

Rainbow

DJ Kane

After I finished writing my latest story Contranym, a story inspired by an incident that was recalled to me by a doctor, and before leaving the doctor's office, I was held symbolically captive by her assistant of my own accord, with a promise of another story.

Voiced to me as fiction with a mustard seed of truth.

As the began it was on a Saturday morning at the West Palm Beach Fourth District Court of Appeals at a special session, at a non-traditional informal hearing, heard by Judge Julia Zeidenberg, which was opened to only twelve interested parties.

It was an appeal hearing for Rainbow, a German Shepperd found guilty of giving a

fourth bite and sentenced to be putdown, by euthanasia. The judge struck her gavel, and court was in session. “The fourth district court of appeals is now in session and Judge Julie Zeidenberg residing”. Court clerk please read the charges”

“On June twenty seventh, twenty twenty-one, rainbow a full bread seven-year-old female German Shepard dog, did willfully bite, leaving a scar on an adult male, who thus refused to press any charges against said dog, but unfortunately it had been recorded as a fourth bite.”

The judge struck her gavel and started to read the dogs pedigree. “Rainbow is a decorated purple-heart recipient, served three tours in Afghanistan, and a PDSA Diskin medal recipient, which is the highest award any animal can receive in military service. Please, the court begs, if anyone has any advice, suggestions, or

solutions for the court, please make it known. I don't want to make the worse alternative for Rainbow a reality. Bailiff, please bring Rainbow in". And when the Bailiff returned with Rainbow, everyone stood in respect, and some even saluted as the Bailiff and Rainbow sat beside each other. Just then an Army Sergeant sitting in the gallery stood up. "Your Honor, I am Sergeant Avery of the U. S. Army, Canine Training Center, and I will take Rainbow, if the court agrees off your hands, to train her for a child in need. Give me six months to return with Rainbow and her recipient for your approval.

"Sergeant Avery, you are literally a lifesaver. Please show your papers to my Bailiff, for authorization and we're all out of here, and I'll see you in six months.

"All papers are okay your honor," the Bailiff sang out."

The judge struck her gavel saying, “Courts adjourned, thank you everyone and especially Sergeant Avery,” and the court emptied.

The first four months was all vigorous training by the sergeant with Rainbow, and because of her discipline, everything was on track for the recipient to be awarded such a gift. Sergeant Avery had a recipient in mind, a six-year-old recovering from heart disease, who he had known. Rainbow was not only a disciplined girl, but she also was smart, very protective and generous to other animals. A perfect animal to protect and guide a child on her way through life.

The time had come for Rainbow to meet recipient and family. Sergeant Avery knocked on the door with Rainbow in tow for her first meeting with Lisa. The door opened and Lisa came out, with her mother Charlotte. Lisa, not a bit intimidated by Rainbow’s height and

weight bent down hugging her, while Rainbow showered her with kisses. The Sergeant then said, "Guess my first test was a success. They seemed to like each other already, that's a good sign Charlotte."

"I think we'll be just fine Phill, but I don't know why Lisa didn't say hello to you? That's rude of her.

Phill responded, "That's okay, I just think Lisa saw only Rainbow at the door. And always keep in mind Rainbow's history, this lady may be sweet and adorable, but she is still a dog. A dog that's been through all kinds of Hell. So always be alert, and tell Jack, what I'm telling you when he arrives home."

"I will Phill, the first thing."

"Call me immediately, no matter what time, if anything goes wrong and tell Lisa I'll call her tomorrow."

“Thanks Phil, with all you are doing for my Lisa. I’ll get her to thank you and say goodbye.

“Don’t bother, she and Rainbow are getting to know each other, don’t disturb them, I’ll call tomorrow, and bye for now.”

The following day Phill called Lisa, and Charlotte answered the phone. “Charlotte, how are they doing?”

“Like two peas in a pod, as I watched them, Lisa even walked Rainbow alone, without any problems, they have become inseparable.”

“That’s good, I’ll leave Rainbow there till I make an appointment to see the judge for Rainbow’s pardon, and don’t forget everything I’ve told you. Any questions just call me, you do have my cell number, don’t you?”

“Yes, I do Phill and thanks, bye”

“Bye charlotte. “

Six months had gone by, and Phill had made the appointment and called Charlotte.

“Charlotte, I made an appointment for this coming Friday morning, at eight with the judge, is that okay with you, and how are they doing?

I can work with Friday Phill, and about Lisa and Rainbow, their always together, makes me kind of jealous. Seems like Rainbow is now acting like she is her mother.”

Unfortunately Charlotte, that’s what you want, it’s a good thing, She’ll always protect Lisa as a mother would. Rainbow will always have her eye on her, and probably both eyes at times. I’ll call you Thursday to remind you.”

Call or just come over on Friday, they’ll both be ready.”

Tell Lisa I called, bye.”

“Bye Phill.”

Friday didn't come soon enough, and when Phil showed up, Lisa and Rainbow were outside waiting and ready. Phil greeted Lisa and Rainbow, and they were off to the Courthouse.

Reaching the Courthouse about eight, they found a crowd and a photographer at the front doors, and the judge's secretary standing outside the side door, calling them, to usher them in. "This way, follow me, I'll get you in."

As they made their way to Judge Julia's Chamber where she was waiting with the twelve that had been at the Courthouse that faithful day and she said, "I'm happy to present Rainbow's pardon to Lisa Harris, and wish you both the very best," and she reached over her desk for her gavel which she had struck twice while handing the signed pardon to Lisa.

Lisa bent down hugging Rainbow as all in attendance applauded and some cheered, as the Judge exited her chamber, as every else took to the street. It was a happy day for all, although it had just started to drizzle, as we all made our way to our cars. When an-out of - control vehicle drove straight in Lisa's path, and would have struck her, but for Rainbow standing high on her hind legs pushing Lisa to safety and taken the deadly hit herself. Phill grabbed Lisa, covering her eyes with his hands, not to see what we were all observing, a hero in our mist.

Later Phill called Charlotte to let her know that Lisa was fine and Rainbow had died, she had given her life for Lisa. Just as he was about to hang up, Lisa pointed to a Rainbow, that had appeared as the rain ceased as Lisa cried out, "Look everyone, there's a rainbow in the sky, she 'still with us, my Rainbow!"

And people pointed as others applauded, a strange scene to say the least.

Comment [D1]:

Phill held her tight while saying, "Yes she is Lisa, yes she is.

After taking Lisa home and explaining what had happened at the court house to Charlotte, Sergeant Avery had made arrangements to have Rainbows body cremated with full honors, and the urn to be given to the child she loved more than her life, even though her knowing the child was so brief.

The cremation was held on a Wednesday, and it turned out to be a drizzly day just as Rainbows last day was. It was a full house, for sure as praise after praise from vets who gave their salutes to a heroic girl, who was loved.

At its end Judge Zeidenberg and Sergeant Avery handed the urn and a portrait of Rainbow to Lisa as she received a twenty-one-gun salute,

and as before, at the court house the drizzling had ceased and a rainbow had taken its place, as when the guns stopped saluting the hand clapping began for Rainbow, such as she was, and maybe she remains today.

When Lisa arrived home, Charlotte suggested to Lisa she should hang Rainbow's picture on a wall in her bedroom, and to place her ashes on the fireplace. Lisa said she wanted Rainbow's urn to be placed in Rainbow's bed and her picture placed on the floor in front of Rainbows bed, so Rainbow can watch over and protect her all through the night, and every night. It has been told, true or untrue, the picture of Rainbow comes to life to join the ashes as they take form as one protecting Lisa.

The U. S. Army in their investigations held that 1. Sergeant Phill Avery was never was a serving member of any of the armed forces, or connected to any canine unit.

2. There was never a U.S. Army Canine Training Center.

3. There was never a canine by the name of Rainbow.

But they do admit, 1. Having a sworn affidavit from Judge Zeidenberg verifying the two events that had occurred at the Court House and 2. Sworn testimony of all soldiers that had taken part in the twenty-one-gun salute memorial for a canine named Rainbow and as far as it goes, Case Closed.