpole, NH

1987

In June 1971, Yvonne was aboard a yacht that exploded and sank in the Indian Ocean. Utterly terrified, she was thrown into shark-infested waters. Then she saw three dolphins approach her. One of them proceeded to buoy her up, while the other two swam in circles around her and guarded her from the sharks. The dolphins continued to take care of Yvonne and protect her, until she finally drifted to a marker in the sea and climbed up onto it. When she was rescued from this marker, it was determined that the dolphins had stayed with her, kept her afloat, and protected her across more than 200 miles of open sea. (p. 23)

And there’s more. On May 28, 1978, four fishermen became lost in a fog off the coast of Dassen Island, South Africa. They knew there were dangerous rocks in the vicinity, and they feared running into them because the fog had become so thick they couldn’t see where they were going. Then they became aware of a group of dolphins nudging and pushing the boat, forcing them to change course. Suddenly, through the fog, they saw sharp rocks protruding through the water. The rocks only became visible as they floated by them, and the fishermen realized at once that the dolphins had saved their lives. Meanwhile, the dolphins continued to push the boat along a course known only to them, until it reached calm waters. Then they swam away, evidently feeling their job was done. When the fog lifted, the men were flabbergasted to find themselves in the very bay from which they had originally set out early that morning. (p. 25)

One day in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, in 1955, a man named Ken Wilson was trying to teach a horse to accept a saddle in his corral. Ken wasn’t at all concerned about his three-year-old son, Stevie, who he thought was playing at a neighbor’s. But what he didn’t know was that little Stevie had wandered off alone, fallen into a pond, and sunk to the bottom. The boy’s dog, Taffy, however, saw the disaster and immediately raced to the corral, barking uproariously and demanding Mr. Wilson’s attention. When the man ignored him, Taffy made a big show of charging into the pond, all the while continuing to bark at the top of his lungs. Then he raced back and nipped at the horse’s legs. Finally Mr. Wilson realized the dog was trying to tell him something and dismounted. Immediately, Taffy bolted to the pond, barking for the bewildered man to follow him. When Wilson got to the pond, he saw his little son’s red jacket floating on the surface of the water. Finally realizing what had happened, he dove headlong into the four-foot-deep water, found his unconscious son, and lifted him from the bottom. It was six hours before Stevie regained consciousness. But when he did, the first thing he saw was his little dog Taffy, sitting prayerfully beside his bed. (pp. 25-26)

In 1975, a desperate shipwreck victim off the coast of Manila was stupefied to see a giant sea turtle swimming toward her, seemingly offering its aid. The floundering woman climbed aboard the turtle, which then did something turtles supposedly never do. Sea turtles spend most of their time underwater, but this one must have somehow known that the poor woman needed constant support to survive, and must also have wanted very much to take care of her. It proceeded to stay at the surface for two full days, going without food itself, so it could

continue to carry her and keep her alive. When human rescuers finally appeared, “eyewitnesses thought the woman was floating on an oil drum until she was safely on board —whereupon the ‘oil drum’ circled the area twice and disappeared.” (p. 27)

... the animals are fed a diet designed for one purpose only — to fatten them up as cheaply as possible. This may include such delicacies as sawdust laced with ammonia and feathers, shredded newspaper (complete with all the colors of toxic ink from the Sunday comics and advertising circulars), “plastic hay,” processed sewage, inedible tallow and grease, poultry litter, cement dust, and cardboard scraps, not to mention the insecticides, antibiotics, and hormones. Artificial flavors and aromas are added to trick the poor animals into eating the stuff. (p. 110)

During the Vietnam War, Agent Orange was sprayed by U.S. air forces over Vietnamese jungles and farmlands. The pilots who flew these missions were assured of the safety of the substance and had a motto that expressed their flippant attitude toward their missions: “Only we can prevent forests.” On some occasions they would engage in playful spray fights with Agent Orange, their cavalier attitude unfortunately exemplifying our national point of view toward toxic chemicals.

Many Vietnam veterans no longer have a casual attitude toward these poisons. They have suffered grievously for their exposure to Agent Orange and watched in dismay as their children were born with extremely high rates of birth defects.37 One veteran, Michael Ryan of Long Island, testified before congressional hearings on Agent Orange and brought with him his daughter Kerrie, who was born with severe deformities, although neither of her parents had any family history of birth defects. A Washington Post reporter, Margot Hornblower, described the scene:

*During the emotion-laden hearing, Kerrie, a frail child with short brown hair, sat in her wheelchair gazing wide-eyed at the television cameras, the Congressmen high on the wood- paneled dais and the roomful of lobbyists and reporters.*

*“She’s a dynamite little kid,” said her mother to the committee.*

*Kerrie was born eight years ago with 18 birth defects: missing bones, twisted limbs, a hole in her heart, deformed intestines, a partial spine, shrunken fingers, no rectum. During surgery, a blood clot developed and she suffered brain damage. Doctors say she will never walk.*

It may seem to you and me that Agent Orange is a horrible weapon of war, and certainly not something to spray on land used to grow food. But its two active ingredients—2,4-D and 2,4,5-T—are, in fact, sprayed today on land used to grow food for livestock. Millions of pounds continue to be used, even though 2,4,5-T contains a particular substance that is so toxic it makes DDT look like a glass of champagne. 2,4,5-T contains dioxin.

The head of the Toxic Effects Branch of the EPA’s National Environmental Research Center, Dr. Diane Courtney, called **dioxin "... *by far the most toxic chemical known to mankind***."

She also testified that dioxin is present in beef and dairy products from cattle that have grazed on land treated with 2,4,5-T.

The EPA has officially recognized the fact that cattle that graze on land sprayed with 2,4,5-T accumulate dioxin in their fat. But Dow Chemical Company, which profits greatly from the sale of 2,4,5-T, would rather the public not be concerned. According to them: "... 2,4,5-T is about as toxic as aspirin." (p. 321)