## Crystal clear water

The lake ripples, the wind blows softly.

Joyful laughter comes from across the water. The golden girl, bathing in light. The sun is falling in love with her reflection. Her amber hair is dancing on the water surface. Sunlight makes her skin shimmer like honey and happiness sparkles in her unsettling deep hazel eyes.

She is pretty. But not only in a shallow way. She is pretty for her courage and determination. For her contagious laugh and for the way she makes people feel. She is of an otherworldly and fascinating beauty.

But behind this beautiful fassad, deep down her soul, where she is hiding her darkest secrets, I once found another part of her that I hadn't seen before.

Back then, when I stared at her warm brown eyes I could already see the cold madness in them.

Her twisted mind was home to deadly shadows with poisoned hearts.

Daemons out of nightmares hidden in her thoughts.

She was a thunderstorm, a hurricane out of dying stars.

Her reflection in the mirror wasn't showing the truth.

Day by day I started to get to know her better and the mirror shattered piece by piece. Her mind got soaked into another universe. The girl I used to know disappeared in dark clouds. Buried in drowning lies.

And she took me with her. Through dark alleys she guided me and then suddenly, she left me alone. Left me broken on the ground. She was cruel for hurting me even though she was the one I had entrusted with my pain. All the times she broke me I pushed it to the back of my mind, because on some days there still were parts left of the girl I used to know. Parts of the pretty girl that she was for everyone else.

She showed me what it felt like to be appreciated, loved. That light feeling of simple unwinding warmth and comfort.

And so I ignored the truth for a stupid thing called happiness.

She is an ugly liar. Now I know.

I'm sneaking through the high reed that rustles in the warm summer breeze.

But besides buzzing bees and chirping crickets in nearby bushes, there is nothing but complete Silence this evening.

Although there is no way she could've heard me, she somehow knows that I'm behind her. She turns around. Her face is full of surprise and when she sees what I'm holding with my trembling fingers, it turns into blank horror.

I'm feeling dizzy and my blood freezes cold. There is this little voice in my head that whispers quietly yet full of conviction that this is the only way out.

The only way I can save myself but also the only way I could save the golden girl from her daemons. Before they could take away her bright side for eternity.

I'm doing her a favor. This girl in front of me, isn't the girl I used to know.

I'm sure about that. This one, was an ugly liar.

Her daemons took over her and what she became was something that abused me. She used my love and everything I gave her. She ripped my heart out of my chest. Left it bleeding in shattered pieces. Right next to her broken reflection.

She stares at me with begging eyes.

"Lie to me again", I say with a trembling voice. "I love you", she whispers. We all eat lies when our hearts are hungry. But now mine is full.

A silent scream cuts through the air. And then her heavy soul sinks, deeper and deeper. So deep, the sunlight is far away from ever reaching Her darkest secrets on the ground, hidden under the water lilies where no one can find them. For evermore. The water isn't crystal clear anymore. It shimmers like dark red rubys.

- Lena Weber