

AN EXCEPTIONAL STORY

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The temperature was more than 90 degrees Fahrenheit as I lay on my keister in the shade of an oak tree relaxing at the babbling weir of Anaheim Creek. My enjoyment was enhanced by several heifers stopping to drink, and a skein of ducks flying at a considerable height above the forest. The event was a nonpareil leisure occurrence.

Later in the day, my neighbor, the tiny conscientious Eileen Eisner, went by. She was wearing a beige veil while driving a reindeer team pulling a wheeled sleigh. It had so much weight that it took eight of the beasts to pull it. They were headed to Leicester, where their mission was to deliver barrels of Budweiser, along with one hundred steins that had been handcrafted in Liechtenstein, in the upper Rhein valley.

It proved to be an unusual journey. On the way, she came upon Neil Weiss, an atheist, and albeit she had never met the man an argument developed as each declared their different sentiments on many subjects. The feisty debate lingered, each reiterating their position, neither listening to the other. Seeing them teeing off on each other for over eighty minutes, both seizing every opportunity to interrupt each other, if only to reinforce their egos, must have been a curious sight.

Suddenly, instead of fleeing in a huff, they exhibited a degree of spontaneity that shocked everyone. Eileen stepped up on the sleigh, and Neil jumped up beside her. Without decreeing his intentions, he grabbed the reins. Agreeing with his action, Eileen was pleased by his freeing her of this task.

But her delight was short-lived. A few minutes after having her confidence reinforced, they were stopped by the law. The ensuing search uncovered codeine smuggled under Neil's jacket, despite his attempted sleight-of-hand to hide it. This feigning was the final blow wherein he was apprehended and the substance seized.

A hearing took place herein. The judge, decreeing that Neil had violated the Caffeine and Drug Act, set bail at eighteen thousand dollars, a rather weird sum. Before fleeing, Neil posted bail with counterfeit currencies. When the forfeit provision was invoked, the sovereign state of California found that it held a surfeit of worthless bills. No doubt the state will never be reimbursed. Next time they will call in agencies which can use scientific methods to detect such frauds.