

## **Blood on the walls** *(written by Leni Wellpott)*

*Valeria A.C. 2971*

*Population in total: 1.205.471*

The world we knew when we were little no longer exists in this timeline.

A carefree world with nearly unlimited possibilities to create one's own life: This is history.

Every time I pass by this wall I get reminded of that fact.

A shiver creeps up my spine and memories of these horrible days make their way from my unconsciousness to the consciousness. It feels like I am forced to relive every moment of my life which destroyed me back then. Even after all this time, it tortures me but there is nothing to turn back time.

*Flashback to Valeria A.C. 2959*

It spread through the news like a tsunami wave rolling into the harbour of a coast town: **"New virus detected ; deadly; More than half the population infected; stay at home!"**

From that moment on everything changed forever.

The government instructed us what to do: Don't leave the house unless necessary; get weapons; store enough food; trust no one.

At this time I was too little to understand but my parents had always told me that it was like "Hide and Seek" but with the extra rule that I shouldn't go out unless they said the codeword.

That's how I ended up staying in my secret room most of the time and honestly, I believe that saved my life.

Days passed by and the news spread like a bushfire. From day to day more and more people got infected and hence eliminated.

It was one day, we were in the wrong place at the wrong time...

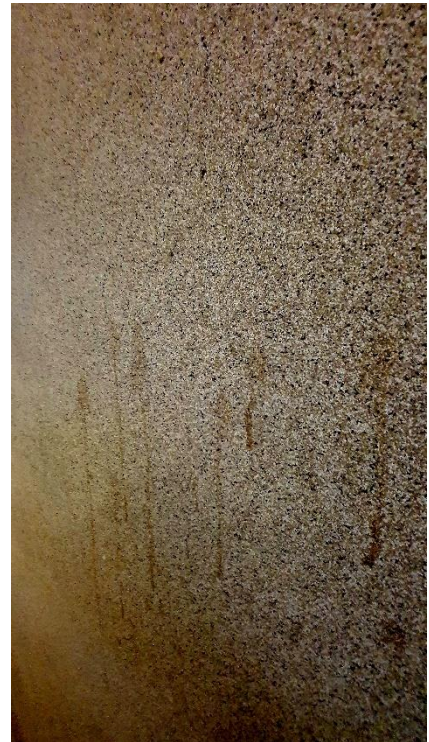
My dad and I were driving on a street in town to look for my mom, because she hasn't returned yet from her trip to collect new groceries and that's when I saw it and my world changed forever and irreparably.

There was a rotten building and on the outside there were people with strange-looking black lines all over their bodies lined up. It looked like a queue to some kind of slaughter house and it was. That however didn't quite shock me since I have heard about the executions several times but what did was the fact that I saw my mom standing in this specific line. I begged my dad to stop and rescue her but he told me it was too late. Apparently, all people got the virus. The last thing I heard before the shooting was a man counting down from three to zero. Then my mind turned black. All I could remember when I finally woke up at our home were my mother's eyes and the splash of blood against the wall and I wished that all of this was just a nightmare and I will wake up and nothing happened but that wasn't the reality. My heart shattered into thousand pieces I couldn't put back together.

From that time on, I was haunted by terrible nightmares which were far away from what I was capable to endure and even worse than any torture possible. I cried and cried for days but nothing could bring back my mom and all the other people who died in this week.

*End of flashback*

Finally, after months the nightmare was over, the virus defeated.



However, the defeat came with a enormous price: Only 1.2 million humans were left on earth. From now on everything got controlled to prevent something similar from ever repeating itself. Everyone got a chip where the health status and other information were collected. Just so that one can get executed if there was any sign of the virus.

Nowadays, I live with the constant fear that the virus will find a way to sneek back into our new world characterized as depressing and post-apocalyptic.