

DAY 1: 29PLAYSLATER

"TAINTED LAKE COCONUT"

The Historian appears.

HISTORIAN

Lake Coconut is a manmade inland lake located in central Iowa. It was built in the 1950s as a tropical destination for poor farmhands and their disturbed children.

He stops beside a small replica of a lake next to a modest motel with hints at Tiki activity.

HISTORIAN (CONT'D)

The real estate developer was married to a short, sharp woman named Christy Spatz who was inspired by Roman palazzos on a European river cruise. Over the course of thirty years, she designed and built magnificent fountains in the surrounding cornfields. Eventually the fountains attracted a crowd of a higher affluence and the farmhands were priced out.

At the next replica, the surrounding land is littered with winding paths and sculptural fountains.

HISTORIAN (CONT'D)

The developer died in 1982, and Christy shut down Lake Coconut for a calendar year. Workers lived and worked on the premise and didn't see their families. When it reopened, to much interest, Lake Coconut had been transformed into a Roman fountain at 200 times the scale. She called it: Lago di Cocco.

The next replica: lake is a massive fountain with "marble" women pouring jugs into tiered pools and a dolphin at the very top. Little figurines swim among it representing the scale of people.

HISTORIAN (CONT'D)

People flocked from all around the country to swim in the giant, historical fountain. Dubuque Regional Airport poured concrete for a new airstrip. The aquifer was insured. Then, on August 3rd, 1984, little Annabelle Swanson of Newton, Massachusetts--painfully thin and criminally shy-- was pulled into the pipes. Swimmers swore they could hear her hurtling through the labyrinthine underground water system, banging and screaming on her subterranean journey towards the unknown. She appeared, 90 seconds later, just her head and shoulders, up at the tippy top, sticking out of the dolphin's spout.

He uses a pointer stick to show her journey through the pipes in a replica of the underground water system.

HISTORIAN (CONT'D)

"There she is! She'll be fine!" her playmate cried hopefully, but Christy Spatz shook her head and bowed her forehead to the top of her cane. One by one, the fountain faucets went dry. A curious silence fell across Lago di Cocco. Christy said:

CHRISTY

(booming from off-stage)
Go with god.

Quiet. Then "pop" and a little figure in the top of the fountain goes shooting into the air in a blast of water.

HISTORIAN

Annabelle Newton was never found. Her family believes she shot straight to heaven. Scientists believe she hit a plane and got sucked into the propeller. Lago di Cocco was immediately shut down by Federal Authorities. Christy was found hanging in the penthouse suite.

The last replica: Lake Coconut is crumbled debris with old, toxic water.

HISTORIAN (CONT'D)

Over the years, the great structures have fallen, but the basin remains, collecting rainwater and debris. Tainted Lake Coconut, the locals call it. It's an ironic place to take prom pictures. And on weekends farmhands come here and skip stones with their disturbed children.

THE END.