

Rot

Where I was born, in a small rural town on the outskirts of my city, there used to be a lake. The water was really crystal clear and schools of various fish lived in it. As a child, I used to go with my friends to get our feet wet, until one day I scraped my knee and my mother wouldn't let me go again.

Today that lake no longer exists, unfortunately or fortunately, the site dried up due to the extraction of a nearby factory.

I don't remember the name of the factory, or what they sold, what I do remember are my mother's warnings.

—“How many times have I told you not to play in that lake, that factory throws filth into the water, you're going to get sick!”

I didn't understand it, the water looked quite clean to my eyes. Although maybe she was right, I remember that a few years before we moved my father and I went fishing, just for sport, we didn't eat the fish. Unfortunately we lost the habit since my dad pulled out that horrendous dead fish whose image is still visible in my head. To this day I can't understand what happened to that poor fish. The skin of the fish had a filthy shade of green, it was incredibly wrinkled, and its eyes were spiky, even with some parts of its body so soft I could put my finger through them.

But the worst was what happened to the mayor's wife. In principle, the couple never clarified what happened to the

baby she was expecting. Everyone assumed that the poor woman suffered a miscarriage. However, there are records of this event at the hospital, and rumors has it among the workers at that time that it was anything but normal. According to what they say, the couple arrived at the hospital after the wife started to feel bad, the husband commented that they were just bathing in the lake when the problems started, at that time the doctors already knew what was happening. However, the worst was when the poor baby finally came out; Oh poor mother, but even more so, poor doctor who was scarred for life after that horrible scene. In the words of those who cared for her that day, the baby was not only dead but also rotten. His skin was gray, his eyes were spiky, and his body parts were extremely soft, as if they had melted and fused together. The scene was so gruesome that the mother was forbidden to see the child, fearing the worst.

Obviously this is just a rumor, but as for me... it's been thirty years and my knee is still scraped.

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