CHAPTER 4

TRUMPCARE: DYING OFF THE STREET

*“Whoever is winning at the moment will always seem to be invincible.”*

* ***George Orwell***

Obamacare has been a disaster for our country; Trumpcare would be a deathblow. The problems with Obamacare have mainly to do with pre-existing conditions in our medical system, an insurance infrastructure geared to reward monopolists, and lifestyles based on conspicuous consumption. The problems with Trumpcare are more akin to the problems posed to our society by murderers, rapists, tax evaders, monopolists, spouse abusers, pedophiles, and Fascist demagogues, all of whose activities would be greatly abetted by Trump’s sketchy and inadequate healthcare proposals.

The only tangible element of Trumpcare so far released is a new national abortion policy, which would either punish women and their doctors, or would simply maintain the status quo until the Heritage Foundation can find Trump seven new confirmable Supreme Court judges who would overturn Roe v. Wade and send women back to their closets to fiddle with their coat hangers.

On the bright side, Donald J. Trump, alone among the Republican candidates for President, has declared over and over again that his plan to repeal and replace Obamacare would be guided by compassionate principles appropriate to a Judeo-Christian society: “You’re not going to let people die sitting in the middle of the street.”

Some who heard that statement heard echoes of Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson and Marcus Welby, MD. A President Trump would keep and expand on all the elements that make our healthcare system the best in the world. Not only would people not die on the streets, they might not die at all! Medical progress will be so rapid and so complete under an unleashed medical research industry that death will become a thing of the past.

Others were not so sure, since there is clearly no way for President Trump to prevent people from dying in the streets if the Good Lord has determined that their number is up. This is just another of his impossible campaign promises, like getting Mexico to build a border wall. The government can’t simply outlaw car accidents, police killings, sidewalk falls, sudden strokes and heart attacks, manhole cover explosions, crane accidents, and mass shootings. Shit happens, and it will continue to happen even if Trump wins every state.

Some have pointed out that Trump’s statement leaves him with a huge loophole, a loophole big enough to drive a truck through, because he said nothing about dying *off* the streets.

For all his claims to an Ivy League education, Donald Trump is seen by many as the ultimate Lord of Misrule. He should be President on only two days of the year: Twelfth Night and April Fool’s Day. Like the words of a fool or a Twisted Sister, Donald Trump’s pronouncements have to be parsed very carefully, or else before you know it, Birnam Forest will come to Dunsinane, and you will be caught with your pants down.

Essentially, the only real commitment Donald Trump has made to the voters is that his administration would endeavor to do its best to provide localities the resources to make sure that trash and corpses are swept off the streets quickly, and will require in return that people be pronounced dead at the morgue or the hospital rather than *in situ* as they fell or were felled.

Under a Trump Administration, dying off the street may mean dying in a hospice, dying in an internment camp, dying on a highway, dying in an alley, dying at home, dying at the store, dying in an airplane, or dying at work. Donald’s Trump death on the street ban is like Steve Martin’s pledge never again to smoke pot, except sometimes in the evening, and sometimes in the morning, and sometimes in the early afternoon, and sometimes in the late afternoon, and sometimes in the late, late afternoon, “but never at dusk.”

Even if Trump succeeds in wiping out ISIS to the point that the risk of dying in a terror attack sinks to lows not seen since early September 2001, there will be so many new ways to die that most Americans will not notice the difference.

People enjoying their Second Amendment rights on a Sunday afternoon will blow away babies at ice cream stores. People without the resources to pay for urgent medical care will turn to drastic and commonly available forms of self-euthanasia such as jumping off bridges, jumping off buildings, falling on swords, and sucking for an extra-long time on potent anesthetics. Families will burn their wives and daughters alive in order to avoid the stigma of going on the Medicaid or Medicare dole. Suicide by cop will remain an option, but punishment of said cop will no longer be in the cards. People will die from lead-laden water from their taps, from fracking-induced earthquakes, from disease epidemics following the outlawing of routine vaccinations, from flooding of buildings once hundreds of feet above sea level, from asthma aggravated by unquenchable forest fires in Mexico, and from choking on the poison air spewing from America’s booming chemical factories and toxic waste dumps.

As minimum wage laws are repealed and dodgy tax abatements resurrected, the world’s oldest profession will once again be the quickest and easiest way to make an honest buck. Without competition from two-dollar whores imported from Mexico and Russia, American one-dollar whores will once again be queens of the roost. Ten five-minute handjobs per hour, seven evenings per week, should easily net enough income to feed a family and put away a comfortable sum for retirement.

The primary healthcare innovation during the Trump/Cruz years will be the introduction of “dynamic scoring” prior to publication of health and mortality statistics. People who are not legally here will of course be omitted from published death rates, as non-persons technically cannot die. People such as President Obama or Ted Cruz, who cannot prove their American birth to the satisfaction of President Trump’s voter ID enforcers, will also be denied places in the obituary columns and cemeteries of the United States of America. Their deaths, if reported at all, will be listed as part of a category called Missing in Action, and will not count in official statistics.

People who die while serving sentences in prisons, insane asylums or halfway houses will not be eligible for burial or cremation, and their names will be published only in lists of cadaver and organ donations to distinguished medical institutions. People who die in accidents will not be considered dead, because it would not be fair to include a preventable death in a statistic that determines the American place in comparative mortality rates. Death of Communists, Socialists, and Muslims would be listed in the same (“non-human”) categories as the deaths of dogs, cats and illegal pet ferrets. Chokers would also not count for anything; and liars would be presumed to have lied even about their deaths.

Part of the statistical sleight-of-hand would be required by budgetary shortfalls that may even require the complete dismantling of the Federal Bureau of the Census. Local officials would guess how many people died respectable deaths in their communities, and would publish those estimates for purposes of providing the appropriate data to the United Nations. An incentive system would be put in place to discourage reporting of excessive death totals until after the end of the second Trump term in January 2025. In the meantime, unofficial lists of the dead Americans not yet officially declared dead would be held in trust by officials at the Republican National Committee, who would in the interim be authorized by Presidential Executive Order to vote proxies for people in such legal limbo.

A happy by-product of the need to fudge mortality rates will be the virtual elimination of the class-action suit and the medical malpractice suit by means of drastic tort reform, which has been an essential part of the right wing’s vision of the Promised Land since before Hillarycare was a glint in Jimmy Carter’s eye. The only doctors still subject to malpractice lawsuits will be abortionists who don’t have a valid alibi. Lawsuits against toymakers, car manufacturers, monopolists and mass industrial polluters will be settled by Presidential intervention in negotiations between companies and wronged consumers or victims. Trump justice will be tough but fair. The President will look at the videotape, see what he wants to see, and then decide each case on the merits pending the Supreme Court’s restoration to full membership.

One problem with doing things the way Trump likes to do them, aside from the obvious pitfalls with respect to the International Court of Public Opinion, is that it has the potential for creating a massive outcry from the hundreds of millions of people who fall through the cracks of Trumpcare and Trump rough justice. With the social safety net in tatters and people not even allowed to die, protests in the streets could quickly get out of hand, leading to thousands upon thousands of deaths in the streets, contrary to the wishes and the spirit of Trumpworld, where dissent or even mild-mannered follow-up is considered the last refuge of smarmy Fourth Estate scoundrels.

Anyone who knows Donald Trump knows that he will not stand for any of this. People have a right to talk back to their TV screens, but not to take over microphones he has paid for and streets he wants to keep clean and free of all rabble dead or alive.

Despite his generally sunny disposition, Donald Trump neither suffers fools gladly, nor does he take shit from opponents, loyal or otherwise. He holds grudges longer than David Blaine can endure sensory deprivation.

Fixing all this will not be difficult, especially given Trump’s demonstrated ability throughout his long career to triumph by means of sheer will. The first step he will take, as he has telegraphed throughout the primary campaign, is to dismantle some of the apparatus of the national security state in order to make the government more responsive to the people. (“Besides, we can’t afford it!”)

Once the CIA, FBI and NSA are abolished as unnecessary and unaffordable luxuries, Trump will devolve all their powers on a new organization that will be known informally as the Secret State Police (“SSP”). The SSP, composed of old fighters from patriotic organizations such as the Michigan and Utah Militia, will be charged with gathering information on Fifth Columnists and Op-Ed columnists across the land. Its work will be supervised by the super-secret National Security Directorate of Administration and Planning (“NSDAP”), based in the West Wing of the White House, which will collate and maintain the official White House Enemies List.

Besides purchasers of this book, the Trump White House Enemies List will include the memberships of Emily’s List, the Council of Foreign Relations, the DNC, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations; applicants for membership in the North American Man-Boy Love Association; Al Sharpton; and people named Juan, Pedro, Maria and Zulima. Anyone with an education beyond the high school level will be targeted for special monitoring.

Unlike the flat-footed and ineffectual pursuit of enemies of the President and the State under the Nixon Administration, the Trump plan calls for a softer, Trojan horse-style approach reminiscent of Big Brother’s in *1984.*

In exchange for leniency on tax collection and repatriation of windfall profits, the Trump Administration will work with a small group of tech profiteers headed by contractor Carly Fiorina to create a new American broadband information superhighway, an interactive system where your TV talks back to you, based on feedback from ubiquitous high-definition cameras that follow your every movement at home, school, work and play. The system, which is free of charge to anyone on the Enemies List, will enable its users to consume huge amounts of government-sponsored propaganda while being bombarded with unnecessarily high doses of radiation and other dangerous electromagnetic pulses. As a bonus, the device includes free HBO, Showtime, Hulu and Netflix. Recordings of any illicit activity or indelicate comments may result in a visit to the subscriber’s home by an SSP task force between five and six in the morning, following which the equipment will be dismantled and assigned to another unsuspecting media hound. As word slowly gets around that even talking to your TV can get you in a heap of trouble, street violence will subside, and the Trump Administration can get back to work making America great again.

The first step in making America great again will be the *Anschluss* with the vast under-populated areas of English-speaking Canada, which will be walled off from Quebec with an electronic fence. Since Canadians love their single-payer healthcare system, they will be allowed to keep it. This will be a “win-win” for all concerned, as incorporating Canadian healthcare statistics into American statistics will make it possible for the Trump Administration to show remarkable progress on healthcare within just a few years. Impoverished or middle-class people living in Trump-managed apartments in places like Brooklyn, Queens, Harlem, Staten Island and the Bronx would still face an undignified death in their apartments, some of them having lain for days in stinking heaps of their own feces, with flies, bedbugs and cockroaches crawling all around; but new mothers in Toronto would still have access to free babysitting and lots of time off to breastfeed and cuddle their new-born infants, who would now be entitled to all the rights and privileges of American citizenship.