

**Didelphis virginiana**  
(Virginia opossum or North American opossum)



Proving of *Didelphis virginiana*, North American Opossum

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## *Didelphis virginiana* Natural History

### Biology

There are more than 60 different species of opossum, which are often called possums. The most notable is the Virginia opossum or common opossum—the only marsupial (pouched mammal) found in the United States and Canada. [3] The opossum actually lived during the age of dinosaurs. Fossil remains have been found from 70 million years ago.



Opossum's opposable thumbs for gripping

Virginia opossums can vary considerably in size, with larger specimens found to the north of the opossum's range and smaller specimens in the tropics. They are generally the size of a large cat. Their coats are a dull grayish brown, other than on their faces, which are white. Opossums have long, hairless, tails, and hairless ears and a long, flat nose. Opossums have 50 teeth, the most out of any North American mammal [1]

Opossums have opposable thumbs on their rear feet and can also grasp with their tails. A prehensile tail is adapted for grasping and wrapping around things like tree limbs. The opossum can hang from its tail for a short time. Some people think opossums hang from their tails and sleep. They don't. Their

tails aren't strong enough to hold them for that long! The "thumbs" on their rear feet, called a hallux, helps it to grasp branches when it climbs.

Opossums have thirteen nipples, arranged in a circle of twelve with one in the middle.

Perhaps surprisingly for such a widespread and successful species, the Virginia opossum has one of the lowest encephalization quotients (relative brain size) of any marsupial. Its brain is actually five times smaller than that of a raccoon. The opossum lifespan is unusually short for a mammal of its size, usually only two to four years. Senescence (biological aging) is very rapid for the opossum. [1]



Opossum's prehensile tail for gripping

### Name

The Virginia opossum is the original animal named "opossum". The word comes from Algonquian 'wapathemwa' meaning "white animal", the plural is opossums. Colloquially, the Virginia opossum is frequently called simply possum.

"Didelphis" is Greek for "Double Womb" while "Marsupialis" is Latin for "of the Pouch". Didelphis is from two Greek words, di meaning two or double and delphys meaning womb, in reference to the paired reproductive tract of females found in North America's only marsupial.

### Habitat and Range

The Virginia opossum can be found in most of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains and on the West Coast. It is also found in Mexico, Central America and in British Columbia, Canada. [4] The Virginia opossum lives in a wide-variety of habitats including deciduous forests, open



woods and farmland. It tends to prefer wet areas like marshes, swamps and streams.

Opossums are adaptable; able to live wherever water, food, and shelter exist. They are at home in trees and are quite good climbers with the help of their tail and thumbs. Some families will group together in ready-made burrows or even under houses. Though they will temporarily occupy abandoned burrows, they do not dig or put much effort into building their own. As nocturnal animals, they favor dark, secure areas. These areas may be below ground or above. The opossum doesn't hibernate in the winter. It will often hole up during very cold weather because it runs the risk of getting frostbite on its hairless ears, tail and toes.

## Behavior

Solitary and nocturnal: usually slow moving; when frightened and unable to flee may fall into an involuntary shock-like state, "playing possum". This coma-like state can last up to four hours, during which time the opossum will become stiff, drool, and have extremely slow, shallow breathing. They also emit a smelly substance from their anal gland which smells like rotten meat. This makes the opossum appear to be a rotting carcass. Most predators will give up the attack, believing the opossum to be dead.



Opossum playing dead

When cornered, they may hiss or growl and show their 50 sharp teeth when frightened; but, in reality, they are gentle and placid—they prefer to avoid all confrontations and wish to be left alone. [2] According to the National

Opossum Society, opossums can put up a terrific bluff if cornered and can give the appearance of being really good at defending itself. But, in reality, it is not good at defending itself!

## Diet

Didelphimorphs are opportunistic omnivores with a very broad diet. Their diet mainly consists of carrion and many individual opossums are killed on the highway when scavenging for roadkill. [1] Their broad diet allows them to take advantage of many sources of food provided by human habitation such as unsecured food waste (garbage) and pet food. [1] They actually help to maintain a clean and healthy environment. They eat all types of insects, including cockroaches, crickets, and beetles. They catch and eat rats, roof rats, mice, and they consume dead animals of all types. They like over-ripe fruit, berries, and grapes. And they think snails and slugs are a delicacy! According to the National Opossum society, they are Nature's little Sanitation Engineers!! [2]

## Reproduction and life cycle



Baby opossums in mother's pouch.

As a marsupial, the opossum has a reproductive system including a divided uterus and marsupium, which is the pouch. Opossums do possess a placenta, but it is short-lived, simple in structure, and, unlike that of placental mammals, is not fully functional. The young are therefore born at a very early stage, only 12 to 14 days. Once born, the offspring must find their way into the marsupium to hold onto and nurse from a teat. The largest difference between the opossum and other mammals

is the bifurcated (Split into two parts) penis of the male and bifurcated vagina of the female (the source of the Latin "didelphis," meaning double-wombed). Opossum spermatozoa exhibit sperm-pairing. [1]

Female opossums often give birth to very large numbers of young, most of which fail to attach to a teat, although as many as thirteen young can attach. Like most marsupials, opossums are very small when they are born - about the size of a navy bean. [4] The young are carried in the pouch until they are two to three months old. Then, they are carried on her back for another 1 to 2 months whenever they are away from the den. [2]

## Predators

Opossums are killed by many predators: humans (and cars), dogs, cats, owls, and larger wildlife.

If many opossums in a certain area are killed by predators, then there is more food for those that remain. In this case, these little critters will reproduce more successfully until they get back to their optimum number; or others will move in to fill the void (or niche) their absence creates. They can be replaced by opossums from outside the area, by rats, skunks cats, crows, raccoons, coyotes, etc. [2]

Health-wise, opossum are hearty animals. In general they present a far lower health risk to humans than do dogs and cats! They seem to have a naturally high level of immunity to most diseases. Example? Opossums are more resistant to rabies than any other mammal; cattle, goats, dogs, cats, sheep, and the ice cream man are far more susceptible to rabies! [2] Opossum are actually the only mammal that is immune to rattlesnake venom.

## Uses



The Virginia Opossum was once widely hunted and consumed in the United States.

In Dominica, Grenada, and Trinidad the Common Opossum or manicou is popular and can only be hunted during certain times of the year owing to over-hunting. The meat is traditionally prepared by smoking, then stewing. It is light and fine-grained, but the musk glands must be removed as part of preparation. The meat can be used in place of rabbit and chicken in recipes. Historically, hunters in the Caribbean would place a barrel with fresh or rotten fruit to attract opossums that would feed on the fruit or insects.

In Mexico, opossums are known as "tlacuache" or "tlaquatzin". Their tails are eaten as a folk remedy to improve fertility.

Opossum oil (possum grease) is high in essential fatty acids and has been used as a chest rub and a carrier for arthritis remedies given as topical salves.

Opossum pelts have long been part of the fur trade.

## References

- 1] Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opossum>
- 2] National Opossum Society, <http://www.opossum.org/>
- 3] National Geographic, website, <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/opossum/>
- 4] Natureworks website, <http://www.nhptv.org/natureworks/opossum.htm>

## *Didelphis virginiana* Remedy Overview

### Mental Overview

Didelphis is a remedy of duality. This split is seen even from the act of conception as the opossum sperm travel in pairs from the male opossum's bifurcated (split) penis to the female opossum's double womb. Didelphis has learned how to travel from the earth to heaven and back again.



Within Didelphis you will see a heaviness, tiredness and slowness indicative of the small creature (Theme: Heavy). You will also see the opposite sensation of lightness and floating created when they leave their body and “play dead” (Theme: Playing Dead, Opium). They will feel detached and disconnected from those around them. They may feel they occupy another dimension or that a part of them is here and a part of them is not or that their body is here but their being is not. They may experience timelessness or distorted time. Didelphis might present as a drug-type remedy.

Didelphis is one of the oldest living mammals. It lives a primitive existence and as such this remedy has confusion, forgetfulness and a “muddled brain” feeling (Theme: Primitive). It is only able to focus on what is in front of them. When stressed it easily gets overwhelmed and will want to leave or quit.

Its natural defense is to retreat and hide (Theme: Retreat). If angered, it has a quick, flash anger that dissipates quickly as well. It has many survival fears as it has few natural defenses except to “play dead.” There may be dreams of trying to escape dangerous situations or of car accidents. They have to be alert and guarded at all times to protect themselves and their family (Theme: Exposed). They will have fears of something happening to their family. They are especially fearful of kidnapping.

This remedy will prefer to be alone and get irritated when too many demands are put on them (Theme: Solitary). They are independent-minded and a bit rebellious. They mostly just want to do what they want to do and get sulky when told what to do by others (Theme: Independent-minded).

There will be an aspect of secretiveness or slyness to this state related to their nocturnal scavenger nature (Theme: Scavenger). There might also be a connection to dead bodies and decay related to the carrion that they eat as well as the “rotten” smell they emit while playing dead.

They have close relationships with their young, raising them in their pouch and carrying them on their back. The remedy will have a soft spot for children and be able to feel sincere love and compassion for others (Theme: Nurturing). There is a simplicity to this state and a playfulness (Theme: Simplicity). They enjoy simple pleasures, eating, being with friends, and cuddling with their children. They are also sexual in nature, although often the sex is a bit distorted, non-emotional, or forbidden in a way (Theme: Sex). They do not want to attract attention or to be singled out. They also do not want to be cast out or left out of the group.

Didelphis is nocturnal for the most part. They will have more energy at night and will get tired in the afternoon. They may have an appreciation of nighttime. They may have dreams in which they are climbing to escape or are in an elevated position for safety. They may also have a love or appreciation for trees (Theme: Climbing and Trees).

### Physical Summary

To be completed...

**Didelphis virginiana Mental Themes (in order of importance)**

## Heavy, Tired, Weighted and Slow

*“Unable to move, plastered to the furniture”*

It would be difficult to prescribe Didelphis without the sensation of both heavy and tired. Thirteen of the fourteen provers experienced this sensation and five of the nine supervisors did as well.

As to the understanding of this symptom, it may be more complex than it appears. At the material level, heaviness can just be the physical representation of a sluggish, slow moving animal. Opossums are notoriously slow moving, lumbering along sometimes carrying a pile of baby possums. This is most likely why they are often killed by cars. They may be unable, uninterested, or just too surprised to get out the way of the approaching car fast enough. It's interesting that technology seemed to pick up this sluggish energy, downloading things slower, connecting to things slower, etc.



Another way to understand this symptom is that they are nocturnal animals. Therefore, as people trying to accomplish their normal routines during the day, this is extremely challenging. Many provers just found themselves overwhelmingly sleepy and would just find ways to nap during the day and then find all kinds of additional energy at night. They might start out with energy in the morning, but by early afternoon it would clearly lag and a nice nap would sound just great.

Another way to understand this sensation can be as a clear opposite to the “out of the body” floating sensation (Theme: Opium). Their ability to leave their body would only clarify the difference felt when actually “in” their body. This “in their body” sensation becomes even more “material” even more grounding “plastered to the couch” in feeling.

### Heavy, Tired, Weighted, “Unable to move, plastered to the furniture”

- **Unable to move, I feel plastered to the furniture**, to the sofa. I am stuck here. It is this heaviness and weightiness, I just can't move, a complete surrender to it, wanting to it and being unable to move, so surrender. (12)
- **Heavy, not weight heavy, not weighed down**, not working properly. Not holding me down. (106)
- **Just can't drag myself out of bed**. Very slow to emerge, physically, and from the state of sleep. (04)
- [technical problems] I had a hard time down loading it and it took 5 hours and then somehow overnight I lost it so I had to do the whole thing again today. (01)
- Taught class this morning.. **EXTREMELY tired after sending it off...** Nap time? (02)
- (CHEST) Left lower chest pain. Heavy. Face is heavy. (03)
- Some sort of wall, block inside that is cutting me off from my spirit. Usually connected. Useless. I'm just a fat lump. **So heavy in my head, face, arms, want to hang head because too hard to hold it up.** (04)
- **Lazy don't feel like doing anything**. Everything is an effort. (sigh) don't want to do this. (05)
- I am rested enough that my eyes and head feel awake. **Oddly, my body is ready to head back to bed.** (08)
- (CHEST) At the bottom of the cracks was where my depression was; my chest feels as though there's a weight on my sternum, heavy, constricted; (11)
- Heavy and hopeless, in the world, but just watching it. (102)
- When I wake up in the morning, I feel very energized and productive. I am in a good mood and get a lot done. **By lunchtime, I feel like I have used up all my energy and it becomes survival mode.** Do what needs to be done but what I really want to do is sit down and tune the rest of the world out. (106)

## Slow Moving, “Everything is moving slower”

- **I feel like I am slowing down**, all my systems are yearning to come to a standstill. Not dead, but on very low simmer. Like a viscous medium I must move through. I feel lost. A bit stunned. As if it's all I can do to just keep going. The desire to just stop, and the involuntary persistence to just keep going, one foot in front of the other, doggedly, but not forcing. The answer to the overwhelm: just put your blinders on and keep moving forward, no matter how slowly. Keep moving through the plasma. (04)
- More ease around time. I don't feel rushed. I feel slowed down a bit- like I can't speed---not that I'm wanting to- **but it's as if my speedometer won't go there**. I also feel like the speed I'm going is fine—odd for me...I'm a bit of a speeder... (07)
- **Tired, sluggish, like a foggy mind**. Feel shut down. (talking slow, propping self up on hand). Doing bare minimum. Just trying to get through day until things are easier. (03)
- **Everything is moving slower**. Pulled in. Plastered on the surface. (12)
- Sometime in the afternoon. I received a call from above mentioned therapist and my voicemail got stuck on “retrieving” the message. I could not listen to the message until bits were downloaded. **Finally, hours later I could hear the full message**. (08)

## Distorted Time, “My whole relationship with time has shifted”

- **Time is moving very slowly**; it feels like it should be evening by now (11)
- **Time is going so fast**. I will look at the clock expecting it to have been 15-30 minutes and 2 hours will have passed. This is a recent shift for me. The whole relationship to time seems shifted. (105)
- Day went fast. **Where has time gone?** (14)
- **My relationship with time has totally shifted**. I have no clear concept of time. I'm in my own world, on my own time. It's nice---it's affecting me in the way that in situations where I would normally feel compelled to rush, I feel the opposite- much more relaxed. It's improving my patience, especially in traffic—no desire to really speed or rush---on my own time, most likely slower than usual (07)
- Looking back at this week, it feels like a liquid blur. **Time is not fast or slow -- time is nothingness**. Fuzzy, blurry, each day and night bleeding into the next... no way to really differentiate. (12)

## *Playing Dead, Opium, "The Walker between the Worlds"*

*"Lucid dreams of being aware of exactly how to go outside of my body"*

*"This other half, this other dimension, it was like I was in another dimension."*



"Playing Possum" or playing dead is a tactic used by the animal to survive. One might think that the opossum is just lying there motionless, however the opossum has actually learned how to leave and re-enter its body.

This makes sense, as what natural predator will really be fooled by a merely immobile prey.

The opossum has a duality and a disconnected due to this. They seem to exist at time in two planes, one on the earth and the other disconnected and floating above the earth. It is not so dissimilar to an Opium state. When leaving their body, they feel weightless and floaty. In order to prescribe, Didelphis you would need to see this drug-like picture. It's very similar to a bird's reaction to stress, to leave the body. Yet it is also very drug-like, with illusions to both opium and cannabis. Someone who needs this remedy could easily be a recreational drug user or just as easily dislike the feeling drugs give because it too closely matches their state.

They can have the sensation of being split or of two minds. While partially relating to an animal's sensation of two wills, this also relates to this split between being here in their body and being in the air floating. They can often feel disconnected. In a conversation they might appear distant or disconnected from others. Often they feel like an observer (Theme: Ambivalent), just distantly watching versus really engaging with others. In their dreams they are often observing.

As they go in and out of their body, they get confused and a bit lost between the worlds. Time appears to stop, slow or speed up (like in Cann-i). They may also become entranced with the concept of death and dying. They go between the worlds of life and death so freely that it becomes confusing for them in a way. It is as if they can see the bigger picture between earth and heaven and death becomes more a transition versus an end. Interestingly one proverb was appearing in other people's dreams. Their dreams as times could be symbolic.

### *Opium, "Exactly how to go outside of my body," "In another dimension,"*

- (Dream) **Lucid dreams of being aware of exactly how to go outside of my body.** (02)
- **I drift up from the center up out of the top of my head, I am a little scared, "Whoa! What's going on here!?"** I can do this, I can get through this it's not a big deal. It is really connected with time for me. It just seems like I am panicked for not having enough time. (105)
- I am not multi-tasking in anyway, just sitting there in the sauna. As I am talking about this, I am fading back, as though I were stepping back, **moving back, which floats me out of materialness, still in it, but floating back.** My breath is slowing. A little more interactive. It's calming, not on guard. (04)
- I keep popping up in other people's dreams. **Two people in the last 24 hours told me that they had a dream about me.** (11)
- I feel when I am meeting someone that I am not fully there. I listened and responded, but I feel off. **I am not quite having a conversation with a person and yet I am like I am not quite there.** I don't notice if the other person notices. (12)
- **This other half, this other dimension, it was like I was in another dimension.** I felt so separate from what was happening. Noise or voices, I could hear them, of course, but, it was as if, maybe it was my fever, I felt like... This is so hard to describe. It felt like I couldn't integrate with my surroundings. I was not a part of what was happening in the physical space that I was in. I was with a friend, I could hear her, I responded, **but I felt separate or disconnected.** (08)
- They all are going on the clock, having an agenda, somewhere to be, get their supplies in timely manner. I was horizontal, I wasn't in time in a way. Long line to it (HG straight), like in music each note or the phrase,

I was the long line. **I was unmeasured. Just floating.** In the bubble, just floating along. Smooth long line.... Hey guys! You can come join me! No need to be in a rush. I didn't need to be alone in there. **I was operating on a different plane.** I was above the earth a little bit. Just standing and smelling... I was there the whole time... no idea how many minutes went by. No idea that time existed. Just to stand there and watch it all happening,. A detachment. **Your body is here and your being is not.** It's not in your physical body (07)

### Light, Floating, "Floating in the air"

- It is a little bit scary, **I have to get a hold of myself, I have to re-land in this plane.** I am off, out of time and space, there is a dividing line with time that connects us to this plane. I am off floating away. (105)
- It is carefree. Laughable, out of character, light airy. Opposite of heavy, grave and serious. Floaty, weightless in chest, **light feeling in chest. floating in the air, free, no boundaries, nothing holding me down.** the opposite of the other day when I felt weighty, that is interesting. (05)
- (Dream) ...As I walked around that art museum, I felt charmed by it...not in a good way **but like under a spell,** like I couldn't think for myself or walk where I wanted to walk or remember what I needed to remember; the art wasn't even that interesting! I walked around the art museum almost in a daze, looking at the paintings as if I had nothing in my head, empty, like I wasn't processing anything or feeling anything. feeling that brain wasn't part of what was going on... Gloomy, mysterious. The feeling of under a spell, charmed was floaty. **Atmosphere was cloud-like, a different world.** (11)
- I spaced out, **this same floaty feeling,** totally forgetting what I was supposed to be doing. (105)

### Drugs: Opium, Cannabis, "An altered reality"

- I purchased some pot - haven't smoked it, but I wanted to. **I was looking for a detached bliss state that I remember from smoking pot in the past.** .. A literal drugged state. (108)
- (Dream) Was in a house and there **were three people on the closed-in porch smoking pot...** (103)
- **This is like an Opium state.** I have been having all of these amazing ideas. The things, the possibilities. This is so awesome. The Cannabis indicus theorizing state. The laughing this is intense! (12)
- I feel like **I'm not able to distinguish between reality and symptoms of the remedy;** I'm fully awake, but I'm imagining that little men are going to come through this bathroom window and kill me (11)
- (Dream) There was another dimension feeling, **an alternate reality,** otherworldly, supernatural, the darkness, all of the activity occurred in the darkness, post apocalyptic.(08)
- Today I got 5 messages from friends that weren't supposed to come to me. Happened all at once, seemed odd. ... **Is this some altered reality?** (03)

### A Duality or Split, "The Walker Between the Worlds,"

- Like a concert thinking music singing for easter... **like rising from the dead** (little tears behind eyes) (04)
- **Think about layers of our being.** A glowing orb of spirit is what heaven is. Layers of physical body/mind. Definition of heaven is the divine space inside. Hell is the physical being including the mental part of the physical being. (03)
- Today my card, that I drew as I take the remedy, **is called the Walker between the Worlds,** about making shamanic journeys. (13)
- Talked with my supervisor this afternoon, exploring my experience of Death, as it has been coming up several times... Endings, endings, endings! I feel my life reducing itself, narrowing, and I both want that simpler, clearer focus, yearn for it, breathing space - and yet feel sharp pains of mourning for all that is no more. **Countries, lives, worlds I could go back and walk through yet is there still a place for me there?** Or do I meet with those still alive, and dear to me, in the ethers somewhere, **in the paused moments of time?** (04)
- (Dream) About choosing to stay here. Dream felt like possession, not awake, not dream state...much more present. Could feel entity pulling me. Said if you're benevolent, you can stay. If not, go away. If dark energy go away (laughs). Really clear about it – don't fuck with me! Similar to other things in my life. **Felt like floating, flying, bumping into the ceiling in my bedroom, my house.** Can't do this here. If going to float have to go outside. Cats will get out, but they'll be okay. It's February. Very conscious of relating normally, literally my house. Knew I'd remember how to make myself warm. I'm remembering how to fly, float, up to top of pine tree consciously moving myself in space, how to go higher and higher to the stars, but not the

stars...in between. Separate, not part of this entity, not merged into oneness – lonely. Having a conversation, not verbal. Am I done? Can I go home yet? Not done. That's great. I have 15 year old son, strong soul contract. Calling out to friend, a light spirit...**I'm alone up here. Not devastating, just aware of oneness and I am separate. Up in the stars, then alone and back in bed.** (02)

- The Sabian Symbol for my Virgo Sun is: **Two faces looking out into the world.** This speaks about dichotomy. This whole problem of two pieces of myself that are always opposite. (13)
- **My body is splitting in two and pulling apart.** (05)
- **A part of my face is like completely asleep.** Half of my face was sleeping, eye drooping, half awake, eye open, mouth hanging open, sitting down sinking in. Heaviness is present. (12)

### Observing oneself, "Detached"

- (Dream) I wanted to swim at night but insisted on going out naked... in both "naked" dreams, **I am observing myself--just realized that I think that point is important** (01)
- (Dream) **Sort of in, sort of watching** a dream that was like an action movie. (02)
- **Detached**, becoming aware of another layer of not taking things personally. Disconnection. **Realized I am feeling a general sense of disconnection.** (02)
- There was a definite change in my mood; at first I thought it was peaceful or calming, but then I felt aloofness; **a distance; a sense of not being an active participant.** (05)
- **Don't care about much of anything**, don't want to do anything. Hope no one calls or emails and wants a response. Don't think I could be friendly. (10)
- **Nothing matters.** Everything will just work out. I do not have the energy to even care. (12)
- (Dream) I was in my bedroom with my lover about to have sex. He had on the last condom, but decided he wanted to masturbate instead so took it off. I was annoyed because he didn't really ask what I wanted and I knew that we couldn't have sex at all now. **Yet somehow it was okay at the same time.** (103)
- (Dream) My husband and I had 2 male friends who were our good friends. They raped me and I was mad at the time, but I felt like they had just made a mistake and I missed being friends with them. **It was interesting because the rape didn't really bother me that much, it was like, "yeah, but I'm fine."** The concern was more about how I was viewed. (03)
- Driving home, there's a calm. **I'm witnessing everything in a happily detached manner---**nothing is really going on in my mind---it's a very calm, flat feeling. (07)

### (The Opposite) Present, "Shocked awake after having lived in some oozing jelly all my life"

- Had a peculiar sensation **of being very present in my body - more so than ever before.** I felt the softness of the pillow and blanket in bed, and was very cozy and content as I fell asleep. Very in my body and happy. (03)
- I want to be truthful and aware of what I am feeling and I want my bodily actions to reflect this, as well as my speech. (06)
- **Shocked awake** after having lived in some oozing jelly all my life. (04) (curative)
- **A way into yourself, taking what you are feeling, duh!** It's just so different when you experience it in such a vast way...Like the whole human race is confused about content versus the medium. Being in the medium we can go somewhere, the portal, the passage way, the form not the content... (04) (curative)
- My every movement at work **was so focused without any hesitation** (06) (curative)
- Everything flowed and my mind was clear. It was like the clearness in your head when you breathe in camphor (06) (curative)

## Primitive

*"I feel rather dense, and I can only take in a small amount of information at a time"*

*"Access to my being in such an uncomplicated way"*

*"I want to follow the leader, I don't want to be the leader"*



The Opossum is one of the oldest living creatures. It lives a simple, uncomplicated life. It doesn't have the skills for hunting, but merely scavenges and forages for food. To prescribe Didelphis you would need to see a diminished mental capacity. It could be just a foggy brain with poor memory or it could be more severe diminished mental capacity. It is as if the brain has been "unplugged" or as if "a strange filtration system has muddied it up." There are moments when the mind will go completely blank.

Their connection to things around them is distorted and awkward. They may knock things over. They become disjointed in their communication with others, opening their mouth, but the right words or any words don't come out. Technology also reflected this, as phone calls couldn't connect or they couldn't access the internet. Of course, you would see mistakes in writing and mistakes in time, forgetting appointments, forgetting directions, and general confusion of the mind etc.

Clearly part of this disconnection may be the opossum's tendency to leave its body under times of stress, but it also just appears to be a simplicity to the creatures (Theme: Simplicity).

Inside, Didelphis feels they have limited abilities and can easily get overwhelmed. They respond with panic as well as a strong desire to just quit when they feel overwhelmed. In general, life can easily be "too much" for them. As a result, they prefer to be followers and have others tell them what to do. In general, they would rather not have to think or have the responsibility for a big job. As one prover said "I just want someone to tell me when to eat, when to sleep..."

With this muddied and primitive brain life becomes quickly reduced to just what is in front of them, mostly due to necessity. Their inability to actually plan ahead, leaves them with just the present moment. Interestingly, it was this consequence that yields a great benefit for Didelphis. As life becomes reduced "in scope" it becomes beautifully simple. Provers enjoyed a clarity and present-mindedness they had not experienced before. It was in this state, that they could easily go from task to task in a simple one foot in front of the other way.

### Muddied, Primitive Brain, "I feel rather dense"

- Stop my brain from having any thoughts any cares. **Like unplugging something.** Like picture is of a brain, and all the wires in it, and... then you unplug it and it just stops. Quiet. (106)
- **I feel rather dense, and I can only take in a small amount of information at a time.** (03)
- [My brain is] **a strange filtration system that is all muddied up.** I cannot quite put the pieces together. This is just the way it is. (12)
- **Like my mind is completely empty** and I'm so in the moment and then the moment is gone. (102)
- **My mind is feeling clearer.** I am more definitive. I am not feeling as wishy washy. I'm going with it and not second guessing my decisions. I have had this feeling before but it is a much stronger pull this time (06) (curative)
- (Dream) They were laughing hysterically, they had moved all the furniture... Everything was gone. **Am I in the right place? Confused.** Did I open the right door? (07)
- Client called me in morning on my cell phone. **I saw her number and heard phone ringing but hitting the accept button wouldn't connect us.** It just kept ringing. Then phone died completely. I couldn't turn it back on. She reports the same thing happened to her. She could see my phone number but couldn't answer. (10)

## Poor Memory, “I can’t remember anything”

- **I am so spaced out. I can’t remember anything.** I don’t remember driving places and I don’t even remember if the light was green when I just drove through it (106)
- **I’ve had memory problems for really silly things-** just regular words that are on the tip of my tongue, but I can’t quite retrieve them. (07)
- **My memory is improved. I am remembering things** (06) (curative)
- **Speech is delayed, my responses are slow and off.** (12)
- **Confusion, how did I get that done?** (12)
- **Communication issues.** Having problems hearing people via computers. (14)
- **I seriously confused my right and left directions while driving;** when the GPS told me to turn right, my mind thought that meant to turn in the direction of the left; I think I had that the other day, too (11)
- Feels kinda like lost in thought, just kinda stand there, and feel kinda blanked out, stunned, **like you were in your kitchen and not oh forgot what I was doing** (04)
- **It’s mystifying how many technical things and scheduling error things are happening on my part.** I’ve made the mistake of setting my alarm to the wrong time... In my head I remember an appointment time but I’m actually a half hour off. Almost left to go to the dog park knowing I’d have to chat with my supervisor at 5:30 only to just recheck my calendar and see that I was off again. I expected to see a client at 10am today but really she was at 11am and someone else was at 10... This is not like me. (08)

## Limited Ability, Overwhelmed, “It’s too hard,” “I want someone else to tell me what to do”

- **It’s too hard. I can’t access information very well.** It’s so messed up, papers jumbled and not doing a good job. Very vulnerable and exposed. The men in white lab coats are writing notes about me, people are coming and taking me away. Back off stop looking at me, stop asking so much of me, I can’t do anything else. I can’t get any perspective, I can’t get any perspective, all this stuff piled on top of me, there is nothing. (03)
- Crippled, unable to understand to that depth, my sense of my own lack of understanding comes up, **I can’t figure it out.** I don’t have that intuition that seems necessary in homeopathy. I’ve tried to push it and I’ve finally learned you can’t push the process. (01)
- **Barely an effort. Just doing enough to say you did it...**most minimal amount done, just done not done well. (106)
- **I have so many little details to keep track of right now with scheduling and preparing for my trip next week.** I usually manage this stuff well but I’m having a hard time now. (08)
- Feeling like I don’t know things, feeling bad about myself, wanting to just focus and learn but and can’t focus. **Feeling stupid because I can’t hold things in my head.** (102)
- Had a moment of high-panic as I try to attack some work projects that need to get done soon... **My plate is saturated, it’s all I can do to get by. Overwhelmed** but from within. (04)
- **I want to follow the leader, I don’t want to be the leader.** Like they have a troop and the pack. I want someone else to tell me what to do and what to eat. I am the leader right now and I don’t want to be. (106)
- After 20 years in my field and 10 years as an independent consultant, **I just want to go work for someone else...**feels easier, somehow, to just show up and do what can be done, knowing I’ll get paid. As a consultant I feel like there is so much riding on this... (102)
- Done, bored with it. (groan) I don’t want to journal anymore. **It’s too much work.** I don’t want to be responsible writing down everything and keeping track and noticing everything. (08)

## Just what is in front of me, “My scope of vision has been reduced” “like amnesia”

- I couldn’t think of the whole day at once and plan anything. **It was like I could only see what was immediately in front of me, and I had to just take a little at a time. Anything outside of that was blurry...** It’s kind of nice, actually, because I am able to just do the next thing, because that is all I can really see. Not worried about the rest of the day, I will figure it out when it happens. **My scope of vision has been reduced,** and the realm of what’s immediately in front of me is much less than usual. It feels like, Well maybe I’m missing something but at least I’ll know that I can do this well whatever I am doing right now. It’s a calm feeling, like things are coming toward me in the correct order. I don’t have to worry because it will

float to me when the time is right. it's like I'm underwater, moving very slowly and gently, and everything is buffered, softened, dulled a little but in a nice way. (03)

- **I could see all around me, no concept of behind me being the same, only what was in front of me.** Just go forward, there is only forward, just forward motion only... Kind of like amnesia, you don't know it exists, or what came before, or where you are from. (07)
- Realized that my frustration is with this transition to a new place **of being in the present moment as the only option** (102)

## Independent-minded and Rebellious

*"I'll do it my way"*

Didelphis is an independent-minded sort of fellow. They are quite resistant to being told what to do. They get a sort of childish rebellious attitude in response, a sort of sulkiness. Basically, they just what to do what they want to do, period. It's more than just being a solitary mammal, it is a basic orneriness. They will often avoid a confrontation and simply just not do what is being asked of them.



The obligations and responsibilities of life can make them feel restricted and trapped. They truly just wish to be released from this pressure and just simply be allowed to do whatever it is they feel like doing. One prover who had a curative response to the remedy said that in the past she would need to drive somewhere and just get out of her car and scream to release her frustration. There are times when they can try to stand their ground with others and be clear.

### Independent-minded , "I just want to do what I want to do!"

- Wanting to be alone, **to do whatever it is that I feel like doing.** (13)
- During the proving have found any excuse possible not to do it. I have never pushed it off like this before. I know it is the proving--**I am doing only the things I am interested in doing and nothing I don't want to.** (01)
- I keep changing plans on people. Decide it doesn't matter what I have planned before and my time schedule, **but that I want to do what I am doing at the moment.** (103)
- Heaviness, (ugggg!) I don't want to. I'm like 4 year old. **I just want to do what I want to do,** I want to take naps when I want to take naps, I want to eat what I want to eat. (07)

### Rebellious , "You can't tell me what to do!" "The obligations hold you down"

- I'm feeling lazy **and a little resistant to hearing her tell me what to do.** I kind of go through the motions but when she turns her back I just rest. (08)
- I still get infuriated with her when **she tries to parent me or when she tells me how to live my life...**(11)
- A little irritated. Just irritated at proving, **feeling a childish rebelliousness,** more at you than at remedy. A salty attitude that's not my normal at all. Feels like this rebelliousness at authority figure, restriction, it's not huge, I'll show them, a shadow of it, no big issue, **I'll do it my way.** (04)
- They are dictating. **You can't tell me what to do!** I feel stifled (07)
- Keeping me here, **not let me go where I want.** Forced to stay in uncomfortable place and expecting me to. So mad. I don't want to. **I want to get up and leave and I should be able to.** (03)
- Lazy don't feel like doing anything. Everything is an effort. (sigh) don't want to do this. **The weight is all the obligations and chores and hold you down, suffocative and must be removed in order to be free.** (05)
- In years past, when having an emotion, I felt the need to scream or yell. **Needed some sort of release. I would go to the airport and get out of my car and scream.** I am aware today that this feeling is gone (06) (curative)

### "Stop relying on me!", "I stood my ground"

- **My anger wanted to burst out; I felt relied upon too much.** (11)
- This shoot of fresh green plant really yearning to feel free of self imposed weight of obligation. Feels like I have no choice, ...**I am so tired of having others depend on me!** (04)
- I stood into her anger, leaned into it and tried to talk it through. I am sitting here, not walking away. Let's talk it through. Big for me to do that. I wasn't terrified like I normally would be. I knew I wanted to state my case and be done... **I've been in so many relationships, felt I stood my ground.** (14)

- Finding it easier to set boundaries without guilt. **Was supposed to have breakfast with a guy, but didn't feel like it so I just said no.** (02)

## *Retreat to Safety, Feeling Trapped, I Quit!*

*"I would immediately have to retreat to my home to retreat and rebuild, recharge."*

*"all the obligations and chores and hold you down"*

Opossums live in dens that they often acquired used from another animal. They may use squirrel nests up in trees or burrows left in the ground. While it may put up a ferocious growl, Didelphis has few natural defenses besides retreating and playing dead. Its preference is of course to retreat and hide.



Retreating is not only their natural defense but they are also primarily loners (Theme: Solitary) therefore they would also find retreating more comfortable than interacting with people. In addition, their scavenger behavior (Theme: Scavenger) also makes stealth and hidden behavior more appealing. This defense is similar to that seen in a mollusk, to retreat to a safe place. Similarly, they fear that this safe place will be invaded, that something will come in and kill them.

Unlike a mollusk though, they can feel trapped easily. They fear attack within their retreat as well as fear being trapped in a place they can't get out of. The dislike of the trapped feeling most likely also has to do with their independent nature and their desire to be free of obligations. (Theme: Independent-minded) One prover even mentioned feeling like "a bird that had lost its ability to fly." Several of the provers thought they were proving a bird remedy, given the clearly restricted and frustrated way they felt about being heavy or grounded. One might say that the Opossum has learned to leave its body in a fashion similar to the way a bird flies and the way bird remedies respond to threat or stress.

Didelphis has a tendency to want the easy way out of a situation. Often, they prefer to just simply "quit." As the proving progressed into the second week, provers were already complaining that they were done and/or wanted to be done. We had to keep sending emails out telling them to stay with it. Planning to take the full two months as usual for a proving, after a month, we decided to "quit" early. Seems a wonderful example of possum behavior, when overwhelmed, quit!

### *Retreat to Safety, "It is safe in here"*

- **Retreat is to recharge.** To get back the energy, let your body rest so not in pain any more. Like starting over. Cause mornings are so good, just retreat in the middle of the day and come back energized and ready to take on whatever. (106)
- (Dream) I was at a house and stepped outside to a beautiful day, only to see a serious tornado/storm brewing close. **We all freaked out and were running for the basement.** The sense was of extreme urgency, we could die, but more likely if we weren't in a safe place we could be smashed by falling debris. **Is there a safe spot in this basement?** Will there be a way out if the upper levels are destroyed? (103)
- Guards are there to protect myself, my energy, it takes energy, **but I would immediately have to retreat to my home to retreat and rebuild, recharge.** (01)
- **I feel you want something from me and I need to retreat a bit. You look at me and I want to pull back, curl up (hands over face) and be with myself in a safe place.** Just twist in like if you roll paper up from both edges. Twist in and be protected. Something will keep me safe. (03)
- Walking by snow-covered fir trees, my eyes are drawn to the empty space underneath them where there's shelter from the snowstorm; **I think of animals curling up under there to wait it out;** it looks like a nice and safe place for this, but at the same time, I'm thinking that it's not so safe because bigger animals can easily dominate them without being seen by animals that would help the smaller one (11)
- **I am imagining myself up in a tree, safe, comfortable, nobody can see me, I can build a nice little house up there, where I can sit and meditate,** I can be above the Earth, near the birds and their nests, I can meditate. It is more freeing up in the trees than on the Earth. (13)
- **It's safe in here, it's protected, it is warm and loving.** I'm like a little yellow fuzzy, small thing, I need my egg I need my shell, to be safe. (07)

## Feeling Trapped, "Free from the obligations"

- Husband's leg is crossing mine as we try to sleep, **I can't move it easily, so it feels like I'm trapped**; I move his leg off with the help of my other foot and feel relief, ability to move, freedom (11)
- It's like its encroaching little by little as if a conium thing... this restriction started in some places and slowly taking over more and more area entrenching more and more area can't move spontaneously. **Like my life is can't afford take spontaneous cant rest of obligations catch up with me. Hard to get a full breath.** (04)
- Breaking thru thin barrier, just come out, not destructive, no harm, just can't it needs to get out. **Let me out! Just being held in there, if I let it rip, it wants to be free to release, BAAAA I'm FREEE FINALLY! Finally, I'm free!** It's stifled, it's being held, it can't catch its breath. (07)
- Freedom is being ok with whatever I am thinking or doing. I don't have to guard any emotion, cover anything up, justify or defend. I'm just ok. (06) (curative)
- Wanting to face into my fear, to turn the corner, and face the unknown, that which is scary. To face it rather than say, "No, no!", "No, I don't want to hear you!", so many ways that we dig in and resist turning the corner, letting go of what we imagine. You just take the steps. It's just so vast you are all there. Totally present. To go back, around the corner, it's as though that fear, to take a chance, it's keeping you from yourself. (04) (curative)
- **More about free. not tied down, strings cut that tie you down, able to fly, weight removed. Weight is all the obligations and chores and hold you down, suffocative and must be removed in order to be free.** on my chest, heaviness, pressure pushing in, no problem with breathing yet suffocative feeling (05)
- Pulling me back, pushing down, (HG) downward, I don't want to be down here, I can't take a deep breath. **I want something like a big claw to just lift this energy up off of me.** (106)

## "Get me out of here!," "I quit", "I'm done."

- Feeling of being in math class and some really hard math problem. Too complicated. I don't care, **get me out of here...** stop looking at me, (hg) get away, **I'm done.** (03)
- That's enough for now. (04)
- When little kids throw themselves to ground, go limp and you have to get me up. (prover is very whiney, wants to quit proving) **I'm done now.** (07)
- Technical difficulties with my computer is just a little too much to handle. Instead of getting stressed **I think I want to walk away.** (08)
- Your job is not done. **She has quit. She's giving up** (106)
- Can't sleep and feeling disconnected, alone, **and despondent to the point of not wanting to be here;** literally glad I don't have a gun in the house. Reminded of a woman who said of her terminally ill husband: "I either want to cure him or kill him." (102)

## *Exposed, Vulnerable, and Attacked*

*“so I can't relax and feel safe; I wonder what I'd do to fight or get away if I was found; I feel that I'd be a goner if they found me, it's inevitable”*

As an animal, Didelphis is basically concerned about survival. They are constantly on guard to protect themselves and their family. Because so many opossums are killed by cars, there were dreams of loved ones being killed in car accidents and images of being stuck frozen in fear in the center of an intersection.

Interestingly, the opossum is one of the few animals immune to rattlesnake venom. One of the provers had a graphic dream of her hand being eaten by a snake but in the dream she knows that if she can get her hand out of its mouth she can survive. Another prover had a scary wakened dream in which she imagined small men coming into the bathroom to attack and kill her.

### A Fight for my Life

- There was a snake, a frog, and an oversized praying mantis. The snake and the praying mantis both wanted to eat the frog, and they both were eating it, each from a different end. Suddenly I was the one they were eating. The snake had its teeth sunk into my hand, and the pain was horrible. My legs were in the mouth of the praying mantis and I knew it was already starting to digest me. I could feel the venom from the snake dissolving my hand. The feeling was terror, but I felt like I could get out of the situation of I could struggle free. I knew my body parts would be badly damaged, but I would live, so I started to focus on yanking my hand out of the snake's mouth, but I had to be very careful to do it at the correct angle. There was sort of a disgust or a sick to my stomach dread about the condition of my hand, like it was unbelievable mangled, and the sickening feeling of realizing that it was my own body. It's a very helpless, vulnerable feeling, like this body is so vulnerable, and at any moment it could be torn apart. I could also feel the snake's feelings during the dream - it had a cold determination to kill me and eat me. Its eyes were cold and cloudy, and it had absolutely no compassion for my suffering - just a killing machine like the Terminator. There was no reasoning with it, so I had to fight for my life, which was the last resort. (03)
- The experience of thinking the little men would come into my window: they're small, maybe a foot in height, they're devilish men, look like little devils; one jumps into through the window after another, maybe 4-5 of them; I'm not sure what they'll do, but I feel vulnerable, open, open to attack, like they can do anything to me that they want to and I have no protection, I can't defend myself alone; I need cover, a place to hide; but if I did hide, my heart would race, and I'd worry that I'd be found and attacked, so I can't relax and feel safe; I wonder what I'd do to fight or get away if I was found; I feel that I'd be a goner if they found me, it's inevitable (11)

### Exposed, “Felt very exposed and uncomfortable”

- Anticipatory anxiety, feel at a loss how do I respond to this, how do I live, make choices, priorities, if I start looking at this it could totally chaotically bubble over and change my life. **Like standing in the middle of a busy intersection, I can't move, don't know which way to turn, how to respond**, it really embraces this fragile nature of life and my life. (04)
- Like when trying to sneak through pack of wild animals and they aren't looking at you, **but you snap a twig and heads all look at you and they all will kill and eat you**. You're never getting away. You're going down, a lot of suffering. (03)
- Was walking around naked, seemed to have made a decision each morning not to wear clothes, first days people stared at me, was uncomfortable, later people ignored me but I still wished I had put on clothes, it was not a pretty sight! **Felt very exposed and uncomfortable** (01)
- Felt panic when leaving the house, because I was sure house was going to be robbed. Made an unexpected trip home to make sure all was ok... Vulnerability. I should have been able to take the house with me. **Totally unprotected**. (03)
- **Open, not protected, no cover, not safe, wide open**. No defenses, little, small. Can't do it by myself. Need someone else. Need help, protection, cover, safety. Need someone else who is stronger, bigger, secure. (07)

## Vigilance, Guardedness, Escape

- **How do you let your guard down?** How do you let your fences down? These questions came up in a conversation with someone regarding safety... (02)
- The feeling was that men you thought were nice could turn on you any minute. **Also careful of actions because if I did something wrong I guilty and they would turn on me.** (03)
- **Very on guard cautious weary fearful of least movement yet desire to move slowly.** It like I can't relax take a break I can't not be vigilant I have to be vigilant. (04)
- It is good to overcome evil. **To be vigilant.** To be a strong enough person. I have to be constantly on guard. **It feels good to be on guard, to not give up, give in, or surrender.** To conquer or at least meet the force... The battle is on. Force meeting force. Force holding back force. Being very present I would say. (05)
- **Defending means to protect. Defend at all costs. You protect without thinking.** (06)
- Observed over the course of the past week that my general response to potentially stressful situations has been to go **into a hyper-alert mode with almost a sensation of panic.** (10)
- **The feeling of delight of interacting with people, happy, cheerful, laughing, spontaneous, quite delightful. A relief, or release or breaking free of my normal vigilance or guardedness around people.** (01) (curative)
- (Dream) **Someone was trying to escape from a house.** She was on the run from the police so they had the house surrounded –a SWAT team of men. They were trying to capture her, but she was not a criminal, just persecuted... I hoped she would escape. I was trying to sneak out of the house too, just to see if I could find a way to escape (03)
- (Dream) In the middle of the night. **My husband, dog and I were being held captive.** The setting was our cabin. We were surrounded down at the lake and up the eastern side of the cabin, property and path that led down to the lake. It think **we were told to stay in our cabin and knew they were coming back for us....** Then we started to hear their voices. My husband said, 'let's go!'. I ran upstairs to get a backpack and get my dog and it felt like there was just too much to do and think of before escaping. Why didn't we escape sooner? I laid down on the bed upstairs and snuggled my dog. The feeling of this dream was not fear but worry, unfairness, overwhelm... (08)

## Attacked, "Lying in a pool of blood"

- I said she dug at me, picked on me, poked at me, provoked me, **I felt shat on, attacked, battered, beaten, like dirt; I wanted to crawl away, slink away to a burrow or a cave,** somewhere dark; that place is quiet, dark, there's nothing there, I'm alone there, it's empty and I can hide; I feel I need to go there to hide from the enemy, **someone who is cruel, doesn't allow my feelings or thoughts, an overbearing person, they think they're superior and I'm inferior,** they tell me what I can do or have to do; I feel like anything I want to do is taken away from me, they're stymieing me, **I stop in my tracks because I don't know what to do; I can't move, stuck in a rut, don't know where to go; I feel lowly, useless, valueless, clueless;** (05)
- (Dream) Trying to find out a way to **kill a dangerous and abusive man.** He was very powerful and strong so it was scary. (03)
- (Dream) I accidentally left my kids home alone, and was having trouble getting back to them. Absolute panic and anguish, a horrible feeling in the center of my chest and the pit of my stomach, like a constant scream of terror. **It was so horrible and anguishing to think of them wandering out into the street and getting kidnapped or something.** I kept encountering obstacles on my way and it was awful, horrible grief and regret like they were dead. (03)
- Returning late to my mother's apartment where I am staying, I start to worry...**What if someone went in there and now she is lying in a pool of blood.** (04)
- Have had a few more slightly spooky feelings that **someone might jump out and get me, follow me, grab me from behind,** just out of my line of vision. (04)
- **Over the years, when I waken in the middle of the night, I sometimes have had worrisome thoughts about family members such as "oh, what if this happened to so-and-so".** Often times my thoughts have included visuals of someone being injured or attacked. Of course, we always dread a phone call in the middle of the night about something terrible. What I realized it that recently, when I awaken, my worrisome thoughts are minimal and I rarely ever have the visuals. (06) (curative)

- (Dream) Dream of a girl inside a house. There is a woman outside, trying to break in. Girl runs around the house, locks all the doors...She grabs the phone and dials 911 as the woman breaks a window and lets herself in. The people at 911 are asking her stupid questions, taking a long time, talking between themselves. Girl is laying on her back, fighting off the woman with her legs to try to tell emergency services her address and what is happening. They aren't concerned, She doesn't get her address out before the woman gets to the phone. **The girl is kidnapped...**She will disappear and no one will notice. (103)

### Car Accidents

- Had a dream boyfriend rode a scooter and **got hit by a car**---I remember I was half awake and asked him not to ride on a scooter...it was scary and upsetting—I want to keep him safe, protect him. (07)
- (Dream) My nephew, who I have not seen in a long while. **In my dream, he died tragically in a car accident.** (12)
- While driving, I had a paralyzing fear of other cars veering into my lane. **I would get flash images of accidents.** My desire was to just stop the car in the middle of the road. (16)

## Scavenger

*“sly, secretive look on her face”*

Didelphis is an opportunistic omnivore, a scavenger, that will eat pretty much anything. They are often hit by cars while foraging for road kill and enjoy unsecured garbage cans made available by the humans living around them. Given this as well as their nocturnal habits (they are most active at night time) they idea of “stealth” or “stealing” is very prominent in the proving.

They can have dreams of undercover operations in which they are doing something often illegal and have a need to be hidden. They can have dreams of kidnapping, and fear kidnapping of their own children. Often the action in their dreams is occurring in the nighttime and in darkness. One prover felt this “mafia” type energy, when something is happening under the surface. They can have dreams of looking for food or of finding food and taking it to eat. They might also seem a bit paranoid, thinking people are stealing from them.

Collecting and coveting trinkets and sparkly things is also seen in the proving. They might find themselves coveting or stealing from others. It could be in a playful way. The stealth activity isn't extremely dangerous, it's just done in a secretive way.

Given that they often feed on road kill and are often the victim of car accidents, images of bloody and dead body parts is prominent in the proving. In addition, while "playing possum," they emit a smelly substance from their anal gland which smells like rotten meat. This makes the opossum appear to be a rotting carcass and most predators will not eat him. Provers saw dead baby parts in petri dishes, dreamed of house with decomposing bodies in their foundations, and smelled rotten dead bodies. This can also account for the opposite sensation of desiring cleanliness (Theme: Sycotic and Cleanliness).

### Scavenger, Stealing, “A vulture feeling,” “A thief”

- I'm watching another prover at this restaurant we're at; she only had two glasses of wine; she's laughing like crazy at everything, giggly; **she actually got up and checked their wine bottles and bread baskets to see if there was anything left!** She never does this; the look in her eyes is that she's trying to have fun being "bad," and at the same time she seems innocent; it's like she feels invisible or invincible; I'm shocked at her behavior, **sly, secretive look on her face.** (11)
- ... guilty feeling only call when know dying, it's embarrassing, maybe it would be better to not call, **bit of a vulture feeling,** (04)
- (Dream) I spill wine on my new, unusual dress and walk thru to the retreat kitchen and dining room to get something to wash it out. **I find a bag of some great lettuces and some leftover cooked pasta** to take back for us to eat while we watch the movie. (04)
- Irritable at work today. I feel as if people are taking advantage of me and I am suspicious about their motives. **I am pretty sure someone is stealing from me and now I don't trust anyone.** Everything that is undone is a reason to accuse that person of being dishonest and the one who is guilty. (103)
- Tricky, was sideways, shifty (HG) **like a sly fox, crouching and running away.** You have to find a way around the people who are impeding on you doing it. Gollum---he's kind of a thief. He's shifty. He's sneaky. A bit of a low life. He's dirty, kind of gross. **Mostly, he's a thief** (07)
- (Dream) The first time the getaway car made it down the hill and out the gate, **and we were able to steal lots of food and cases of wine** (04)
- Delicacies, it's not food delicacies... it's more like, touch really beautiful things, see really beautiful things, have beautiful things. Little trinkets, all these colors, purples and silver and gold, and shiny, so beautiful it's the sparkle and the colors... **a collector of fine little things** (07)

### Secretive, Mafia, “My husband and I were kidnappers”

- The crow and the raven are birds highly adaptable, curious, self-sufficient. They represent the same energy as the owl but in the daytime - **the secrete magic of creation, and shape shifting.** (13)
- Feeling **more mischievous** than usual! **Breaking the rules and I don't care,** but I am not breaking any rules! (12)

- (Dream) **My husband and I were kidnappers**; my husband brought the kidnapped person to the window and very quickly pushed him through;.. I felt like I hadn't done the kidnapping but was an accomplice; I knew what was going on. (11)
- (Dream) We were preparing for an invasion or an attack. **We were in an elevated position, disguising ourselves, our location, to protect ourselves.** (08)
- My parents and I went to shooting range to practice. One of my mother's bullets bounced back and hit my dad in his glasses. We were all shocked. Later, when joking at dinner I said: "You shot the bowling pin just so, so that the bullet would take him out. **It was that mafia feeling of slyness, taking someone out without anyone knowing it was on purpose.** (11)
- (Dream) **It was so horrible and anguishing to think of them wandering out into the street and getting kidnapped or something.** (03)

### Don't want attention, "Do not want to be singled out"

- Being loud, wearing a big bright flower, bright colors, "Hey look at me!"... **I genuinely do not want attention. I don't really want attention. That doesn't serve me.** (06)
- At a workshop, we slept in the workshop space and I have not yet showered. Fortunately I am not the only one, but I have trouble wrapping a towel around myself, it slips off, then doesn't cover my breasts, and here I am in front of everyone. I am more concerned if it's bothering the others. **I don't want to make a spectacle of myself.** (04)
- (Dream) ...I felt so sad. I was completely devastated. I felt alone, separate, not part of, left out. I was crying and crying ... I wanted them to understand what I was feeling, what I was experiencing,...**to not be singled out in any sort of a way.** (07)
- **I wasn't blending in, I stood out.** (07)

### Remains, Dead Body Parts, "Decomposing bodies"

- (Dream) I had an image flash through my mind before waking up; it was of a lab bench with a petri dish on it; **in the dish were half-bloody hands and feet of a baby**, as if they'd been cut off and put in there (11)
- (Dream) opened food container after food container, **all food was moldy** (01)
- (Dream) Dreamt went to a friend's house. She and her husband had spent all their money on a home they were able to get a really good deal. After living there for a few weeks/months, spring came and the ground began to shift. The walls of the home, the foundation, were also shifting. They had an inspector visit. They found that there were **decomposing bodies, parts of bodies, whole bodies, pieces, etc...** all stuffed into the foundation, the walls, the landscaping outside. Bodies and more bodies. It had the feel of an old drug house--except instead it was these body parts that had been mixed with some chemical. It was discovered that these people had been smothered in chemicals and stuffed into these crevices while still alive. As their bodies decomposed, their parts separated and scattered with all the other parts. It was quite disgusting... that none of this was noticeable when they first made the purchase. (12)
- (Dream) Dreamed about some kind of dead body, but don't know what. There was this strong, rotting smell, that totally filled the area where I was. **Overwhelming, decaying smell and feeling of decay**, but without much emotion. (05)
- Children falling into swimming pools, the adults let them, the children didn't know how to swim. **Eventually the pool was filled with body parts and blood**, and I didn't want to let my children swim in this, but I also felt indifferent to this. (12)

## Nurturing, Protective, and Forsaken

*"My heart literally felt like it swelled with love."*

Marsupials are actually an infraclass of mammals. Didelphis young are born early, at around 12-14 days and need to find their way to the pouch in order to nurse and continue maturing. Didelphis appears to have a close relationships with their young. Many provers experienced intense loving feelings towards their children and their children exhibited the same towards them desiring to be close and touching more than usual. Similarly, Didelphis will fear something happen to their young, death, abandonment and kidnapping were among the fears. They will be protective of the ones they love.



Although Didelphis is generally a solitary animal, it does seem to be concerned about being cast out of the group like most mammals. They are caught between the need to "not attract attention" (Theme: Scavenger) and the need to belong. Mostly, they desire the close connection of others and deeper authentic bonds, vs larger groups. (Theme: Simplicity)

Didelphis experiences grief from the death of close family members. Healing from this remedy, one prover re-experienced the death of her husband many years earlier in dreams. Other provers had dreams of dead relatives that came and visited with them. Some had dreams of loved ones or close family members being killed in accidents (Theme: Exposed). Death and grief are clearly a theme of this remedy. This may be due to its frequent tragic death in car accidents or due to its tenuous relationship with life and death (Theme: Opium).

### Nurturing, "My heart swelled with love"

- Arrived home from work. **Our cat came to greet me. My heart literally felt like it swelled with love.** I held her for about 10 minutes. The sensation of a full heart persisted the remainder of the day (10)
- Dropping my son off for an appointment, **I was welling up, so happy to be his mom**, this is embarrassing, but, that is not the kind of mom that I am. I felt more in touch with the privilege of being my son's mom, he's 15 going on 16 years old. **I was drawn to spend more time with him during the proving**, actually liking being the mom of a teenager, but that has dissipated as the proving substance wore off. (02)
- (dream) **Saving a small child from drowning.** I looked down at her, she was face up, still, I reached in and pulled her up and she was fine. She had long hair, she looked peaceful with her eyes closed underwater. I just knew what I needed to do. (06)
- Shuttled to airport and said good bye to so many lovely new friends. **This was so incredibly hard for me. I could barely tell people how much I loved them & how beautiful they are because I was so choked up.** They were happy tears. (08)
- My feelings towards my own children have intensified. I didn't know it was possible but I want to be near them and hold them every second of the day. They are even more cuddly than normal. **They want to sit in my lap and cuddle all the time.** This is not normal for them. every time they walk by me, they stop to give me a hug and a kiss (106)

### Protective, "Felling protective of boyfriend"

- **Again- feeling protective of boyfriend.** Finding myself being that way in general with him- I want to hold him, snuggle with him, caress him, especially hold and stroke his head/back of neck- I find myself wanting to shield him, protect him, keep him for myself, keep him in my bubble...I feel very cautious around them, I watch them carefully, **I want to protect him.** (07)
- (dream) I was trying to get home to my husband and kids... **I just wanted to be with the people I cared about.** I knew my friends would be mad that I was going home, but I didn't care because it was very important for me to get to my family. **Thinking of them without me was very lonely and I felt lost and all alone out in the world, vulnerable and unprotected.** (03)

- I really like one of the other provers, **felt protective of her for some reason.** (09)
- (Dream) Dreamt I was at a hospital and taking home about a 4 year old girl. Then there was another baby that was about 6 months or so. I wanted her too and was holding her and realized she was very wise. She didn't talk but was able to telepathically communicate. **There was no hesitation in taking these girls** (14)

### I belong, "Connected to the group," vs. Forsaken, "Leaving me, abandoning me"

- I felt like she raked me back in, gathered me in her arms and brought me back into the fold. It was very moving, **as if I had been a lost sheep, perhaps a black sheep, that was reunited with the flock.** Very reassuring, I have a place. (04)
- **Connected to the group,** I felt excited, very present, I felt loved and accepted. I could not say anything wrong. A very warming and lovely feeling. Oneness with the group. Normally I feel less connected, an outsider, unable to get a word in edgewise. Forced out or not allowed in. (05)
- **Leaving me, abandoning me, forsaken feeling.** But you're my momma duck, can't just leave me behind.. (07)
- Sad this morning, feels like missing something, **missing the type of connection with others that I'm experiencing during this proving** - a deep, spiritual, loving connection and being around others who understand being in this world and beyond. **Wanting love in my life,** seeing it and feeling like I'll never have it. (102)
- Oh God, I'm going to be a big failure... **Outcast.** (03)
- (Dream) I just want you to know how I felt- **I felt very alone and left out.** It was extremely irritating to have the consolation- I didn't want them to pity me, I wanted them to understand what I was feeling, what I was experiencing, and it wasn't that I wanted to be coddled or consoled- **I wanted to be part of, to be one of,** to not be singled out in any sort of a way. (07)
- Feel really sad today. **Feeling like I don't really have any friends,** I have lost touch with people. (09)

### Death, Grief, "The crying is so deep and profound, we are mourning"

- Picking up a mechanical calendar to change the month, it was my grandfather's. **Pausing a long moment, feeling his energy, mourning his no longer being on this earth. Wanting someone to care about having this when I am gone.** The cycles of life and death. (04)
- (Dream) In the middle of the Night. **I had a dream last night that I spoke with my mom about my father [who is deceased.]** I was talking to her about him having a severe alcohol problem and that it's time to take care of ourselves and that he needs help... In the dream I felt good about being able to help my mother and about her receiving my help. (08)
- (Dream) My husband was in SD where he lived, we had not talked to each other since Christmas, had this feeling we had called an end to the relationship but couldn't remember doing so, woke wondering why we hadn't talked at all, then remembered he died 12 years ago, **makes me cry to write this but I don't know why, just feeling tender, more healing tears??** (01)
- **Sad, feeling lots of sad.** (04)
- (Dream) I'm in Belize [going there in March] with my husband and my mom [i'm going alone]. In my dream I am dreaming that its wartime and I'm Japanese and the Japanese and Albanians who share a land border in my dream have just discovered the war is over and they can have their country back from the invading country. All of the Japanese and Albanians come out of hiding and we look at each other and cry. **The crying is so deep and profound. We are mourning.** (08)
- (Dream) took a nap and had a really nice dream about being with my dog, **and a dog that has recently passed.** We were on a beach walking. It was beautiful. I don't usually remember my dreams. (09)
- (Dream) Last night I dreamt that my ex boyfriend and I were looking at some photos and I saw some of another friends dog that had died...**I felt a mix of sadness for the death and a kind of open expansiveness about the love that she had for the dog.** (108)

## Simplicity and Simple Love

*"He took care of my deepest need which was not even something I mentioned to him"*

There is something lovely about Didelphis' simplicity. While its primitive nature can be a limitation in this busy world of pressure and obligations, it brings an uncomplicated simplicity to the world that is both wise and refreshing. In our complicated life, it is the basic and simple things that bring to us what we truly seek. It is in "new love" or in a "soul connection" that the real heart of living can be felt. It is quite lovely what a primitive creature can teach a society full of knowledge and research.

It is startling the healing that resulted from this proving for many of the provers. It touches us on a level that is so basic that we can't possibly miss the message. It is just a message of love and of connection and of choosing to be here in our bodies.

### Simple Love, "The man of my life," "Overwhelmed by a sense of being loved and protected"

- Amazing experience while I was at the coffee shop... **All of a sudden I was overwhelmed by a very real sense of being loved and protected by the universe. My heart felt full**, my eyes started to well up. (02)
- (Dream) Trying to hunt down items with an old boyfriend. **My heart felt so open to him**, some sadness, but I felt "above" the seemed mundane search. (108)
- (Dream) **Lovely dream, very respectful, couldn't see his face but we were very into each other**. There wasn't actual touching, the energy was strong - sexually and yummy. (09)
- Then, John Lennon song, "Imagine" came on - seems to capture the essence of the proving: "Imagine there's no heaven & no hell below...**imagine all the people living for today, you may say I'm a dreamer, I'm not the only one, I hope some day you'll join us and the world will live as one.**" (102)
- I go on a potluck blind date with someone. **Within days I feel this could well be the "man of my life."** I have resisted the idea of marriage, dependence, commitment, even being "vulnerably female," all of my life. This is totally unexpected but very real. **I feel great, in myself, stable, open, ready to take risks and be in the moment, letting things unfold as they will.** But this is a big deal, a culmination of a lifetime of spiritual and personal development, and it happened NOW. I love provings! (04) (curative)

### Simple Connections , "Took care of my deepest need without my telling him"

- I think I found a kindred spirit in Juni and I am forever grateful for his love. I am not even sure how to label the connection I had with him from the start; **it's as if our souls were connected. And, he took care of my deepest need which was not even something I mentioned to him.** He took care of my feeling of aloneness in this world. He created safety for me and unconditional love. I think he knew what he was doing for me; I think he knew it from the moment we met. (08)
- (Dream) I was at a hospital and taking home a 4 year old girl. Then there was another baby that was about 6 months or so. **I wanted her too and was holding her and realized she was very wise. She didn't talk but was able to telepathically communicate.** There was no hesitation in taking these girls. She was an old soul, was communicating in such a wise way. I really like this baby, I would look in its eyes. (14)
- (Dream) Sitting on a bench when I felt a familiar, warm body situate themselves on the bench behind me, wrapping his arms and legs around me. **It was my colleague at work who I've known for a long time. He was very sad and he rested his head against my shoulders. We then sat side by side on the bench as he told me about his feelings.** (10)
- **I feel like God is THERE and - he's just giving me a rest.** He says "You've been through a lot and I'm just backing off". Just sort of a different take on everything. (01)
- This friend gives me a gift and it has about 15 really thoughtful little drawings and messages in it. **I am so touched that someone would go out of their way to put so much effort into something for me.** (08)
- **I would rather interact with people than try to get stuff done at home.** Now that is different for me! (01)

### Just Being Me, "Bringing forth the authentic self"

- Feels like this proving is about **bringing forth the authentic self.** (102)

- At work people say I am a little spicier, I am saying things to people. **Feels more real.** I edit a lot usually because I don't want people to be mad at me. I am giving more opinions now. More of my true thoughts are coming out. I also don't care what people think. **Just able to say this is what it is for me.** (14)
- I worked out twice today, it felt awesome. **I feel like I have finally found myself again** when it comes to being healthy. (09)
- **I'm not interested in interacting with personas.** Someone clearly protected, doing what they should do/say. At a dinner party, everyone was relaxed and open. This person did what should do at a corporate dinner – what's appropriate. What I want – poem something like: what we long to see are faces that sweat, hearts that trust, the realness in even this. Love that my brother, step dad will tell me where in pain, in joy. I feel trusted. Don't like feeling of not being trusted. (02)

### Contentment, "I woke with a smile," "I have everything I need"

- **I woke with a smile from my dream.** Don't remember the content, but the feeling was one of contentment during a frustrating task. (108)
- I'm thankful and pleased at the calm feeling inside that I have. **I feel peaceful and it's so pleasant to be in my house right now** (08)
- Starting to notice this one [proving] **feels gentle, gentleness.** (02)
- Still feel like I can only focus on what's in front of me. **But it's nice because I feel like I have everything I need.** (03)
- Feel like I'm in a bubble- I'm walking around the grocery store- everyone seems in such a rush, but I'm so relaxed and calm...kind of in my own little world...like I'm floating along. Time isn't even registering. I just am. **I'm in the moment, no pressure, no time, no worries.** (07)

### Playful, "Woke up this morning, I was laughing"

- (Dream) **Woke up this morning before the alarm, with the sun, and I was laughing...**the desire to get up and be in the world was very strong. **I was laughing out loud.** (108)
- **I feel much more playful than usual.** Desire to flirt, attract attention, be lighthearted, have fun! (07)
- Laughter in a way I have never heard myself laugh, there is a freedom of expression. I just have to go, it will all work out, and go with it and laugh a lot, and laugh some more and then sleep. **Run into a few walls and laugh some more, and have fun.** Even in this stupor I can still laugh (laughter, mischievous laughter, get into trouble laughter, and falling to the floor laughing, pants peeing laughing)! (12)
- (Dream) Dreamt of being in a boat in water going down river singing American song on the French Riviera. **I was thinking it was funny in my dream that I would do that, it made me laugh.** (14)
- Emailed my homeopath about the energy of the proving being a couple of days early. Said if it's giddy, giggly energy, I'll take it because I've been on the far side of that! **I can't quit smiling or laughing!** (102)

### Simple and self evident, "I noticed how nice my friend's nose is"

- While out to brunch with some friends **I noticed how nice my friend's nose is.** I have known her for ten years, this is the first time I really noticed her nose. (09)
- **It gave me access to my being in such a profound and uncomplicated way.** (108)
- **I wore a shirt so people could see my neck. Flesh is exquisitely beautiful.** This area so important, delicate beauty. So sensual and very precious. (03)
- Nothing much to say to anyone, nothing much to feel. **Things inside me and outside me seem simple and self-evident.** (04)
- **Apple was juicy, tart and sweet.** It almost melted in my mouth the flavor was great. It was a wonderful experience. The flavor was just bursting. (05)
- Lunch then a swim. I'm tired but light feeling and I've had a draining yet fulfilling day. A thought came to me: Why do I have to make myself look as if I'm less than my full potential? **Why can't I be humbly awesome & my fullest?** (08)

## Flash Anger

Didelphis does have some anger. It is characterized as "Flash anger," meaning it comes quickly and then is just as quickly over. They don't seem to ruminate about it at all.



### Flash Anger

- This morning one of my cats jumped up and his claws REALLY dug in - he didn't mean anything - but I got **SO FURIOUS, really quick and I gave him a kind of disciplinary squeeze** and he took off and hid behind the couch!! But this quick flash of anger is UNUSUAL for me... So there is a lot of patience on this remedy substance in so many ways but this **quick flash of anger - just furious!!! It dissipated really fast both times** (01)
- ... he called on way to choir practice to tell me something that irritated me **and I snapped at him again...(10)**
- I feel like a monster; a monster is something that comes out of nowhere, it was just fine, and then suddenly, with no indication, burst out and became a different person; like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; **I didn't even see it coming; I screamed all my anger at my mother, threw it all at her;**.. It was like a bomb, there is no indication of it about to explode. **Ten minutes later, I'm fine and not upset at all..** (11)
- Had a very strong reaction to an email from the master prover. **Reactive, like "back off"** from my provers and my process. Felt affronted and angry and an energetic lashing out. I literally bit my tongue. (108)
- Laundry behind at work. **Sudden anger.** Started slamming things around but had to be quiet because massages in session. (103)
- **Quick to temper** with my husband because I'm finally getting work done and he's relying on me too much; I want to scream! (11)

## Solitary, Nomadic, and Nocturnal

*“pretty darn content to be with self”*

Opossums are usually solitary and nomadic. In the proving, the desire to be alone comes out strongly. Many felt irritated with others just being around and wanted them gone.

There were hints of the nomadic nature, as two of the provers both traveled to Belize, a country along the Caribbean coast of Central America (interesting coincidence). Several species of Opossums are native to Belize including *Didelphis virginiana*.

The other key trait of *Didelphis* is that they are nocturnal. They will sleep most of the day. Most of the provers encountered intense sleepiness in the afternoon (Theme: Heavy). *Didelphis* will come out at night to scavenge for food. Many of the provers found themselves up at night. As a animal comfortable in the night, *Didelphis* can find both contentment and comfort at night. Night will intrigue them and seem both mysterious and beautiful.

### Solitary, “Pretty darn content to be with self,” “Stop bothering me!”

- Nothing feels really different...**pretty darn content to be with self.** (02)
- I kept telling kids I would flick them in the head if they didn't stop SCREAMING. Now I am at the office, **no one is bothering me. Perfect.** (03)
- Calm and quiet and peaceful, serene. Like there is nobody else. Like when I was a kid I thought I could sit on clouds, this is like that, I want to sit on a cloud a fluffy cloud **with nobody near me, ideal.** (106)
- Have agreed to help a good friend out "manning" the concession stand for the local high school basketball game tonight. I have never been asked and never been at all interested in doing something like that in all the years I have lived in this small town. **Seeing other locals I might know, being less isolated and restricted in my social life.** (04) (curative)
- Recognition of wanting social contact. ... it feels like I'm more light-hearted and social things are more energizing and appealing than usual for me. **For so long I've been ill-at-ease in social situations so this feeling that I'm not HELD in that - it's kind of a GIFT, a change.** (01) (curative)
- Feeling of **STOP BOTHERING ME, stop looking at me,** (hg) get away, I'm done. (03)
- I am feeling a little aversion to being around my husband. **Now I would like him to stay in front of his computer and give me space.** (08)
- Irritable again for no good reason. Husband is cheerful but still seems in the way .... **just want him out of the way. Couldn't wait until he left so I could be alone.** Still irritable after he left. Usually I love my quiet time, also love my time with husband. **But now not happy either way** (10)
- **I wanted to be isolated from friends and family.** Zero desire for interaction, even with people I really enjoy. (16)
- Just wanting to be quiet today. **Want to be left alone.** (102)

### Nomadic

- In my youth I heard about the El Camino de Santiago, the pilgrimage. I always have wanted to walk it. It has become an obsession of a sort with this proving. Watched the movie "the way" around 15 times, sobbing every time. **Touched by the beauty of journey, of the physicality of the walk, and of the reality of close bonds that are formed.** (108)
- I've been cruising around Caye Caulker. It's humid, windy and my hair is glorious! I walk around alone and feel really obviously alone. Couples look back at me. I'm self-conscious. **Yet at the same time it feels so good to be able to travel alone.** (08)
- (Dream) I was part of a group of performers that traveled around on a bus performing daily and sleeping in our own little cubby hole of a bed on the bus at night; ... **I felt that all of us performers were like misfits, nomadic, with no families and therefore we all became each other's family and depended on each other;** at the end of the dream, I saw one woman in the group who had just given birth to twins; they slept

with her in her cubby hole, and we all made sure the babies didn't fall off the bed and into the walkway between beds/cubbies. (11)

### Nocturnal, "Couldn't sleep last night"

- **Couldn't sleep last night;** just couldn't turn off. Didn't have any caffeinated anything. Very restless; hot, throw off covers, then cold; cycle repeated. Mind busy with thoughts, but didn't concentrate on them; they were just there. (05)
- **Couldn't sleep from 2:30 am - 6:00 am** even though I was exhausted. (102)
- **I woke up in the middle of the night** knowing that I am feeling much better physically. I am well. (08)
- **Couldn't sleep, energy for once but at the wrong time.** Though interesting...when I try to ground myself in bed to fall asleep I realized I was totally grounded and my body wanted to fall asleep but my monkey mind was keeping me awake. (08)
- felt very alert and focused all day, **even into the evening when I typically get sleepy** (10)

### Darkness, "Nighttime, a time for curiosity, searching, dreams and imagination"

- The Owl - according to one author - the owl represents - the mystery of magic, omens, silent wisdom, vision in the night. Most members of the owl family operate very well in the dark. **I do love the dark and nighttime. It is a time for curiosity, searching, dreams, and imagination.** (13)
- (Dream) **In house with candles, no light, dark, sitting in dark** looking at house can't remember when let get dark and feels different than normal, mix of space feeling fully comforting and also coming to the end, function as light darker, come to the end, also comfort, grounding space, odd to be in house with no light also like day coming to end, really feel it. Last few days death in some way and feeling about... resonate with something pretty deep. (04)
- **Scary is the darkness** (in real life I'm scared of the dark) **but a weird calm about it too.** (07)
- **So many planets and stars in the sky and such a whole moon to light up the sky.** (08)
- Song just played with words..."**I'll follow you into the dark**". (102)

## Sycotic Themes and Cleanliness

One could say, like most mammals, Didelphis is a sycotic remedy. They will tend to try to hide how they really feeling inside and worry how people see them. They also have dreams of disgusting things like feces and decomposing bodies and to compensate will try to keep their living environment clean and orderly. As an animal, the opossum is actually a very clean and does spend time grooming and cleaning itself.

### Sycotic, "my private life on display for everyone to see"

- I am starting to really feel like my privacy is being invaded and **my private life is on display for everyone to see.** (03)
- Master prover thought I was still proving, still had state of lightness, could take more dose later if needed but wait and see, got very emotional after interview, sobbed and sobbed, "I like how I have become, don't take this away from me, I don't want to go back to the way I was before!" **this is freeing, I don't have to have all the guards up,** I enjoy interacting with people, it is stimulating and not tiring as before, before was crippling and I didn't know it, now is like a flower opening up, it's beautiful and should be enjoyed, **I am a beautiful person.** (01) (curative)
- Maybe people perceive me totally different than I think they do. Question what I always thought people perceive in me in different areas. **Suspicion that what other people see is something totally different.** They notice things I don't think they notice. Feel stupid if they notice something I shouldn't be doing. (03)
- (Dream) ...I'm hanging out with an friend and another friend who is Ecuadorian. ... I go back to see him the next night and I'm not wearing my jeans because for some reason I left them in his bedroom [I swear he was not my boyfriend!] **I walk up to the hostess keeping good eye contact so she doesn't notice my lack of pants.** I walk through the busy restaurant to the back and go into his room and find my jeans. I am relieved. It's all cool now. (08)
- (Dream) Suddenly I realize it is 11 pm and I forgot to pick up my infant from daycare. I freak out and rush out to pick her up. **I hope they don't judge me.** (103)

### Cleanliness at home

- Since taking the remedy, I'm having the hardest time doing work; instead, I'm cooking more and cleaning more. I see this as both procrastination and trying to make my living space more "acceptable" **so I don't have to look at the disgusting mess all the time;** I feel that when my environment is neater, my head will be better able to work on things for my job. Feel like I am taking care of myself more. (11)
- (Dream) My 5-year-old nephew was play with dog poop on the side of the street; it was all over his hands; we had to go somewhere in the car, so I picked him up in a way that made him bear-hug himself and hopefully not get the car full of poop; of course my hands got full when I was holding him; **I felt worried when I was him playing in it because I knew it would smell terrible and make a huge mess besides being disgusting** (11)
- My fear of getting sick came up, **my germ fears, came up strongly this morning.** (12)
- **Feeling the disorganization in my house. Want to skip work, clean, be alone, get things organized.** I cannot stand how things are right now. People at work aren't doing their part, so why should I work extra today to get their shit done? Screw it. (103)
- **Reorganizing everything. Reorganized my entire kitchen.** Everything needs to flow and be perfect (106)

## *Sex, "Wanting to make love with these two men I know"*

Like most animals, Didelphis has an interest in sex. In dreams, it seems to be misplaced or forbidden sex, sex with spouse of a friend, sex with father, sex with younger man when married. Often there is not much emotion on the part of the dreamer or a sincere attraction is felt even though the situation is convoluted. In one dream, the dreamer was raped but not even that upset about it. In each case, there appear to be a distorted reality to the situation (Theme: Opium)

### *Sex, "Wanting to make love with these two men I know"*

- (Dream) I also had a dream that **I was with my dad and he wanted me to have sex with him**, had been doing it for a while, but was so disgusted it finally was to point where I can't do this anymore, even if you don't give me money anymore. **In dream feeling of UUUGH, get away from me.** (03)
- (Dream) **Wanting to make love with these two men I know, just once the three of us.** One of them used to be married to my good friend. Concern it would be seen as disloyal to her. But some sort of consummation, drive to a sort of completion that wants to happen in what feels in the dream like a moment of stopped time. Like it's meant to be. (04)
- I keep forgetting to write- since starting the proving- I've been much more aware of my physical appearance- **I've been wearing lipstick, using makeup and checking myself out in the mirror a lot more than usual.** (07)
- (Dream) I was at an outdoor concert. Somehow I ended up meeting a young man who became very interested in me and stayed with me throughout this dream. **We left together and had a sexual encounter; he was there for me and I had no sense really giving anything back to him.** I seemed needy. Near the end of the dream I felt a bit of sadness in telling him that he should step back and think about this because I am married and I'm much older than him. (08)
- It is night time and the studio is dark. **My husband is lying on the mat next to me and he seems to think this a good time for sex** since the instructor's back is turned and it's dark [men!]. I guess I can't argue with that and **it's perfect matter-of-fact sex with no real emotion on either of our parts.** (08)
- (Dream) My 90 year old friend had a house. She had makeup on her face and she made some kind of **sexual innuendo towards me.** With the sexual innuendo-what are you doing? That doesn't make a lot of sense. Seemed off. (14)
- **Having sex with a stranger of opposite gender than I am typically attracted to. Felt very natural, amorous, and satisfying in the dream.** (102)
- (Dream) My husband and I had 2 male friends who were our good friends. **They raped me and I was mad at the time, but I felt like they had just made a mistake and I missed being friends with them.** But I felt like I had to go through the process of calling the police, etc. or else I would be treating myself badly. I really just wanted to forget the whole thing because it didn't really even bother me. They were just going to apologize and I was glad, but I was afraid that if I dropped the charges I would be seen as weak. It was interesting because the rape didn't really bother me that much, it was like, "yeah, but I'm fine." the concern was more about how I was viewed. (03)

## Climbing and Trees

*"I am imagining myself up in a tree, safe, comfortable, nobody can see me"*

Didelphis will generally make its home in trees. Sometimes they will make homes in the burrows left from other animals. Generally though, tress and climbing are their safety. Provers had dreams of climbing and of being in elevated positions. There was a connection to trees, in a familiar way. Trees are really both their home and their refuge, their place of safety. They notice trees and give trees a personality like you would a person.

### Climbing, "Trying to climb to escape"

- (Dream) Being chased by a lion. I was fearful and was **trying to climb up onto something to escape and be safe.** (105)
- (Dream) **We were in an elevated position**, disguising ourselves, our location, to protect ourselves.. (11)
- (Dream) Losing control over body, body slowly going over railing, then hand catching the railing and bringing back some stability; **it was very scary because the balcony was high up and therefore I would've definitely died if I'd fallen out** (11)
- (Dream) **I am chasing a child up the stairs**, she is running faster than a child ought to be able to run, the child and me were running upstairs, we were going the wrong direction. (12)
- (Dream) All I remember is the **strange and challenging act of balancing and trying not to fall.** (105)

### Familiar trees, "I am imagining myself up in a tree"

- **I am imagining myself up in a tree, safe, comfortable, nobody can see me**, I can build a nice little house up there, where I can sit and meditate, I can be above the Earth, near the birds and their nests, I can meditate. It is more freeing up in the trees than on the Earth. (13)
- **The trunk provides holes for nests**, in fairy tales and primitive tribes trees house spirits. (13)
- **Trees were like bowing to me.** Some reverence made to me, bowing or curtsying. Like little girls. (05)
- Over the last several weeks **have noticed the shape of tree trunks**, they catch my eye. (07)
- **The trees are the protection.** (08)
- I'm walking outside next to a line of trees again today, and my eyes are looking for the tree that looked like a spine to me the other day; I can't find it, **but I see a branch that is triangular and sticking up at a nice diagonal angle, exactly like the tail of a white-tailed deer.** (11)
- Walking along the edge of a forest, I see the bright, **yellow sun shining through the many trees**; as I move forward and the trees stand still, I'm awed by the glistening sunlight coming toward me; it shimmers and sparkles, like the sun reflecting off slowly moving water; it's brilliant, dancing, changing, reminds me of a kaleidoscope; looking the other direction now, the sun shines on the tops of trees in the distance, leaving the lower half in shadow; the image of fire comes to mine, like the orange flames jumping up; the blue sky contrasts beautifully against the golden-orange of the leafless trees, like the sun setting over the horizon; my eyes start noticing the orange around me in the dead leaves of the oak trees, the dried prairie grasses, pinecones, brick houses, my dog's fur (11)

## Marsupial Pouch, Twos, and Orange & Red

The proving illustrated some of the marsupial qualities as well as seemingly opossum peculiarities. One prover had a dream of a baby strapped to her chest as well as a dream of an infant wanting to nurse. Another experienced a sensation like being born that might relate to the pouch experience.

The largest difference between the opossum and other mammals is the **bifurcated** penis of the male and bifurcated vagina of the female (the source of the Latin "didelphis," meaning double-wombed). There were instances of twos found in the proving and of course the duality seen in the drug-like split.

We are not exactly sure why, but provers seemed to be drawn to the colors orange and red. These were times when they wanted to be noticed, be seen. This is interesting as they are typically shy and desire not to be seen (Theme: Scavenger). It seems to represent the odd dichotomy within Didelphis, wanting to be here on earth, yet many times not being in their body; wanting to not be singled out, but wanting to be seen; wanting not to be bothered, yet needing close human interaction.

### Marsupial pouch

- I feel very, very small. There's a feeling of coming out, but uncertainty if I can come out. It's like there's ooze on me...it's like I'm being born---that's the feeling. **As if I'm being born- can I take that first breath, can my eyes see or is there all that birthing matter all over them?** (07)
- As soon as I get up the spell is broken. I can do the thing I need to do, then I drop back into the spell, **heaviness, layers of mucous, a mucous membrane, stuck to sticky to, blah!, this bubble of sticky goo, sucked back down.** For a brief time it is as though I was never in it. (12)
- (Dream) **I was in the storm sewer system with my niece's baby strapped to my chest in a baby carrier, sound asleep.** Saw a polar bear coming in the sewer through a man-hole. Didn't know which was he'd go so I decided to go out the window where I was. It opened from the bottom, but I couldn't get it up, my arms were so weak. I opened it a crack and yelled for help. Finally managed to get it to open wide enough to get out, so crawled through with the baby continuing to sleep - never woke up. (10)
- (Dream) Husband I are were at the airport when a little tiny police car with a big 3M on the side and a flashing red light came toward us... I was also carrying my (now grown) son in my arms. **He was tugging at my shirt as if he wanted to nurse.** (10)

### Twos, Dual Uterus

- (Dream) I dreamt that there were **two baby boys** and one of them could talk even though he was too small. I could understand him, but I really had to listen hard. (14)
- (Dream) Daughter's Dream a guy walked into the bar. **He had two sets of arms and a dead head in the abdominal area.** Terrified. (14)
- Orange, purple, **the number two**, tons of bears, etc. I think it is a bear or something to do with a blackberry. Eating boxes of blueberries and blackberries like never before (14)

### Orange and Red

- **I've been wearing a lot of red lately**, that apple I ate last night was so delicious, it was a Macintosh Apple, a **reddish-orange apple, so enticing.** (05)
- **Orange, yellow,..**The oranges and reds are jumping out at me. (06)
- **Wanting to wear orange, I want to be noticed** (107)
- I keep thinking this is related to a Cardinal, **a reddish-orange** (01)
- Friend sent me a beautiful scarf... **It is pink and orange and yellow silk** and says "deliciousness". (02)
- Walking along the edge of a forest, I see the bright, yellow sun shining through the many trees;... **the image of fire comes to mind, like the orange flames jumping up; the blue sky contrasts beautifully against the golden-orange of the leafless trees**, like the sun setting over the horizon; **my eyes start noticing the orange around me in** the dead leaves of the oak trees, the dried prairie grasses, pinecones, brick houses, my dog's fur (11)