

CROCODILE TEARS

Treatment
By
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The Virgin as the Woman of the Apocalypse
by Peter Paul Rubens

In terms of form this story can be read as an allegory of a toxic relationship, how love could change into a desire to control and dominate others.

I like this painting of the apocalypse by Rubens, the Virgin Mary holds the Christ Child while trampling the serpent / Leviathan because it is a perfect metaphor for this story.

THE MAIN THEME



The main theme of Crocodile Tears is human longing for connections with others.

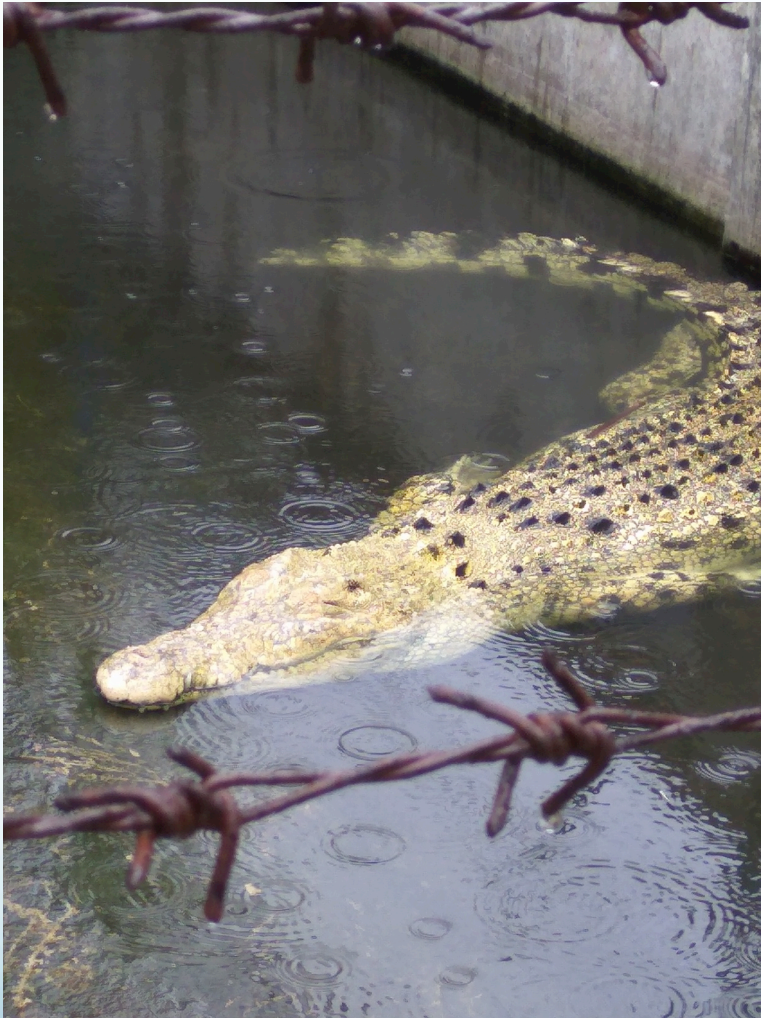
A widowed Mother and her mute son live on a crocodile farm in a small town near Jakarta, Indonesia. The mute son has grown into a young man, and he desires other women besides his own mother.

The mother is afraid that if her son gets married, he will leave her alone, rotting away in a crocodile farm, so she tries to sabotage her son's relationship with any other woman.

THE SETTING



Indonesia Jaya Crocodile Park, Suka Ragam, Serang, Bekasi



The widow's husband has killed years ago when he was feeding one of the crocodiles, the albino crocodile. The widow decided not to kill the albino crocodile because she believed that her husband's spirit remained within the crocodile. After the incident, the widow often talks with the albino crocodile as if she is talking with his husband. For years the family makes a living by selling crocodile skins and doing crocodile show, where men put their heads and hands inside the crocodiles' open mouths, but recent development in government regulations has really hampered the business.





THE CENTRAL CONFLICT

The central conflict of the story starts when one day the mute son after he performed in a crocodile show, sees a beautiful young woman and enamored by her. The young woman visits the farm a couple more times to watch the crocodile show.

The son tries to communicate with her but his disability cuts him short, the young woman empathizes with the mute son so she communicates with him using writing and drawing.

Soon the mute son and the young woman spend a lot of their time together. The mother is afraid that if her son gets married, he will leave her alone, rotting away in a crocodile farm, so she tries to sabotage her son's relationship with the young woman.

Mother assigns her son with heaps of chores so it's difficult for her son to see the young woman. After a while, the young woman comes to the crocodile farm to visit the son. The mother greets her and berates her, telling her not to mess around with his son's expectation, because there is no way a young and able-bodied woman like her wants a serious relationship with a mute man, their relationship will only hurt the son in the end. Mother asks the young woman to withdraws from her son's life and to never set foot on the farm again.

The son is broken-hearted and angry; he starts to hate everything about the farm and his mother. He refuses to do all his chores and runs away to the nearby town. The son tries to find a job, but because of his disability and lack of education, he couldn't find any job. The town's people ridicule him, especially the children, who make fun of his muteness.



One day the young woman is found dead in one of the crocodile pools. Her body was torn apart by the crocodiles, it took hours for the police to collect her remains, even then they still missed her left index finger. After three days, the index finger is found inside a crocodile dung by one of the farm workers. Then the forensic report from the police is released, it turns out the woman was two-month pregnant.

The town's people speculate that it is a suicide case, the young woman is embarrassed when she found out that she was pregnant and the man who impregnated her, didn't want to marry her. The young woman's parents then find a photo of her daughter and the mute son in her cellphone, and they suspected that the mute son had killed their daughter. Gossip and accusation spread around town that the mute son raped the young woman and made her pregnant, and he killed the young woman to erase all evidence. The town is restless, people want to capture the mute son and bring him to justice, the frontier justice. Mother believes that her son is innocent and she will do anything to prove it.