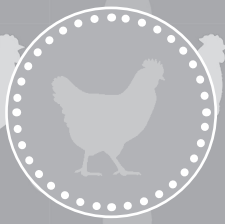
HOPE JONES WILL NOT EAT MEAT



JOSH LACEY

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BEATRIZ CASTRO

Andersen Press



BE KIND.
BE VEGAN.

First published in 2021 by
Andersen Press Limited
20 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 2SA

www.andersenpress.co.uk

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available.

ISBN 978 1 78344 939 2

This book is printed on FSC accredited paper

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

I'M GIVING UP
MEAT TO
SAVE OUR
WORLD!

I'M NOT GOING
TO STOP TILL I
CHANGE THE
WORLD!

Hope Jones' Blog

Hello.

Welcome to my blog.

My name is Hope Jones.

I am ten years old.

I am going to save the world.





'Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread'

Edward Abbey

'We are, quite literally, gambling with the future of our planet – for the sake of hamburgers'

PETER SINGER

'YOU ARE NEVER TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

GRETA THUNBERG

'Wilbur burst into tears. "I don't want to die," he moaned. "I want to stay alive, right here in my comfortable manure pile with all my friends. I want to breathe the beautiful air and lie in the beautiful sun."'

CHARLOTTE'S WEB, E B White

'In our world, everybody thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself'

Leo Tolstoy

'There is no fundamental difference between man and animals in their ability to feel pleasure and pain, happiness, and misery'

CHARLES DARWIN

'Big impact change starts with the individual. No one else can bring what you have. You show up, you say yes, and then you bring your magic'

Kelsey Juliana



Hope Jones' Blog

SATURDAY 1 MARCH

Hello!

I have to tell you some very exciting news. I am a vegetarian.

It happened like this . . . After breakfast, Mum and I walked to the shops. It was just us two, because Dad had taken my little brother Finn to football practice, and my big sister Becca was still in bed.

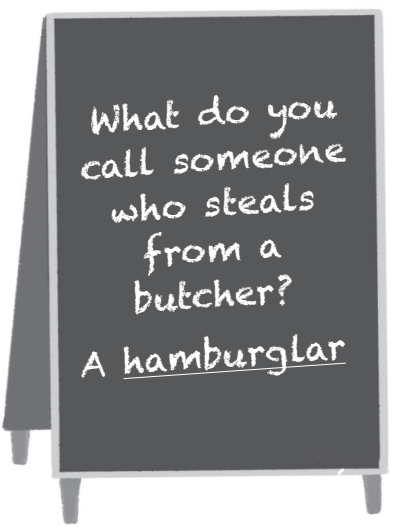
We're boycotting supermarkets, because they use so much plastic. Instead we buy everything from our local shops. Walking around them takes a bit longer than pushing a trolley up and down the aisles or ordering stuff online, but we get a chance to chat to everyone. I've become good friends with our local shopkeepers. Like Katya, the baker, who often gives us a free doughnut or an extra slice of poppy seed cake.



I always like chatting with Mr Zaimoglu in Bosphorus. He sells fresh vegetables, unusual fruits, and hundreds of different spices, and can tell you something interesting about all of them. Like: do you know the difference between a Medjool and a Deglet Noor? Do you even know what they are? (I didn't, but I do now: they're both types of dates. And they're both delicious!)

Mitch the butcher makes me laugh. He's the local joker. Mitch always has a sign outside his shop and, at least once a week, he writes a different slogan on the board. Sometimes it's funny, sometimes it's serious, and sometimes it's a special offer.

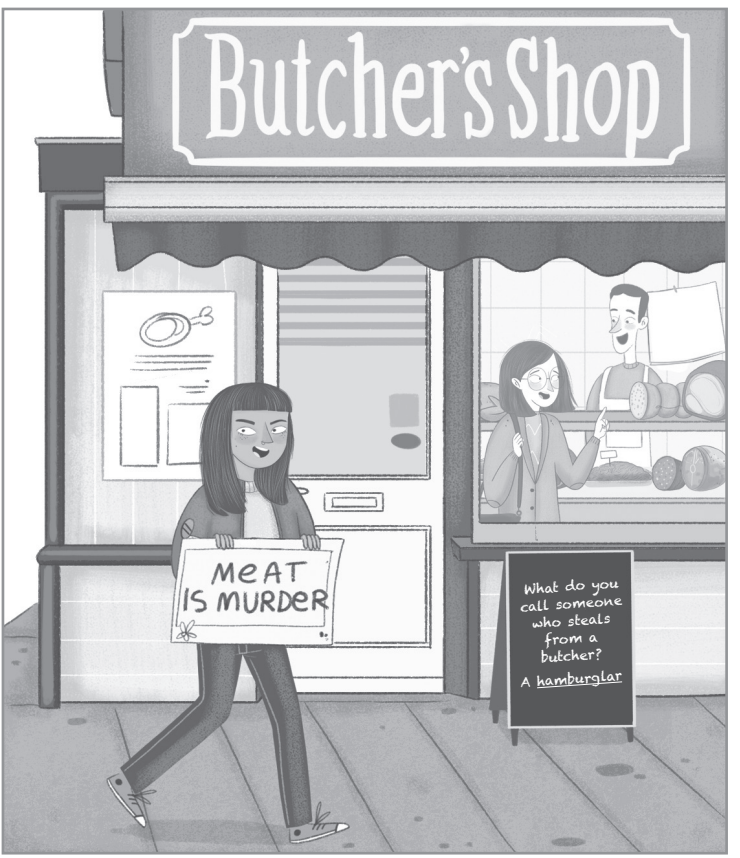
Today the sign wasn't the only thing outside Mitch's shop. Sparkle was there too. I love Sparkle, she is one of my favourite people in the whole world. I got to know her when I started protesting against plastic. She comes round to our house quite often, because she is good friends with Becca's boyfriend Tariq.



I was very surprised to see her outside Mitch's shop. I said, 'What are you doing here?'

'I'm holding a protest,' she said. 'Like yours.'

I couldn't understand why Sparkle was protesting. I didn't know there was anything wrong with meat.



Sparkle said, 'What is meat?'

'Animals,' I said.

'Dead animals,' Sparkle said. 'Your roast chicken. Your bacon sandwich. Your burger. They were all animals once. Living, breathing animals, just like you or me. Then they were killed, simply to satisfy the hunger of a human. Don't you think that's wrong?'

I don't like the idea of eating a dead animal, but I've always done it. And meat is quite delicious.

'I don't want an animal to die for my dinner,' Sparkle said. 'But that's not the only thing wrong with eating meat. The meat industry is a major cause of climate change.'

I was very surprised to hear that.

Sparkle said, 'Didn't you read my book?'

'Which book?' I said.

'The book I gave you.'

To be honest, I had completely forgotten about that book. Sparkle gave it to me a couple of months ago. I was very busy at the time, protesting against plastic, so I put the book on my shelf and never took it out again.

'You should read it,' Sparkle said.

'I will,' I promised. 'As soon as I get home.'

'For now,' Sparkle said, 'you can read this.' She gave me a leaflet.

STOP AND THINK

BEFORE YOU SHOP!

BEFORE YOU BUY MEAT FROM THIS BUTCHER, PLEASE THINK ABOUT YOUR CHOICES



There are many good reasons to stop eating meat.

1. Eating meat is wrong. Why should a chicken perish for your lunch? Why should a sheep suffer for your supper? Why should any animals have to die simply so you can have a nice meal?

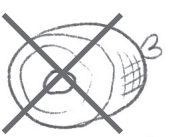
2. Eating meat causes climate change. Livestock farming produces approximately a fifth of our greenhouse gas emissions. Which is more than the emissions from ships, planes, trucks, cars and all other transport added together.

3. Eating meat is unfair. Right now, some of us eat meat while others starve. We could easily feed all the people on this planet if everyone switched to a vegan diet.

4. Eating meat is making us sick. Eating meat is linked to heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

Be Kind. Be Vegan.

VEGAN



Follow me for more information
@sparklethevegan #sparklethevegan

Sparkle told me all about her protest. She is going to demonstrate outside Mitch's shop every weekend until he stops selling the flesh of dead animals.

'What does Mitch think about that?' I asked her.

'I haven't asked him,' Sparkle admitted.

She would like to do her protest every day, not just Saturdays, but she has to go to school during the week.

As soon as I got home, I started reading Sparkle's book and learning a lot more about being a vegetarian. It was amazing. Sparkle is absolutely right – the meat industry is a major cause of climate change, because of the farts. You might think I'm joking, but I'm not – farting cows cause global warming.





It's not just cows. It's pigs, chickens and sheep too. Their farts are made of methane, which goes into the atmosphere and causes global warming.

Their poo is bad for the environment too. So is the water that they drink, and the food that they eat, and the lorries that carry them around, and all the other pollution and emissions connected to the meat industry.

After reading Sparkle's book, I know that there is one very simple way to save the world: stop eating meat! So I'm now a vegetarian. I haven't eaten any meat all day.



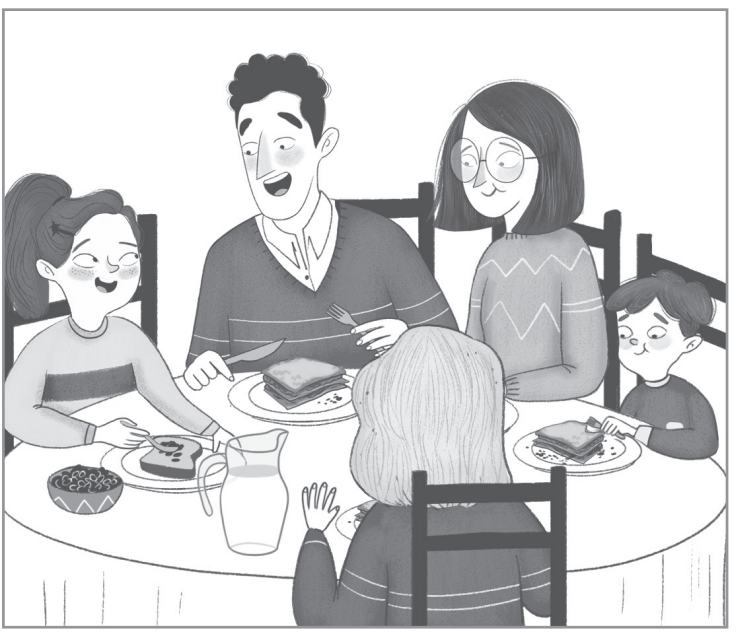
Hope Jones' Blog

SUNDAY 2 MARCH

What's your favourite food? Mine is lasagna. I love lasagna . . . juicy, tomatoey, cheesy lasagna. Mmmmmmm. I love it.

Being a vegetarian is mostly very easy. This morning, I had porridge for breakfast. There aren't any animals in oats. The problems started at lunchtime. Because: lasagna. Dad apologised again and again. He had completely forgotten that I am now a vegetarian. Next time he'll make a special veggie lasagna just for me.

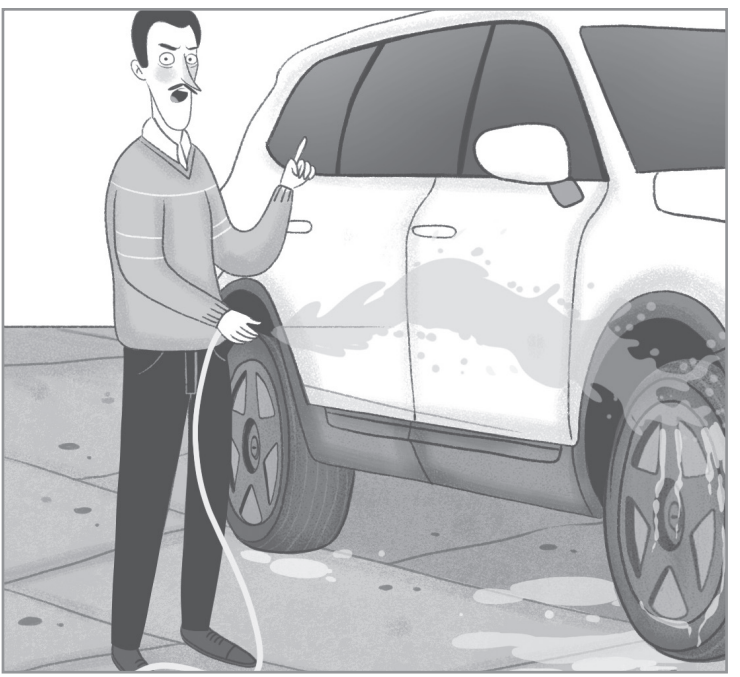
I don't mind. I'm having beans on toast instead, it's not as nice as lasagna, but I'll be fine.



I have been a vegetarian for two whole days. I can't have saved a pig yet, or a cow, but I have saved a bit of each. I didn't have the lasagna for lunch. Or ham sandwiches for tea, I had cheese instead.

Obviously I'm not going to save the world on my own, I'm just one person, but at least I'm making a difference.

I talked to Mr Crabbe who lives next door. I asked him if he had ever considered becoming a vegetarian. He said he doesn't like vegetables, which I must admit is a bit of a problem.



I asked Dad if he would consider becoming a vegetarian.

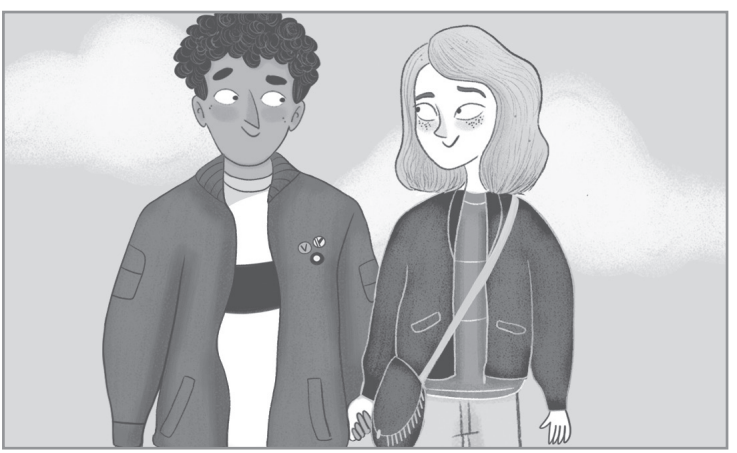
'Definitely,' he said. 'As long as I can carry on eating steak, burgers, sausages, and bacon sandwiches.'

I wish he could be serious sometimes.

I asked Mum if she might become a vegetarian. She said, 'Maybe. We'll see. I'll think about it when I'm not so busy.' When she talks like that, she usually means no.

I asked Finn. He said, 'Not in a million years,' which obviously means no too.

Becca was the only person who said yes, because she is already a part-time vegetarian. I didn't even know that. She never eats meat when she and Tariq are together. From today, she's going to try and be vegetarian at home too. I am very proud of her. Thank you, Becca! Thank you, Tariq!





There is only one member of our family who definitely won't become vegetarian: our cat, Poppadom.

I have been doing some research on the internet and apparently cats have to eat meat. That's what vets say.

I also read about the ingredients of cat food and it is really quite disgusting.

Cat food is all the yucky bits of animals that people won't eat. Their feet, for instance. And their guts, brains, ears, whiskers, nostrils, and all the other sticky, slimy bits that can't be made into anything else.



I really don't like thinking about it. All those brains and guts and slimy bits stuffed into a tin, which is sitting on a shelf in our fridge. Gross.

Luckily hamsters don't eat meat.

Poppadom can't become a vegetarian, that's just the way she is. Some things can't change, but some things can. And some people too.

