

THE BOTTLE OF THE NAMES

Nobody remembered where the bottle was from anymore, There was no written price , only one strange thing: a list of names, written so small that they seemed like scratch marks. Every time a person gained possession of the bottle, a new name appeared.

The bottle arrived in the village of ramena during a tornado. the sea pushed in on to the shore like a tired animal. The one who found it was Nicolà, a kid who never left the island. His dad was dead at sea, and his mom barely ever talked, and had the sensation of being left behind whilst the world kept spinning.

He took it home without knowing why.

That night he dreamt of a voice. It wasn't mean nor nice, it was human. (I don't give everything. But I will give what you have to pay). Nicolà asked what it wanted in return. and the voice responds by saying "Time". The day after, Nicolà found work without even looking for it. Then came the money, then the respect. Every wish seemed to come true without even really wishing for it. But every time he looked at the bottle he saw a new name written on the glass. some he recognized: people dead at young ages , people who disappeared. He understood too late that the time would be taken from only him.

In the village strange things started to happen. A fisherman forgot the name of his son. A lady became really old in a

very few months. Time would slowly slip away to keep elio's wishes a reality. One night, desperate, Nicolà talked again with the bottle.

“stop”

The voice responded by saying “it's not me who choses. its you choose to continue wishing”. At dawn, Nicolà carried the bottle to the cliff. He read the names. Some had already faded. He carved a new one: his own. Then he threw it into the sea.

Wishes disappeared.

Life once again became hard and slow and even true. But the time in the village stopped passing by quickly.

They say that the bottle still exists to this day. It doesn't want your soul nor your money. It asks for one simple but yet horrible thing: how much time will you take from others to have more yourself?