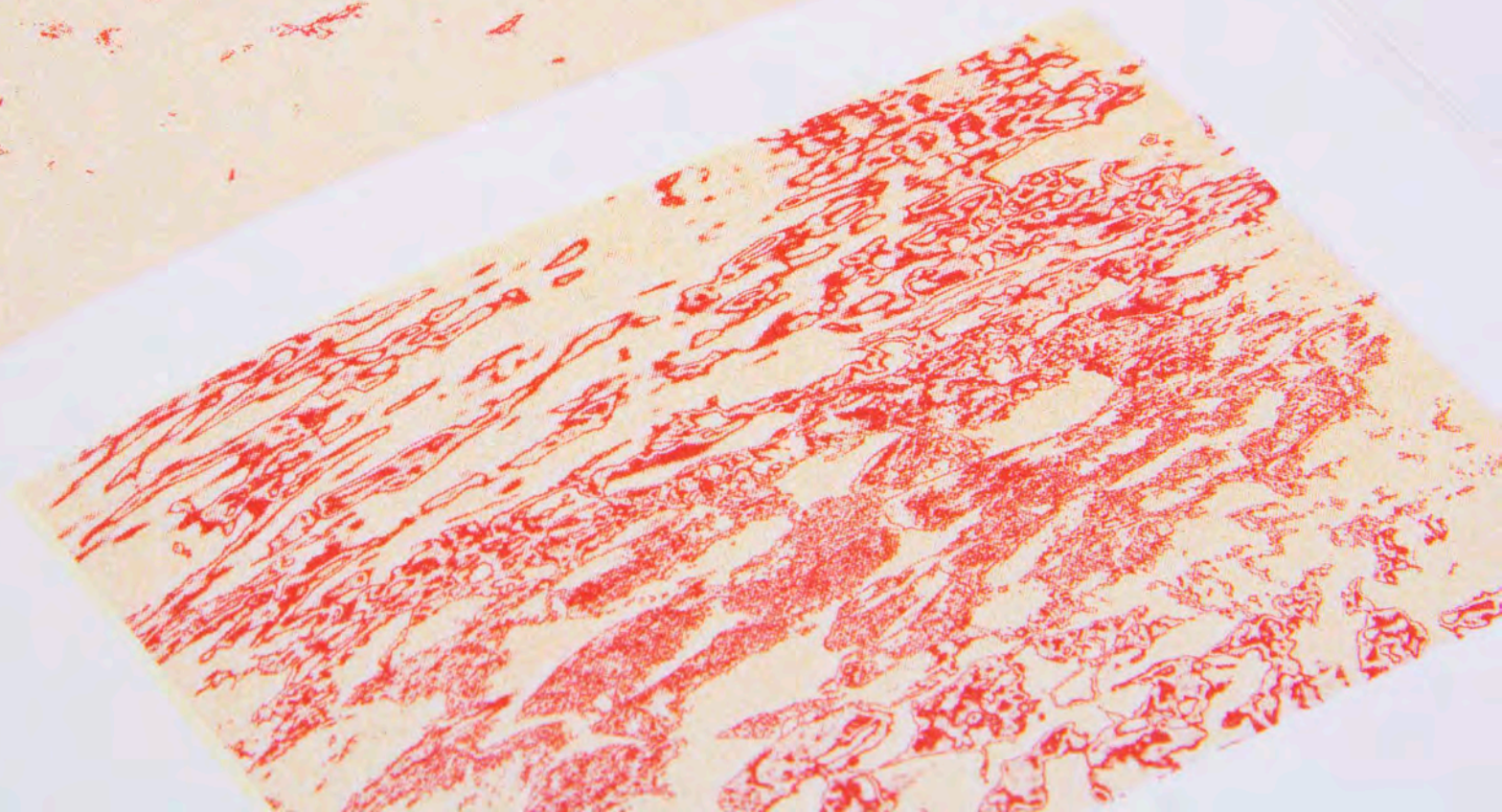
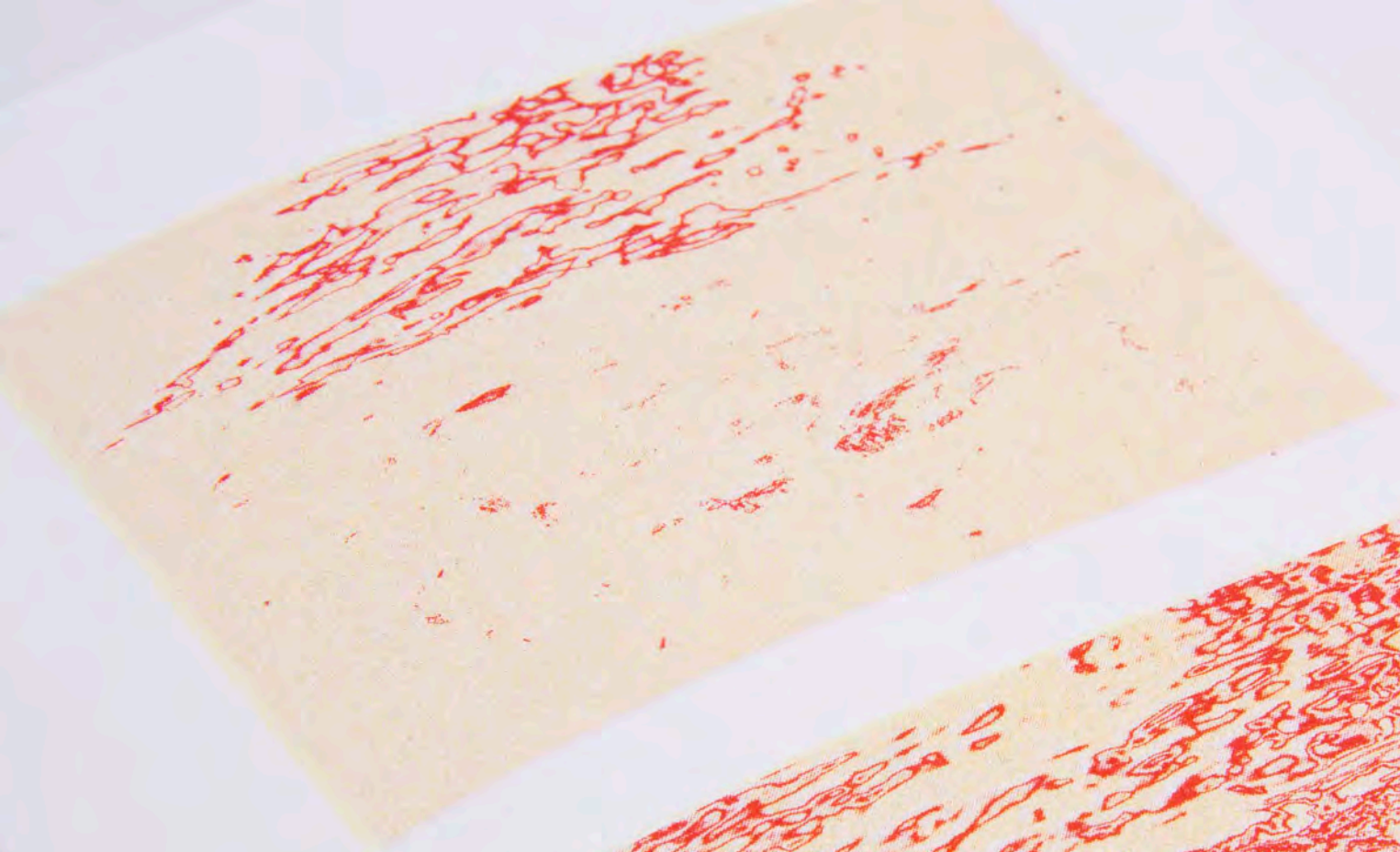
A brochure titled "FACTS ABOUT LAKES" is shown against a white background. The brochure has a blue and white wavy, textured pattern. The text "FACTS ABOUT LAKES" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the upper right quadrant of the cover. The brochure is slightly curved, and its edges are visible.

**FACTS  
ABOUT  
LAKES**







&

Dina called Caleb right after they called her, but she was still the first one at the hospital. Dad was a paper doll on that folded bed, and then they took him away. There would be no more surprises. On the way back to the airport, a billboard asked her if she was going to heaven or hell.

&

"Caleb, isn't this gonna be a good cake?"

*What is that?*

"I'm going inside."

"No, Caleb, you have to help make the cake."

*What is that, Dina?*

"It's a cake."

*What kind of cake?*

"It's a yummy cake, that's what it's called. It's called 'the angel yum.' Caleb, look at the cake."

"Can I eat it?"

"Not yet. You have to help me. Gather the lavender and pumpkin."

"Okay. Where's the pumpkin?"

"On nut berry hill!"

&

Dina was always busy in college. The skin on her lips was always young. Something was always bleeding.

Her eyebrows scrunched when she got in the shower. What layer had she forgotten to take off? She didn't feel naked in her skin.

Dina wondered if she was a man. She thought she wasn't.

&

*What do you wish for in this new year.*

*Caleb?*

"Here's the acorns. Dina, here you go."

"That's sticky."

*What would you like your name to be if your name was not Dina and if your name was not*

*Caleb?*

"Blue rose blossom..."

"Look, a dog! There!"

"Um, I like it to be Rose..."

"There it is!"

"I saw. I would like it to be Blue... I would like it to be Rose."

*Caleb, what about you? If your name was not Caleb, what would you like your name to be?*

"Um, Blue rose blossom cherry nut tree."

&

"Okay. Where's the pumpkin?"

"On nut berry hill!"

&

Dina was always busy in college. The skin on her lips was always young. Something was always bleeding.

Her eyebrows scrunched when she got in the shower. What layer had she forgotten to take off? She didn't feel naked in her skin.

Dina wondered if she was a man. She thought she wasn't.

&

*What do you wish for in this new year, Caleb?*

"Here's the acorns. Dina, here you go."

"That's sticky."

*What would you like your name to be if your name was not Dina and if your name was not Caleb?*

"Blue rose blossom..."

"Look, a dog! There!"

"Um, I like it to be Rose..."

"There it is!"

"I saw. I would like it to be Blue... I would like it to be Rose."

...? If your name was

That summer, lilacs smelled like bleach and old urine and visits that were too short and Dina with a mangled body and a blank face that never turned to look him in the eye. That summer, the lake had too much E. Coli in it, and it was deemed unsafe to swim in. Later, Caleb couldn't remember if he had gone swimming anyway.

&

Sometimes, Caleb fit his problems into 200-word questions for the Google search bar and hit magnifying glass. Sometimes, something came up.

&

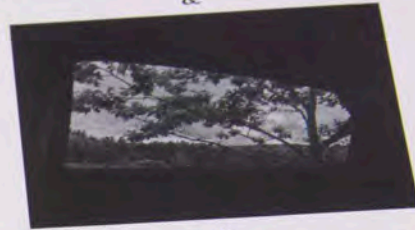
It was June, it was Father's Day, Dina was driving, Caleb was in the passenger seat, they had fought that morning but they talked pleasantly now. Dina came even though she hadn't been talking to Dad for months—Caleb didn't understand this. They brought bread and cheese. Dina had made a strawberry pie. It looked so good.

Dad thanked them for food and the company and said it would be nice if they wrote out letters for him. This was the first year Caleb hadn't written a six page, Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced letter for Dad, the kind that Dad loved. Dina hadn't for several years now.

It was only 65 degrees. Dad swam; Caleb and Dina didn't want to but somehow did by the end. The departure was, as usual, drawn out; Dina

eventually drove away as Dad leaned into the gray car's open window.

&



&

Dina always used to sit at the head of the table. They would laugh up frothy grape juice and eat with their hands.

&

"Gather some things."

"Here's a pretty..."

"This is where we're going to make the cake"

us?

Where is this, Caleb, where does Dina bring

"To nut berry hill."

What's the name, Caleb?

"Nut berry hill."

Tell the camera, where are you?

"That's nut berry hill!"

& & &

Big/small fish in  
big/small pond



