8. The Golden Sunset

Robert Wolders, who was called Rob, met Audrey when her marriage to Andrea was on the rocks. Rob and Andrea were very different. Andrea enjoyed having many girlfriends, whereas Rob wanted to give his heart to only one woman. After his first wife died he felt lost, but one day Audrey appeared in his life. For Audrey, too, Rob was like a gift from heaven. They met often, or talked tenderly on the phone, soon becoming close friends. After Audrey left Andrea in 1983, nothing could keep them apart.

Audrey became a new person, cheerful and full of energy. She and Rob liked the same life, being in the country, going for walks with the dogs, making trips, reading books. They lived at Audrey's farmhouse in Switzerland, with Luca. (Sean was already working in films.) The farmhouse was called 'La Paisible,' which means 'The Peaceful Place.' Audrey loved the countryside, the view of the snowy Alps, and the small village nearby. She felt at peace, and her smile became more wonderful than ever.

In the world beyond her farmhouse, Audrey was already a living legend. Sometimes she had to travel to big cities. On a trip to New York she was followed everywhere like Madonna, in spite of her age --- she was close to sixty. And shortly after that, on a trip to Tokyo, a very different life began for her.

In 1988, Audrey went to Tokyo to be at a special concert for UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). Many people came to the concert because she was there. She loved children, and wanted to help many weak and sick children in the world. That day in Tokyo, the director of UNICEF asked Audrey to become a 'special ambassador' for UNICEF. Audrey said "yes." At that time many children in Ethiopia were dying of hunger. He asked her to go there as soon as possible.

A few days later, with Rob and one suitcase each, Audrey left the farmhouse she loved and flew to Ethiopia. There she saw everything. Then she came back and told the world. She had seen children in hospitals, children dying, children hungry. Ethiopia needed money, food, clothes and medicine. She begged the world to help, and the world answered her call.

From then on Audrey did not stop. The children of the world touched her heart. Their needs gave her new strength. She did things she could never do before, such as give interviews. As an actress she had refused to give interviews. Now she sometimes gave fifteen a day. Also, she slept very little. As her days were so busy, she often got up at four in the morning for the cameramen to take her photo. And she never stopped travelling, with Rob always by her side.

UNICEF works in 128 countries, and Audrey went to many of them, including Bangladesh, El Salvador, Vietnam, Guatemala, Thailand, Kenya and the Sudan. Everywhere she went, the world went with her. Her face, her words, together with the images of children, were all the time in newspapers and magazines and on TV. The world's starving children had become her children. Working for them had become her life. In the end, too, she gave her life for them.

In 1992, already very thin, Audrey began to feel strong pains in her stomach. But instead of seeing a doctor, she went to Somalia. There she was deeply moved one day when a thin six-year-old Somalian girl ran across the sand into her arms and hugged her. It was like a word of thanks from millions of children around the world. It was a kind of goodbye, too, for Audrey had cancer. Some months later, on Wednesday, 20 January, 1993, with Rob, Sean and Luca at her side, she fell asleep for the last time at her home in Switzerland. The last words she spoke were "my dear children of Somalia."

EXERCISES (8)

Ａ　（　）に適切な日本語を入れ、本文のあらすじを完成させなさい．

　オードリーは1988年、（ア　　　　）で開かれた（イ　　　　　）主催のコンサートに出席した．それをきっかけに（ウ　　　　　　　）になり、（エ　　　　）や病気に苦しむ（オ　　　　　　）のことを世界の人々に熱心に訴えた．そのために、大きらいだった（カ　　　　　　　）も喜んで行い、マスコミはオードリーが世界各地を訪れるたびに報道した．

　1992年、オードリーは（キ　　　）にむしばまれた体で（ク　　　　　）を訪れ、（ケ　　　　　　）との抱擁に深く感動したが、1993年１月20日、（コ　　　　　）の自宅で夫と（サ　　　　　　　）に見守られて永遠の眠りについた．

Ｂ　本文の内容に合うものにはＴ、合わないものにはＦを書きなさい．

　(1) Rob had been married once before. （　）

　(2) The first country Audrey visited as a special ambassador for UNICEF was Somalia. （　）

　(3) Audrey loved children so much that she did her best to save them from suffering. （　）

　(4) Before her last visit to Somalia in 1992, Audrey saw her doctor and was told to stay home. （　）

Ｃ　各文の空所に、下から適切な動詞を選んで入れなさい．

　(1) Let's walk (　　 ) taking a taxi.

　(2) He failed (　　 ) all his efforts.

　(3) Animals (　　 ) owls and bats are active at night.

　(4) He sent her some roses, (　　 ) a nice letter.

　　 　 ア.such as　　　　　イ.in spite of

　　　　ウ.instead of　　　 エ.together with