

TOXIC SOUP by RR Rowley

EXCERPT

When the abandoned reactor sites came into view, they swung their kayaks into a backwater eddy. Spooked ducks sprang into flight in front of them. Boats gliding, they studied the depth of the water, avoiding the chance of running aground. Before them, some sickly grasses appeared at the edge of the river. Was this it? Casey paddled closer, excitement rising. Pointing to a spot upon the bank, she called to Rex, "See that? See that? Is water trickling out of the ground over there?"

He removed his sunglasses and squinted. "You're right. There is a wet spot over there."

Straggly, yellowed grasses drooped away from the seeping water. They moved even closer to get a better view. A foam rose from the trickle of liquid and spread to a nasty orange and pink gunk smeared over exposed rocks. "I see it!" Rex cried out, a jolt of fear zapping through him. "Radioactivity!" he screamed, quickly backstroking. "You've got your evidence. Let's get out of here! I don't want to be anywhere near that stuff."

She had her proof. Toxicity flowed into the river. How many other places existed? Perhaps beneath the water, the contamination was much worse. Untouchable Hanford is getting away with whatever they want. Something needed to be done, but what? Something not only for Charley but for the birds, the fish, and all the little creatures suffering at the hand of man's dereliction of duty. She knew what she had to do.